



Our Promise to You

Perth and Kinross Corporate Parenting Plan 21-24

Our commitment is that Perth and Kinross will be the best place for all our children and young people – especially those of us with care experience to grow up.

“We grow up loved, safe, and respected so that we realise our full potential.”

Scotland's Ambition for our children and young people



Why do we need a plan?

Since 2014, public bodies across Scotland are working together as part of a flexible scaffold of support, centred around the needs of children and young people cared for by local authorities. The public bodies include Perth and Kinross Council, Tayside Health Board, Perth College, and others. Each body needs to produce a plan which sets out how they are going to support you. You can find a list of all the public bodies and links to their plans at the end of this document.

Who is this plan for?

Perth & Kinross Council Our Community

288

In Perth & Kinross on the 31st July 2021 there were 288 children looked after.



The number of children being cared for continues to rise.



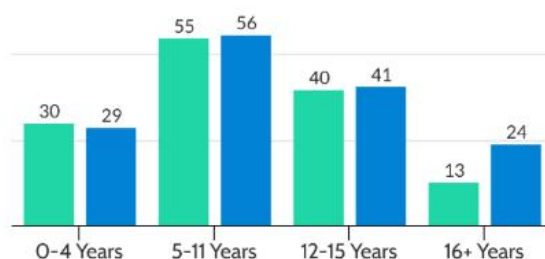
Across Scottish communities, the number of children being cared for is falling.

Number of Children Looked After (per 1,000 of 0-17/0-18 population)

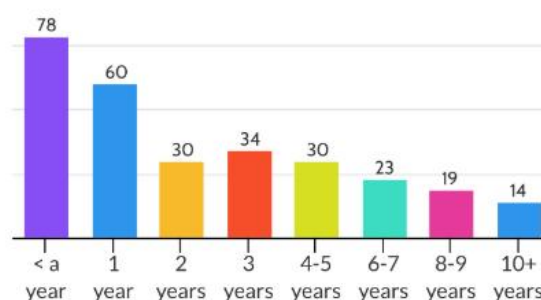


WHO WERE WE SUPPORTING ON 31/07/2021?

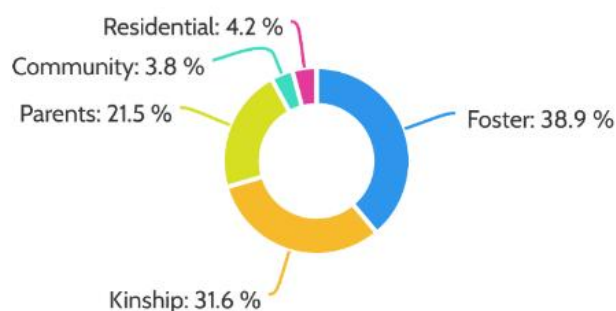
Gender & Age
48% Female 52% Male



Length of time cared for at 31/07/2021



Types of Care



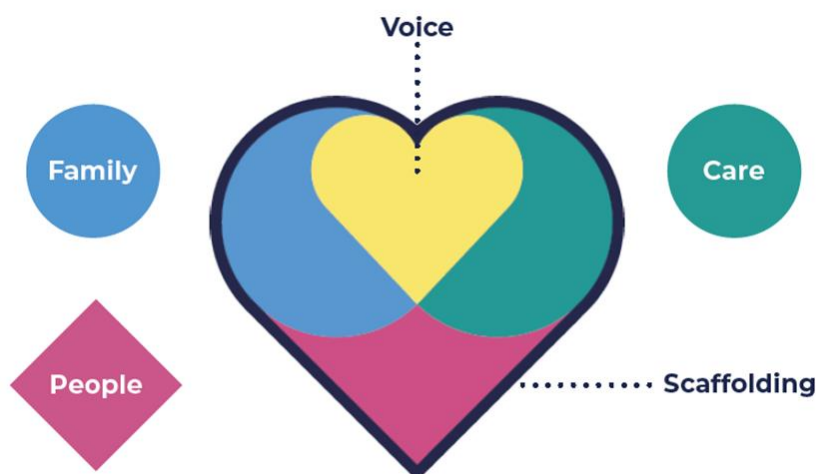
Brothers & Sisters



- 85 brothers and sisters across 42 families are looked after.
- Of the 42 sibling groups, 27 are all cared for together.
- 21 children are not placed with any of their brothers or sisters.

