

Education and Children's Services
Six Month Performance Summary
1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017

Introduction by Sheena Devlin (Executive Director)

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Introduction by Sheena Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

Welcome to Education and Children's Services six monthly performance summary - 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017.

The Education and Children's Services Business Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) 2017/18 sets out the key actions which will be delivered by Education and Children's Services in 2017/18 to ensure better outcomes for children, young people and their families in Perth and Kinross, and contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and local outcomes. In this performance summary we are pleased to report good progress in meeting the targets and commitments that we set out.

Improving outcomes for children and young people is the core business of Education and Children's Services. Our focus is to ensure that children and their families receive appropriate experiences and support to best meet their wellbeing and learning needs and achieve positive outcomes.

Our objectives and approaches are now guided by, and aligned with the **Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-2020**, a multi-agency, cross-border approach towards improving the lives and the life chances of children and young people across the 3 Community Planning areas of Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee.

Our **Early Years Strategy** and the principles of **Getting it Right for Every Child** (GIRFEC) aim to ensure that we provide children and young people with the best possible start. Together with our partners, we intervene at the earliest possible point and provide the appropriate support to address issues or concerns where required. Our **Parenting Strategy** informs the provision of both universal and targeted support and information for parents with children at all ages.

Our **Corporate Parenting** Strategy provides the framework for ensuring better outcomes for our looked after children and young people, and we work in partnership to provide holistic and flexible support to families to cope with the challenges they may face in their daily lives.

Raising attainment and achievement for all is a key priority for Education and Children's Services, with a focus on closing the **attainment gap**, increasing children's engagement in their learning and **reducing inequity**, guided by the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education (NIF).

The **Raising Attainment Strategy 2016-2019** sets out a range of actions and interventions designed to raise attainment and close the gap for all, focused on the nationally recognised drivers for improvement including the launch of Pupil Equity Funding direct to schools as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Young people are afforded more choice and a continuity of support through **Continuing Care**, which meets the welfare needs of the young person up to the age of 21, providing a bridge from the protected status of a looked after child to adult independence.

Service Performance Summary

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

The Incredible Years Parenting programme continues to help parents of children who are displaying challenging behaviours. 10 Incredible Years Groups began in August 2017, to run until December 2017. A further 10 groups are scheduled to run from February to June 2018.

A project team, overseen by a project board has been established to work towards the implementation of 1,140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare. A draft Expansion Plan was presented to Lifelong Learning Committee in September 2017 and then submitted to the Scottish Government.

In partnership with NHS Tayside, resources have been redirected to enhance the multi-agency responses to vulnerable pregnant woman and their unborn babies. The NHS protocol has been rewritten to ensure health staff access relevant support for pregnant women, and the Multi-Agency Screening Group for Unborn Babies (UBB MASG) is now operational to receive and consider these requests. Dedicated interventions for young children affected by parental substance misuse and unborn babies who may be at risk are provided by the multi-agency *Change Is A Must* team.

12 Mental Health training sessions have been delivered for staff from schools, Live Active Leisure and Tayside Contracts. A series of further training opportunities have been scheduled including use of In-service days. An Emotional Health & Wellbeing E-learning Module will be launched at the Emotional Wellbeing Leadership and Learning Session in October.

A revised draft Parental Involvement strategy is to be discussed with Parent Council Chairs in October 2017. All Perth and Kinross Parent Councils are now members of the Scottish Parent Council Association, and are being supported with a training programme. A number of schools are allocating part of Pupil Equity Funding to support approaches to engaging parents via literacy, numeracy and family clubs. Support with digital tools is being provided to schools by ECS Digital and Technology Officer.

The Family Focus team is now fully operational. The team operate from Strathmoor and now work on an outreach basis across Perth and Kinross. The team continue to work to ensure that the right families are being supported. In collaboration with maternity services, work is ongoing to deliver early support to pregnant women in need.

The Contact Team was established in 2016 and over the last year the team has embedded approaches to ensure effective coordination and the promotion of high quality contact experiences for children who are looked after and their families. The ground floor at Strathmoor now offers a homely and nurturing environment for contact and the team is continuing to develop a range of suitable places for contact outside of Perth.

A refreshed Parenting Strategy Action Plan 2017-2019 was approved by the Early Years, Early Intervention Programme Board in July 2017. A communication plan is being drafted to ensure wide scale awareness of and engagement in the agreed Action Plan.

