

A scenic landscape of a coastal bay with mountains in the background and a sandy beach in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The water is a clear, light blue-green color. The beach is wide and sandy, with some small pools of water. In the distance, there are several mountain ranges, some with patches of green and brown. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023- 2026

Outer Hebrides Community Planning
Partnership

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Introduction

While overall responsibility for children's services planning rests with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Western Isles Health Board, as expected, the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP) works collaboratively and constructively with other members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as well as with children, young people and their families at various stages of the plan's development and review. [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) (the Act).

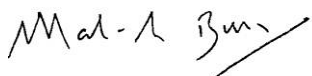
Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting, and promoting child wellbeing. We are paying particular attention to the aspirations of Scotland's Promise towards its children in that a truly fundamental shift is required in how decisions are made about children and families, and that we must change the way we support families to stay together. Our aim is to ensure that any action we take to meet need is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, this is taken to prevent need arising. We also aim to have our workforce trauma informed and that we will work with children and families to establish a foundation where they can begin to overcome trauma. This will start with the creation of loving and nurturing and safe relationships.

All persons and organisations named in section 15(2) of the Act are required to have regard to this guidance when conducting their functions in respect of children's services planning.

Section 8(1) of the Act requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period. This 3-year plan is ambitious and aspirational and rightly so as we want the Outer Hebrides to be amongst the best places for families to raise children in Scotland. The Outer Hebrides will be a destination of choice for young people/families to move to. We want children to be safe, to have opportunities to meet their potential and satisfy their dreams, whatever these may be, and when they do leave the Outer Hebrides to study and work, that they return and contribute to the community and economy.

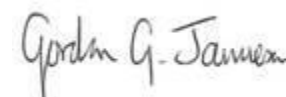
This plan is for all our children, including and particularly for those most vulnerable in our community, who require additional supports to keep them safe and to have their wellbeing needs met.

As leaders we exhort and challenge our colleagues, our third sector partners and our communities across the Western Isles to rise to the challenge, working and learning together, of supporting and nurturing our most vulnerable children to the best of our abilities.



Malcolm Burr
Chief Executive
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

***Bidh seo mar dhileab againn.
This will be our legacy.***



Gordon Jamieson
Chief Executive
NHS Western Isles

Our Vision

‘Journeying with children and families to reach their full potential.’

As part of this joint journey, we believe that that children and young people have a right to be cared for; protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation; and to grow up in a safe environment, in which their rights are respected, and their needs are met.

Like all in our communities, we as professionals recognise that the wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of all that we do and that investing in our children is investing in our future. We will be working collaboratively to keep our children, young people, and families safe, cared for and protected. We want children and young people in the Western Isles to be nurtured with love, respect, and compassion, that their views are listened to, and their voices heard. If our children and young people need help, this should be available when they need it, for as long as they need it, from the right people and that their welfare is always paramount.

The care and protection of children and young people in Scotland is set within the wider policy context of [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#); the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and within the findings from the [Independent Care Review: The Promise \(2020\)](#) which clearly advocates Scotland’s ambition for children and young people:

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

We also acknowledge the five ‘Foundations’ of the Promise for Plan 24-30: Voice, Family, Care, People and Scaffolding; these now form the foundations of our own Integrated Children’s Services [Promise Plan](#). GIRFEC provides us with a consistent framework and shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people and is embedded locally across our Children’s Services. We want the Western Isles to be the best place for our children and young people to grow up.

A note on language: The Promise was clear that language used must not stigmatise children and families. There are times where the existing data collection and reporting mechanisms uses certain language. We have only use certain terms for the avoidance of doubt when referring to data.

National Policy Context

The National Performance Framework is a vision for collective wellbeing for all of Scotland. It sets out 11 outcomes that have guided our planning to improve services for children and young people and their families. We have measured [our progress so far](#) in alignment with the National Performance Framework.




The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) sets out the rights that all children have in relation to health, education, leisure, play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard. With the enshrinement of the UNCRC into Scot’s Law in 2024, the Western Isles is committed to ensuring the rights of our young people are respected, upheld and promoted.