Independent Care review

An Independent Care Review was commissioned by the Scottish Government in 2016 to listen to those of us with experience of living and working in and around the care system to understand what needs to change. The review heard from more than 2,000 children, young people and adults who had lived in care. At the end of the review the conclusions and recommendations were identified in The Promise, under five priority areas (foundations) on which change must be built upon.



Voice

Children must be listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need. There must be a compassionate, caring, decision-making culture focussed on children and those they trust.

Family

Where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.

Care

Where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.

People

The children that Scotland cares for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to listen and be compassionate in their decision-making and care.

Scaffolding

Children, families, and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed. The scaffolding of help, support, and accountability must be ready and responsive when it is required.

What have we done so far?

Over the last three years we have made good progress through our corporate parenting plan for 2017-2021 which has built solid foundations for realising the Promise for all Perth and Kinross children. Some of our highlights:

A good childhood	Increased our support to kinship carers by creating a dedicated Kinship Care Team who support carers by offering practical advice and a listening ear.
	Changed our ways of working so that young people aged 12-18 who are on the edge of care are supported 24/7 to stay within their families, schools, and communities wherever it is safe to do so.
	Introduced Lifelong Links which makes it easier for you to reconnect with people from your past and build the lasting relationships we all need to thrive throughout our lives.
	Increased the number of foster and kinship carers and supported lodgings providers so you can live within a family for as long as you need to.
	Created PRAISE, a team which provides support to primary school children who need extra support with their learning.
	Provided you with the opportunity to take part in online tutoring and mentoring when preparing for exams.
	Provided additional support for young people leaving care by ensuring that all young people with care experience are prioritised for affordable homes in your area of choice and supported to make community connections.
	Increased levels of Independent Advocacy Support to ensure your voice is heard and listened to.
	Supported you through Fun Young Individuals (FYI) to create Milestones, an opportunity for you to share your experiences with staff and raise awareness of what you need to thrive. Also, the development of a workshop around "language" being used to describe young people with care experience.
	Created Care Experienced Education Guidance to ensure all education staff have an awareness of The Promise and know how to best support all children and young people
	Created Education Guidance for children who are alone and seeking asylum, ensuring we have appropriate understanding of needs and suitable education placements.
Whole Family Support	Scottish Fire and Rescue committed to prioritising a home safety check for all young people with care experience.
	Strengthened and increased levels of family support by funding third sector to support family wellbeing and to help them stay together.
	Introduced Family Group Decision Making to support your family to navigate through rough waters.
	Developed family mentoring to support your family in your community – Barnardo's and Tayside Council on Alcohol.
	Trying a new way of delivering family support through partnerships with local families and resources – Families Empowering Communities
	In partnership with adult drug and alcohol services developed a test of change creating a whole family assessment and plan to meet the needs of whole families where parents are struggling with drugs or alcohol.

Our Action Plan 21-24

Whilst we have completed all the above, we still have work to do to make sure that each and every child with care experience can thrive. Below is what we will do in the next 3 years in line with the Promise Plan 21-24. Actions will be overseen by the Promise Delivery Group and reported to the Corporate Parenting Board. (Appendix 1).