An Options Appraisal arising from the Transformational Review and Remodelling of Residential Care (Children and Young People) was presented to Council in August 2017. The approved option will replace traditional, council-run, residential care and to reduce the use of external providers of residential care by providing an innovative “hub” model to support young people within their local communities. A detailed implementation plan is now under development with the proposed transition phase to take place over 2018.

Improvements to how Child Protection Case Conference meetings are arranged and recorded have been introduced to provide greater focus on the needs of children and young people and bring increased clarity about risks and needs. The views of children and young people are being actively sought for their conferences and attendance is encouraged. There is a comprehensive plan in place to continue to bring about further improvements.

The Mind of My Own (MOMO) app went live in August 2017 to enhance the ways in which children and young people who have a Lead Professional Social Worker can give their views to staff, meetings, case conferences and looked after children’s reviews. It is not always easy to elicit young people’s views and consultation with young people showed that they would often prefer to use technology to convey what they think and feel.

Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens

A first update report on the 2016-2019 Raising Attainment Strategy will present information to the Lifelong Learning Committee and Scrutiny Committee on progress against the priorities of the National Improvement Framework, including a range of measures to monitor progress of improvements.

Gaelic Medium Education has been incorporated in the second generation Gaelic Language Plan that is currently in the consultation phase, and will go to full Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval in December 2017.

An Implementation Plan based on recommendations arising from the Review of Inclusion Services was presented to the Inclusion Board in August 2017. Planning for implementation was launched at a Headteacher's Development Day in September 2017.

Our schools continue to embed the 1+2 approach to Language Learning, giving every child the opportunity to learn two languages in addition to their first language. All schools are delivering French by P3, with almost all schools adopting a whole school approach.

We are developing the use of online platforms to support learning and teaching and professional learning. Schools are using GLOW/Office 365 tools for learning and teaching and we are now piloting use of Google Apps for Education. Parental engagement with the Seesaw app to share learning with parents is now available and used in growing numbers of our primary schools. We have over 1500 iPads in use across Education services and we continue to develop practice across early years, primary, secondary and special schools.

There is continued engagement with schools to implement the Career Education Standard and the Work Placement Standard, and in partnership with Skills Development Scotland, including the service delivery of the Workit programme. We are also working in partnership with the Developing our Young Workforce Regional Board to improve employer engagement and work experience approaches.

The process for the assessment of continuing care is now in place and to date there are 7 young people who have taken up this opportunity. A leaflet has been produced by young people which describes continuing care to young people.

A short life working group is developing guidance for schools on planning and tracking wider achievement opportunities, to link to skills for learning, life and work. Four "Closing the Gap" primary schools and one "Closing the Gap" secondary school are involved in the Children's University 'Passport to Learning' project involving around 600 pupils. A number of partners are now working with the schools supporting their wider achievement planning. A PKC Children's University Representative works with the schools, promoting wider achievement opportunities and developing sustainable approaches to planning with partners.

How do we compare to others?

The national benchmarking tool Insight, based on the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, is designed to drive improvements for pupils in the senior phase (S4 to S6) and enables us to compare our performance not only with the national picture, but also matches pupils in Perth and Kinross to pupils with similar needs and backgrounds from across Scotland to create a virtual comparator.

Ongoing analysis of attainment and achievement through Insight demonstrates that Perth and Kinross is performing well nationally and against the virtual comparator. This analysis is used to inform ongoing developments to raise attainment for all and to reduce inequalities. Further details are included in the Raising Attainment Strategy Update 2017.

The Participation Measure reports on the Scottish Government's *Opportunities for All* pledge, which aims to ensure that all young people are supported into sustainable employment. The latest report, from August 2017, shows that for the third year in a row, Perth and Kinross is performing above the national average, and is doing so in every individual age group as well as overall, with around 93% of young people 16-19 taking part in employment, education or training.

	Overall	Individual age groups			
	16 – 19	16	17	18	19
PKC	93.1%	99.1%	97.2%	92.2%	84.2%
Scotland	91.1%	98.8%	94.0%	88.9%	83.4%

The **Care Inspectorate** has completed sixteen inspections of services for children and young people within Perth and Kinross since April 2017, almost all of which have received gradings of *Good*, *Very Good* or *Excellent* in all quality themes. Services within PKC received ratings of *Good*, *Very Good* or *Excellent* in 97% of all quality theme gradings, compared to approximately 93% for the whole of Scotland.