The [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#) places a duty on all Local Authorities to report annually as to the actions that have been taken to work towards reducing child poverty. The LCPAR must include information on the measures taken during the reporting year, proposed measures going forward, any income maximization measures and any measures taken to support families in poverty where a member of the household has a protected characteristic.

[Getting It Right For Every Child](#) (GIRFEC) is a commitment from Scotland that all children, young people and their families will access the right support at the right time. GIRFEC provides a framework for Scottish Local Authorities to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people and underpins the approach to education.



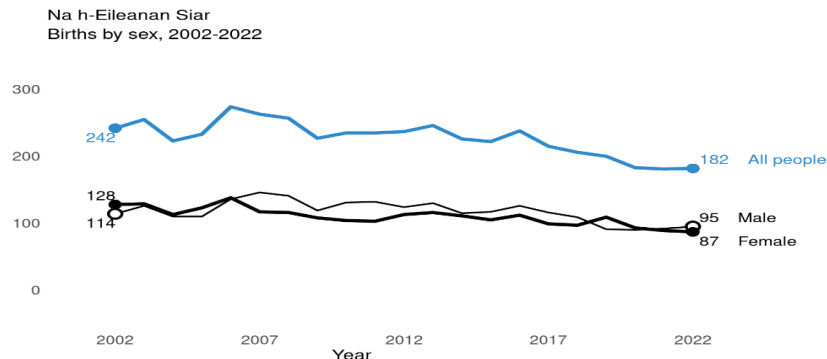
 The Promise is a vision set out by the Scottish Government, built on the views of children and young people with care experience, their families and workers within the sector. The new Plan 24-30 has informed this current ICSP and the key areas of focus for planning. The new Plan 24-30 offers an opportunity to ‘Reflect, Refocus and Reset’ for the next six years. We have embedded the outcomes of Promise into our planning, ensuring we can improve the systems around all children in the Western Isles by 2030.

The [Scottish Attainment Challenge](#) aims to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty by using targeted interventions to help the poverty-related attainment gap. Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding allocated to directly support those whose education is most impacted by poverty. The Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP) Fund is additional funding to directly support care experienced young people to improve their educational outcomes and to Keep the Promise. Together these funding streams work together to make the biggest education difference to our pupils who need it.

Our Children and Young People

Our Population

- The estimated population of the Western Isles is **26,640**.
 - 13,451 Females** and **13,189 Males**.
 - We recorded **4888 children** aged 0-18.
- By 2028 the population of the Western Isles is projected to **decrease to 25,181 (6.1%)¹**, compared to a projected decrease of 1.8% for Scotland.
- In 2022, there were **182 live births¹**, however this is a decreasing trend over time.



Source: Public Health Observatory Scotland

- We are also seeing the **school rolls drop by 6.53%²** in the period from 2013 to 2023.
- The number of Looked After Children (LAC) has decreased to 31³**.
- In 2023, 19 children were on the Child Protection Register⁴ which was an increase from 17 registrations the previous year.

¹ National Records of Scotland.

² Pupil Census Statistics 2023.

³ Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland 2022-23 - Looked After.

⁴ Children's Social Work Statistics 2022-23 - Child Protection.