A Good Childhood				
Children who have been removed from their family of origin and live in and around the 'care system' will have a good, loving childhood.				
High Level Outcome	No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Service
Children and young people with care experience have all they need to thrive at school.	1	Review and develop alternatives to exclusion.	January 2022	Education
	2	Ensure all children with care experience have been considered for a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) which identifies their needs and actions taken to meet them by statutory partners.	ongoing	Education
	3	Ensure each and every child in our community has the same opportunities to thrive – continue to reduce the attainment gap between those from the most and least disadvantaged backgrounds.	ongoing	Education
Children and Young People are supported to strengthen relationships and spend time with those who are important to them.	4	Create a Connections Plan for every child who is currently cared for. This will detail arrangements for contacting and spending time with people most important to them.	June 2024	SCYPF
	5	Foster and Kinship carers will receive training and support to encourage them to strengthen connections between the child they care for and those most important to them.	June 2024	SCYPF
	6	Extend the use of lifelong links so that all young people with care experience have the chance to build on the stable, support network around them.	June 2024	SCYPF
Brothers and sisters will live together.	7	Where living with their parents is not possible, children must live with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so.	June 2023	SCYPF

A Good Childhood				
Children who have been removed from their family of origin and live in and around the 'care system' will have a good, loving childhood.				
High Level Outcome	No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Service
Young people are provided with community-based alternatives to custody.	8	Strengthen joint working between Children's services and Criminal justice services to expand programmes in the community to prevent and divert young people away from offending behaviour.	June 2023	SCYPF
	9	Co-design flexible supports with young people currently in custody which can prevent other young people becoming in conflict with the law.	January 2022	SCYPF
Children, Young People, and their families voice is heard and amplified.	10	Using an opt-in model, independent advocacy will be provided to all children aged 5+ alongside information of how to be supported by Child's Rights Lawyers.	June 2024	SCYPF
	11	Using an opt-in model, independent advocacy will be provided to families with children under the age of five alongside information of how to engage with Child's Rights Lawyers.	June 2024	SCYPF
	12	Expand the reach of our young people with care experience through the FYI group by developing further groups across localities.	June 2024	SCYPF
Young people who want to leave care have stable, flexible options to support them moving on.	13	Young people are encouraged to stay with their carers but if they chose not to are prioritised for housing and supported accommodation.	June 2024	SCYPF
	14	All young people with care experience are set up to thrive after leaving school and can go on to education, work or training.	June 2024	Skills Development Scotland
	15	Develop initial tenancy package to include painting and decorating and DIY chores.	January 2022	Communities

Whole Family Support

All families need support at different times of their lives and family support is a crucial emphasis for 21-24.

High Level Outcome	No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Service
Increased opportunities for families in rough waters to be supported in their own homes and communities.	16	Provide support to families with children and young people before they need to enter the care system.	June 2024	SCYPF
	17	Co-design a range of safe harbours - early intervention and prevention supports - with families who have lived experience and through the families empowering community's project.	June 2024	SCYPF
	18	Increase capacity of Family Group Decision Making team.	June 2024	SCYPF
	19	Monitor and map the supports from 3 rd sector partners.	June 2024	SCYPF

Supporting the Workforce

Children experience the 'care system' through people. Over Plan 21-24, support for people who care and continue to care if times get tough, will improve.

High Level Outcome	No.	Action	Timescale	Lead Service
A confident and competent workforce that provides the right support at the right time for children and families	20	Further develop our workforce from Trauma Informed to Trauma Enhanced.	March 2023	SCYPF
Lifelong connections and relationships between SCYPF staff and children are supported and valued.	21	Promote the importance of maintaining stable, supportive relationships whilst ensuring safety of every person involved. Staff and people with lived experience to explore how this can be delivered in a way that is manageable and appropriate.	June 2024	SCYPF
A confident and competent workforce that are skilled in clearing the path to education for all children and young people.	22	Increase understanding of the additional support needs which children and young people with care experience may have in an educational context.	June 2024	SCYPF and Education
Shifting attitudes around young people with care experience to improve their life chances.	23	In conjunction with FYI build on initial training materials to create a workshop influenced by the research undertaken by Each and Every Child .	June 2024	SCYPF and FYI

The other two priorities Planning and building capacity have actions which will be directed by national policy and be implemented in due course.