What are our customers saying?

Inspections by the **Care Inspectorate** incorporate the collection of feedback from parents and carers, and include very positive comments about the quality of nursery, pre-school services and Housing Support services.

"My son always says positive things about the nursery. He is learning lots of new things and has built up his confidence. The staff all do a great job!"
(Balhousie Primary School)

"The nursery is a really special setting. I feel the staff really take the time to understand the children and think about them as individuals." (Royal School of Dunkeld)

"My child is happy at nursery and has become more confident and independent. I can't ask for more than this." (Luncarty Primary School)

"The care our child has received is and continues to be outstanding! Our child absolutely loves going to nursery." (Milnathort Primary School)

"The first time I came here I felt very scared but now I feel very safe and happy. I have enough of everything here. I have a free life here." (Wellbank)

"I am very pleased with the service and everyone who provided the service was really considerate. I am very much indebted." (Wellbank)

Inspections by **Education Scotland** also involve feedback from parents and carers. Questionnaires completed by parents show that overall 92% are happy with the school that their child attends.

Extended Learning and Achievement Visits (ELAVs) support nursery, pre-school services and schools in the process of self-evaluation, using the core Quality Indicators from How Good Is Our School? Parents and carers are involved in this process, and their feedback is included in the reporting.

"Parents were very pleased with the opportunities for their involvement in their child's learning as well as the range of ways that learning and care information is shared." (City of Perth Early Childhood Centre)

"Parents consulted particularly appreciated the approachability of school staff and the very good communication systems in place." (Crieff Primary)

"Parents consulted spoke positively of their satisfaction with the school. They appreciate the genuine interest and care that all staff have for their children and commented on the evident positive relationships which exist. Parents feel that the staff know their children well and are confident that concerns raised by them are dealt with effectively." (Tulloch Primary)

The annual **How Good is Our School at Helping Me to Stay Safe Survey** across all Perth and Kinross schools collected the view of 5,640 young people. There were strongly positive results, with 80% of young people responding positively to the statement *"School teaches me how to stay safe in my community"* and 85% responding positively to the statement *"School teaches me how to stay safe online"*.

As part of the Council's Transformation Programme, the transfer of the Janitor and School Crossing Patrol services to Tayside Contracts was completed in June 2017. This approach follows a similar successful transfer of services across Dundee City and Angus Councils in the preceding 2 years. Feedback following the transfer has been very positive, eg.

"They have been fabulous in ensuring that the place was in perfect condition for our staff and learners returning." (Headteacher)

"They really have gone over and above their duties in ensuring that the school staff are kept happy, and we appreciate that greatly." (Headteacher)

Progress against Performance Indicators and Improvement Plan

Over the six months from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 Education and Children's Services has made significant progress in delivering the services and actions identified in the Business Management Improvement Plan (BMIP) agreed by Council on 28 June 2017.

Of the 142 number of key performance indicators and improvement tasks contained within the BMIP: 7% are exceeding target; 51% are on target; 6% are not on target; and 36% are not measurable at this six month point. The majority of performance indicators recorded as *not measurable* are annual indicators (including LGBF indicators) that would not be expected to be updated at this point, but will be included in the full performance update at the end of the year.

Below is a summary of the progress against the targets within the BMIP.

Performance Indicators	Total	Exceeding Target	On Target	Not on Target	Information not Available
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life					
Children have the best start in life	3	1	2	0	0
Nurtured and supported families	14	1	4	5	4
Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens					
Young people reach their potential	40	0	5	0	35
People are ready for life and work	6	0	1	0	5
Improvement Plan	Total	Exceeding Target	On Target	Not on Target	Information not Available
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life	50	5	36	4	5
Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens	29	3	24	0	2
Total	142	10	72	9	51

Note:

The Service performance is determined from the current performance information available and not from projected data.

The following sections provide an update on Service performance where targets have been exceeded and where the Service is not on track to meet the target in the BMIP. Where performance is currently not on target, improvement actions have been identified to ensure the Service reaches the target by March 2018.