⁵ Scottish Public Health Observatory 2023

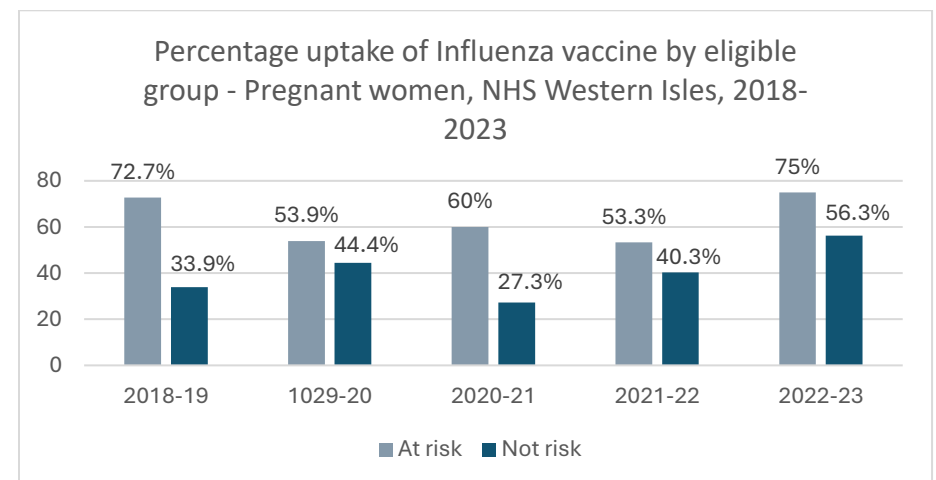
Pre-birth to five

The Cost-of-Living Crisis continues to be a significant challenge for families with young children, some of whom still require weekly food bank parcels.

The number of babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks continues in a rising trend at 41.2%⁵ and significantly above the Scottish average of 32%.

Health visitors campaigned around vaccination uptakes through school assembly talks and through the 'National Challenge' to vaccinate. The national picture is continuing to show an increase in vaccine hesitancy since the COVID-19 pandemic. The [Immunisation Report 2022-23](#) demonstrates:

- Over 80% uptake for the HPV vaccine for pupils in S1
- The highest vaccination uptake of teenage boosters for S3 pupils across Scotland and the S4 uptake was over 80%
- A decrease in uptake of the flu vaccine. 54% of pupils are vaccinated, whereas this was 63% the previous year.
- The flu vaccine for 'at risk' pregnant women increased by 21.7% over the past year, and uptake is in an increasing trend for women deemed 'at risk' and 'not at risk'.



Source: Vaccination data from VMT, GPIT & Badgernet – Pregnancy data from Badgernet – Risk data from NSS

Early Years – Family Support

The Early Years Service (EYS) has increased their staff team to four, enabling an expansion of service provision and support. There are currently 32 open cases.

What's happening in Early Years?

- Establishment of a baby bank,
- Supporting the delivery of Pointer's Young Mums group,
- Signposting and referring to other services,
- Delivering community engagement events throughout the islands including Family and Child events,
- Delivery of Bookbug event sessions to the Young Mums group, parent and toddler groups, nursery stay and play sessions and Bookbug in the Home sessions,
- Delivery of a baby massage programme,
- Collaboration with other agencies and partners, and
- Staff are now trained in the Peep and Ante-Natal Peep Programme, and all staff are now able to deliver Group Triple training.

"It was helpful to have all services in one place and learn more about what activities there are on the island for parents & children."



Early Years – Nurseries and Childminding

There are currently 19 registered early learning and childcare settings, in addition to two partner provide nurseries. There are eight registered childminders, 2 of whom are partner providers.

In 2023-24, 80% of evaluations from Nursery Inspection Reports were reported as good or above on all grades received.

Demand is currently being met for all children that have a statutory requirement for Early Years provision, however there is potential for demand to outstrip the supply. The number of hours available to parents has increased, however the budget to increase staffing has not. There was also a legislative change regarding deferred entry to Primary 1.

There are a growing number of children who have assessed additional support and learning needs who are requiring additional staffing support to meet their needs, increasing staffing pressures on settings.

The Early Years service has also been experiencing recruitment challenges for some geographical locations and for Gaelic-speaking staff. The service is working to address this through recruitment fairs, engagement with school leavers and promotion of the Childcare Foundation Apprenticeship pathway.

In 2023-24, 100% of all Childminders received a good or very good Care Inspectorate report. Three were reported very good and one reported good.

Early Years aims to increase the number of Childminders available via:

- Campaigns to increase awareness,
- Promotion of the annual grants and financial supports available for Childminders,
- Promotion of ongoing drop-in support for Childminders and support for self-employment.