Appendix 1 – Annual Thematic Reporting Schedule

Indicators are shaded by Promise Priority Area

- A Good Childhood
- Whole Family Support
- Supporting the Workforce

Spring 2022: Choices and Chances for Young Adults	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of looked-after school-leavers in an initial positive destination. (Insight) Number of Looked After and Care Experienced Young People who are not in Education, Employment, Training. The average total number of looked-after school-leavers' Insight tariff points. The proportion of all looked-after school-leavers in a year who achieve (separately) literacy and numeracy qualifications at SCQF Level 4 (Insight). S5 from S4 Staying on rates for Looked After Children. Number of young people aged 16+ leaving care by after care accommodation: Continuing Care Supported Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average length of time between application and award of all new tenancies.* Percentage of tenancies sustained over 12 months.* Number of young people in receipt of initial tenancy support package.* Percentage of Care Leavers receiving a Health Needs Assessment within 28 days of their request. Number of care experienced young people who are in conflict with the law taking part in community programmes.*
Summer 2022: Quality of Care and Life	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of groups for Care Experienced Children and Young People. Percentage of SCYPF workforce trained at each trauma level. Percentage of Foster and Kinship Carers completing training.* Stability Index* (Annual measure of the stability of the lives of children experiencing the care system). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of Looked After Children (school age) with a completed Mental Health Assessment by School Nurse by 12 weeks of notification. Percentage of referrals to CAMHS known to be CECYP offered an appointment and/or their professional network offered consultation within the 18-week referral to treatment (RTT) standard. NHS Corporate Parenting training strategy developed. Quality Assurance and Performance Reporting Dataset established.
Autumn 2022: Education & Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of children (who were looked after by PKC at any point since birth) meeting all their pre-school developmental milestones.* Percentage of Looked After Children with a CSP (Co-ordinated Support Plan). Percentage of care experienced children who have been considered for a CSP. * Percentage of Looked After pupils meeting expected CfE levels in literacy and numeracy at P1, P4,7 & S3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Looked After Children working with Inclusion Services. Number of Looked After Young people receiving 1:1 tutoring. Number of Looked After Young People with a Mentor. Attendance rate by placement type. Placement type will be determined by longest placement proportion of that term. With comparators. Number of exclusions - by placement type at point of exclusion. Rates and comparators.

Winter 2022: Family and Connections	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review and audit of Connections Plans.* • Number of families completing Family Group Decision Making process and adhering to family plan. • Number of Children and Young People completing Lifelong Links process. • Number of foster families that can accommodate brothers and sisters.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of families supported by REACH. • Number of families supported by COPE. • Number of families supported by Third Sector Partners*. • Number of young people who are no longer receiving social work services who remain in contact with staff.*

*To be developed

Public Bodies who are Corporate Parents and links to their plans.

Public Body	Link to plan
Children's Hearings Scotland	Children's Hearings Scotland Business and Corporate Parenting Plan
The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	SCRA's Corporate Parenting Plan 2020-2023
Perth College	Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2021
NHS Tayside	No plan – Dr Simon Hilton, Public Health Medicine Consultant gave update to Care Governance Committee on 05/08/2021 item 7.9.
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2020-2023 and progress report
The Scottish Qualifications Authority	Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021 Corporate Parenting Commitments
Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (registered number SC 202659)	Corporate Parenting Policies
Care Inspectorate / Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland	Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-23
The Scottish Social Services Council	SSSC Realising Potential 2020-2023 Children's Rights Report 2020-2023
The Scottish Sports Council	Paused the development of our refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan 2020-23 due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).
Police Scotland	National Corporate Parenting Plan
The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Corporate Parenting Plan
The Scottish Legal Aid Board	2018-2021 Corporate Parenting Plan Corporate parenting literature review
The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland	December 2016
The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland	Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021
The Scottish Housing Regulator	Corporate Parenting Plan and Children's Rights Report
Bòrd na Gàidhlig	Bòrd na Gàidhlig Corporate Parenting Strategy and Plan 2018-2021
Creative Scotland	Creative Scotland's Corporate Parenting Plan
Social Security Scotland	Corporate Parenting Plan Corporate Parenting Impact Assessment Summary Action Plan