Performance Indicator Exceptions

Where we are exceeding our target

Indicators exceeding targets	Performance				Targets		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Latest	2017/18	2018/19	2022/23
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life							
Average number of placement moves experienced by Looked After 5 year olds in a rolling year	0.86	1.26	1.20	1.03	2.00	1.00	1.00
<p>32 Young People were 5 years old at some point during the reporting period and between them experienced a total of 33 moves.</p> <p>There continues to be an emphasis on ensuring the right match is made at the outset of the placement; helping to provide a stable environment at school entry. Investment in the recruitment and assessment of additional foster carers is beginning to increase the pool of foster carers available and this will have a further positive impact on reducing the number of placement moves for younger children.</p>							
% of initial child protection case conferences within timescales (in line with revised national guidance)	49%	58%	72%	100%	75%	80%	95%
<p>In total 12 Initial Child Protection Case Conferences have taken place in the reporting period, and all were within timescales.</p> <p>Overall timescales have been improving in this area due to continued management and monitoring systems. An 18 month fixed term post was created for an Independent Chair of Child Protection Case Conferences with additional administrative capacity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of them; promote transparency and meaningful parental involvement; ensure that children's views are given prominence; and ensure adherence to national and local guidance in relation to timescales.</p> <p>Progress is being closely monitored and reported to the Child Protection Committee, and further improvements will be embedded by Spring 2018.</p>							

Where we are not on target

Indicators not achieving target	Performance				Targets		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Latest	2017/18	2018/19	2022/23
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life							
% of Unborn Baby Initial Case Conferences held within timescales in line with revised national guidance	-	58%	53%	15%	80%	85%	95%
<p>There were 13 Unborn Baby Conferences, of which 11 were outwith timescales.</p> <p>Late notification of pregnancies continues to affect timescales; work is ongoing with health colleagues to improve the referral notification process. The NHS Tayside Unborn Baby Protocol has been reviewed following extensive internal and external consultation and in line with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014), to promote information sharing and the role of the Named Person Service (Health). A joint working group with NHS Tayside is to be established to focus on addressing this complex multi-agency process.</p>							
% of children on child protection register over 9 months	-	20%	17%	36%	6%	6%	5%
<p>The majority of children on the Child Protection Register are on for less than a year although the proportion that are on the register for 6-11 months has increased somewhat in recent years. 30 out of 82 young people have been on the register for greater than 9 months. More children and young people are staying on the CPR for longer as an overall trend, which may be an indication of the increasing complexity of the risk factors experienced. It is important to ensure that children are kept safe via a multi-agency plan for as long as this is needed to ensure sufficient progress. The circumstances of children whose names are included on the Child Protection Register are reviewed by multi-agency child protection case conference at 3 months, 6 months and 12 months post registration.</p>							
% of looked after reviews (accommodated children) which are held within statutory timescales	76%	83%	80%	82%	95%	95%	95%
<p>144 out of 175 were held within timescales between 1 April 2017 and 31 August 2017.</p> <p>Performance is steady in this area despite growing demand.</p>							

Indicators not achieving target	Performance				Targets		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Latest	2017/18	2018/19	2022/23
The proportion of assessment reports which were submitted within target timescale	57%	69%	48%	45%	70%	72%	78%
The monitoring of Initial Assessment Reports (IAR) and Social Background Reports (SBR) reports requested by the Reporter is monitored by each team and service on a monthly basis. This information is supplemented by regular meetings between the Service Manager and the Area Reporter Manager. No concerns have been expressed regarding timescales for receipt of reports and the target fluctuates as a consequence of having negotiated a postponement for legitimate reasons. The agreed postponement date cannot be logged within the timescale information and can then appear as a late report.							
% of children approved for permanence and who have been accommodated for less than 12 months	-	81%	79%	63%	83%	84%	85%
5 of the 8 children and young people considered by Fostering and Permanence Panel or Kinship Panel were accommodated for less than 12 Months.							