Our Schools

In 2023

- The Primary school roll was **1740⁶**.
- The Secondary school roll was **1477⁶**.
- The number of pupils with additional support needs was **1110⁶**.
 - **32.5%** of Primary pupils requiring ASN, higher than the Scotland average of 30.4%.
 - **38.5%** of secondary pupils requiring ASN, lower than the Scotland average of 42.9%.
- Our schools had the **sixth highest attendance rates** in Scotland at **93%⁷**.
- **154 families** accessed Free School Meals and the Clothing Grant. **9 families** accessed the Clothing Grant only.
- **78.7%⁷ of adults are satisfied with local schools**, and this has **steadily increased** since 2020.
- Our 2023 **exclusion rate per 1000 pupils is 26.9⁷**, which is higher than the Scotland average of 16.6 pupils. Our 2023 **exclusion rate per 1000 'looked after' pupils is 256.4⁷** and has **decreased by 43.6%** from the previous year, however this remains **above the Scotland average of 96.9**. Reducing school exclusions is a key focus within education.

⁶ Pupil Census Statistics

⁷ Local Government Benchmarking Framework

⁸ INSIGHT

⁹ Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland 2022-23 - Looked After.

Moving On

- **98.3%⁷ of School Leavers entered a positive destination.**
- **97.6%⁷ of 16-19 year-olds were deemed to be participating** for the purpose of learning, training, volunteering, or work.
- **96.8%⁸ of our ASN School Leavers entered a positive destination** which was the third highest in Scotland.
- **70%⁹ of young people eligible for aftercare support were receiving this**, which has doubled from **35%** the preceding year.
- **43%⁹ of those eligible for aftercare were in employment, education or training**, which is an increase from 22% the preceding year.



Gaelic Medium Education (GME)

The percentage of pupils entering Gaelic Medium Education at P1 in September 2022 stood at 54%. After a decline in 2021/22 the percentage of pupils entering Gaelic Medium Education in P1 increased in the last year.

The Western Isles has adopted a policy of 'Gaelic First', whereby all Primary aged pupils will be enrolled by default into Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and parents can choose to 'opt out'. Under this policy, pupils will be taught in Gaelic and will start learning English from Primary 4 onwards.

Pupil Wellbeing, Mentorship and Transition Support

A Wellbeing Service is provided across all Secondary schools to support pupils with their wellbeing, managing anxiety, low mood, exam stress and conflict with friends.

Our primary and secondary schools in Lewis and Harris have an established [Youth Mentoring Service](#) providing 1:1 support to pupils of all ages.

Transitional support is provided to Primary pupils in advance of starting Secondary school.

Drop-in 1:1 sessions are available on Thursdays at the Nicolson Institute to support pupils' wellbeing.

We have a targeted focus on the care-experienced community via [The Promise Project](#).

"The Wellbeing Service was a huge support for my daughter who was diagnosed with autism. It has also been a massive support to myself. As my daughter finds it difficult to attend school it is such a relief to receive the support in helping her find the confidence to re-attend." - Parent



Extended Learning Resource

Extended Learning Resource (ELR) is an education resource for children and young people who are struggling to attend mainstream education for a variety of reasons, or young people who have been suspended or excluded from local schools with their learning, social, emotional and behavioural needs. ELR offers support within the school, as well as out-with school, school hours and term time. The service also supports children and young people with a disability who need residential short-breaks or outreach short-breaks and provides the Housing Support Service.

➡ Workers build supportive relationships with young people based on trust, empathy and active participation,

➡ Young people are supported to engage in volunteering, community work, and work experience to help them develop life skills,

➡ An additional worker was recruited through WWF funding with a focus towards supporting children on the edges of care or engaging in offending behaviours,

➡ Provision of bespoke timetables to support their attainment, make positive choices, and progress into positive post-school destinations,

➡ Effective partnership working, strategic planning and coordination of services, operating with a preventative approach, rather than reactive.



Young people attending ELR took ownership of a recent project to transform and restore the bus shelters in Point and Sandwick with the support of Point Community Councillors and Point and Sandwick Trust. The young people aged 13-15 coordinated the work and carried out their own risk assessments. They priced up materials, prepared and painted the surfaces, and fitted new timbers. They are now planning to restore a second bus shelter for the community.