Improvement Plan Exceptions

Where we are exceeding our target

Focus and Major Change	Key action (Lead responsibility)	Delivery timescales	Comments on progress
Implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2017-2020 through a collaborative partnership of Corporate Parents.	Finalise and approve the Corporate Parenting Plan. (Service Manager – Planning, Performance and Partnership)	Jul 2018	Complete The Corporate Parenting Strategy has been finalised and approved by the Corporate Parenting Group.
Continue to improve in Permanence Planning for looked after children, helping children to reach secure and nurturing positive destinations without unnecessary delay.	Continue to use the Looked After Children Review process to identify children in need of permanent substitute care. (Service Manager – Looked After Services)	Apr 2018	Complete Permanence planning is embedded within the Looked after review process.
	Embed robust tracking and monitoring of all looked after children. (Service Manager – Looked After Services)	Apr 2018	Complete The Permanence Monitoring group meets 1 st Monday of each month and a robust tracking system is in place.
Address gaps and improve outcomes for priority groups identified in the Perth and Kinross Parenting Strategy 2015-2019.	Final Strategy Document for consultation with stakeholders. (Service Manager – Evidence2Success)	Dec 2017	Complete Development event held in June 2017 to engage partners in development of the revised Parenting Strategy Action Plan 2017-2019.
	Parenting Strategy and Action Plan presented to Early Years and Early Intervention Programme Board. (Service Manager – Evidence2Success)	Jan 2018	Complete Refreshed Parenting Strategy Action Plan 2017-2019 approved by the Early Years, Early Intervention Programme Board in July 2017. Communication plan being drafted to ensure wide scale awareness of and engagement in the agreed Action Plan 2017-2019.
Work to meet the requirements of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.	Incorporate Gaelic Medium Education within the Corporate Gaelic Language Plan. (Quality Improvement Officer - Secondary)	Dec 2017	Complete Gaelic Medium Education incorporated in second generation Gaelic Language Plan that is currently in the consultation phase and will go to full Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval in December 2017.

Focus and Major Change	Key action (Lead responsibility)	Delivery timescales	Comments on progress
Work to meet the requirements for Continuing Care arising from the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.	Continue to use the Looked After Children Review process and the Through Care and After Care Team to encourage young people to take up the option of Continuing Care. (Service Manager – Looked After Services)	Apr 2018	Complete The process for the assessment of continuing care is now in place and by September 2017 there were 10 young people who had taken up this opportunity. A leaflet has been produced by young people which describes continuing care to young people.
Continue to extend the approaches to Developing Skills for Learning, Life and Work in nurseries and primary schools.	Support and challenge schools to ensure that the entitlements contained within the Career Education Standards are further developed. (Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years and Primary)	Oct 2017	Complete Developing the Young Workforce, Skills for Learning, Life and Work and the Career Education Standards were a focus at the Headteacher Development Day and Depute and Principal Teacher days in January 2017. National Guidance was shared and an opportunity was provided for schools to share practice.

Where we are not on target

Focus and Major Change	Key action (Lead responsibility)	Delivery timescales	Comments on progress and improvement actions
Develop and implement a Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	Provide a range of physical activity options across nurseries and schools in partnership with other agencies to have a positive impact on children's health and wellbeing. (Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years and Primary)	Aug 2017	Cancelled The joint project with St Johnstone FC was not taken forward due to an unsuccessful bid for funding by St Johnstone. However we have made some progress to take this forward next year. In partnership with LAL we will be delivering the Active under 10s project to provide and encourage more physical activity at Nursery and Primary schools.
Review and improve our Parental Involvement Strategy.	Update Parental Involvement Strategy and Guidance. (Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years and Primary)	Aug 2017 Revised Date: Dec 2017	Ongoing Draft strategy to be discussed with Parent Council Chairs Oct 2017.

Focus and Major Change	Key action (Lead responsibility)	Delivery timescales	Comments on progress and improvement actions
	Provide support and training to Parent Councils. (Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years and Primary)	Aug 2017 Revised Date: Nov 2017	<p>Ongoing All Perth and Kinross Parent Councils are now members of the Scottish Parent Council Association.</p> <p>Parent Council Chairs Group has been consulted on next steps regarding training needs.</p> <p>Training programme organised and Parent Councils to be offered dates for initial training.</p>
	Provide advice and support to schools on engagement. (Quality Improvement Officer – Early Years and Primary)	Aug 2017 Revised Date: Mar 2018	<p>Ongoing A number of schools are allocating part of Pupil Equity Funding to support approaches to engaging parents via literacy, numeracy and family clubs. Support with digital tools is being provided to schools by ECS Digital and Technology Officer. One day seminar for Headteachers to be delivered with support of Education Scotland.</p>