Housing Support Service

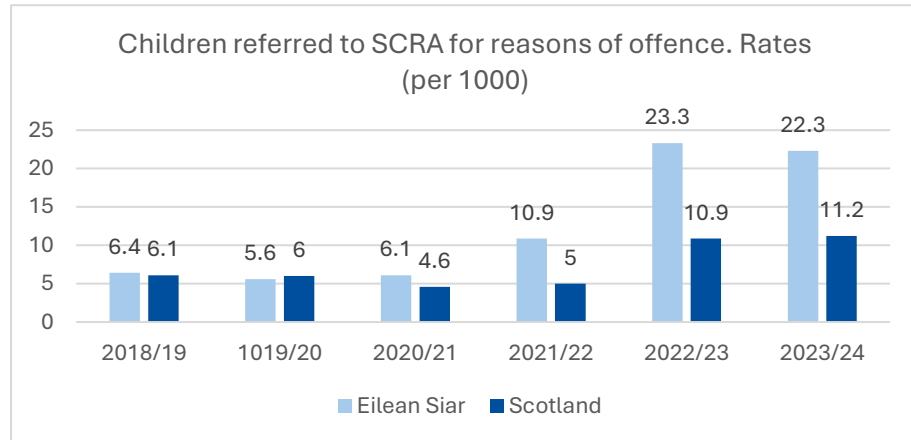
The Western Isles Housing Support Service aims to provide accessible, flexible and person-centered housing support services to young people aged 16-19 in the Western Isles. This includes CECYP, young people in critical need, or as part of a transition plan to enable them to secure, establish and/or maintain occupancy of appropriate accommodation. Young people will typically have a support plan, and the service will take a holistic view to their needs. The aim of the service is to:

- Prevent youth homelessness,
- Prepare young people for independent living and help them maintain their housing independence,
- Assist and support young people to secure suitable, affordable, sustainable permanent accommodation, by providing high quality temporary accommodation to support this transition,
- To support the health, wellbeing and social integration of homeless young people.

New accommodation has been developed at Keith Street in Stornoway to provide three rooms in the downstairs area of the property. The upstairs of the property has two – two-bedroom flats which are in the process of development for the use of young people. Keith Street house will operate in a step up / step down model, enabling reduced levels of support for young people as they are ready to support their independence.

Youth Justice

Reducing anti-social behaviour by young people in our community continues to be a priority for the CYPPP particularly as a recent increase in the number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)



for reasons of offence have been observed. However, a greater number of children have been referred in each year for reasons of care and protection.

There will be the provision of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programmes for young people attending secondary schools in the Western Isles. MVP is a peer-led education programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence.

The MCR Pathways Programme is being established in our local schools to offer a relationship-based mentoring and talent programme. Transition-specific support will be offered to primary school pupils through to the first two years of secondary school. Pupils from S3 and above requiring support will be matched with a volunteer trained mentor to meet one-to-one on a weekly basis.

A Youth Justice subgroup has been established to implement actions to mitigate the levels of anti-social behaviour in the local community. Actions to be taken forward are:

- ➔ Increase youth volunteering within the local community,
- ➔ A Campus Officer has been appointed primarily to the Nicolson Institute, and will also support Sir E Scott in Harris, Lionacleit School in Uist and Castlebay School in Barra,
- ➔ Funding has enabled the establishment of a new weekend Youth Club in the Bridge Centre,
- ➔ Pop up events are made available to young people during the school holidays,
- ➔ The use of Restorative Justice approaches where appropriate and training to workers in Children's Services.
- ➔ Establishing the MCP programme and reporting of progress.



Health and Wellbeing

Substance Misuse

The Outer Hebrides Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (OHADP) will support children, young people, and their families via:

- A whole-family approach through use of Teenage Triple-P to support setting appropriate boundaries and rebuilding family relationships,
- Delivery of a weekend ‘Streetwork’ community service from 7pm – late, and trialling a weekend youth club drop-in to encourage young people at risk to access a safe place to hang out with friends, with aim to reduce anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in the community,
- Provision of a ‘Safe Space’ at major community events including HebCelt Festival, EDF Festival, and annually (by request) to the S6 School Leavers Dinner Dance,
- Provision of Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) for workers supporting families affected by alcohol and drugs,
- Piloting a Recovery Café for whole families
- Delivery of Get Our Priorities Right (GOPR) training for practitioners supporting young people affected by problematic substance use.

Vaping

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Trading Standards, Police Scotland (Western Isles) and The Nicolson Institute have announced a new working partnership to tackle the issue of child vaping. The new partnership will involve regular meetings, sharing information about the ongoing issues faced in dealing with the problem and undertaking activities by key partners where appropriate.

“[My worker] has helped me cut down on smoking. She taught me about handling my emotions, drugs, alcohol and sexual health. She is sound and smart.” – Young person

Digital Safety and Wellbeing

The following elements were put in place to help create a cohesive and responsive system to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people:

- Promotion of E-Safety and Acceptable Communication Use in Schools among students, parents, and educators and guidelines on safe online behaviour and responsible communication,
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) multi agency approach for Engagement with Pupils and Parents through group calls, surveys, and consultations,
- Provision of trusted health and wellbeing resources for young people via the Cool2talk website,
- The provision of training and support for schools:
 - We have partnered with the Ineqe Safeguarding Group to provide specialised online safety training for staff, pupils and stakeholders providing the knowledge and skills needed to protect vulnerable individuals in the digital age.

We have a new website: [CNESafe Hub](#), serving as a central hub of information on services, resources, and support available to the community.



Progress towards the National Performance Framework

Children are Safe

We have a proud record on the Western Isles [Immunisation Programme](#).

The number of 16-24 year olds presenting as homeless has been reducing steadily to 32¹⁰.

The Child Protection Committee regularly meets as a group and has produced a CPC Improvement Plan 2024-26 to support keeping our children safe.

Children and Young People will grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential.

We live in **Communities** that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

Children are Healthy

41.1%¹¹ of babies are being exclusively breastfed at their 6-8 week review.

100%¹² of under 18s are seen by CAMHS NHS Western Isles within 18 weeks.

74.7%¹³ of children at their 27-30 month review were meeting their developmental milestones.

We are **Healthy** and active.

Children and Young People will grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential.

Children are Achieving

Our school attendance rates for all pupils and pupils with care experience are significantly higher than the Scotland average.

We have a proud record of children and young people moving on from school into positive destinations, learning, training, volunteering, or work and these are higher than the Scotland average.

We are well **Educated**, skilled and able to contribute to society.

We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable **Economy**.

Children are Nurtured

Our schools have mentorship and wellbeing programmes for pupils.

We have groups dedicated to supporting young mums.

388¹⁴ counselling sessions were provided to pupils.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund supported young people with ASN to attend a specialist college.

We have thriving and innovative **Business** with quality jobs and **Fair Work** for everyone.

We are well **Educated**, skilled and able to contribute to society.

¹⁰ Homeless Services, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. ¹¹ Scottish Public Health Observatory. ¹² NHS Eilean Siar. ¹³ Local Government Benchmarking Framework. ¹⁴ Counselling and Family Mediation.

Children are **Active**

Our Primary Schools and Secondary Schools have all consistently met the weekly target of PE provision at 100%¹⁵.

Summer activity programmes are run regularly via the Scottish Attainment Challenge and Community Learning and Development teams.

Almost every village in the Western Isles has a playpark.

We are **Healthy** and active.
We tackle **Poverty** by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Children are **Respected**

We celebrated the Hebridean Year of Care and young people's views from this have formed planning for the ICSP, including developing 'Spaces that Matter' for CEYP.

We have published our Children's Rights Report with planning for our next steps.

We respect, protect, and fulfil **Human Rights** and live free from discrimination.

We are open, connected and make a positive contribution **Internationally**.

Children are **Responsible**

18.5%¹⁶ of our children were living in poverty after housing costs, which was the 6th lowest in Scotland.

The Shed have delivered a mentorship programme to vulnerable Secondary pupils.

The rate of teenage pregnancies has halved in the past 10 years and is significantly lower than the average for Scotland.

We tackle **Poverty** by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

Children are **Included**

Groups for young people have been established to help overcome inequalities within their family, school and community.

Children and young people are consulted on matters important to them through the creation of the Young Islanders.

Created a dedicated post to resettle unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into our community.

We are creative and our vibrant and diverse **Cultures** are expressed and enjoyed widely.

We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our **Environment**.

¹⁵ School Healthy Living Survey statistics: 2020.

¹⁶ Local Government Benchmarking Framework.

Child Poverty

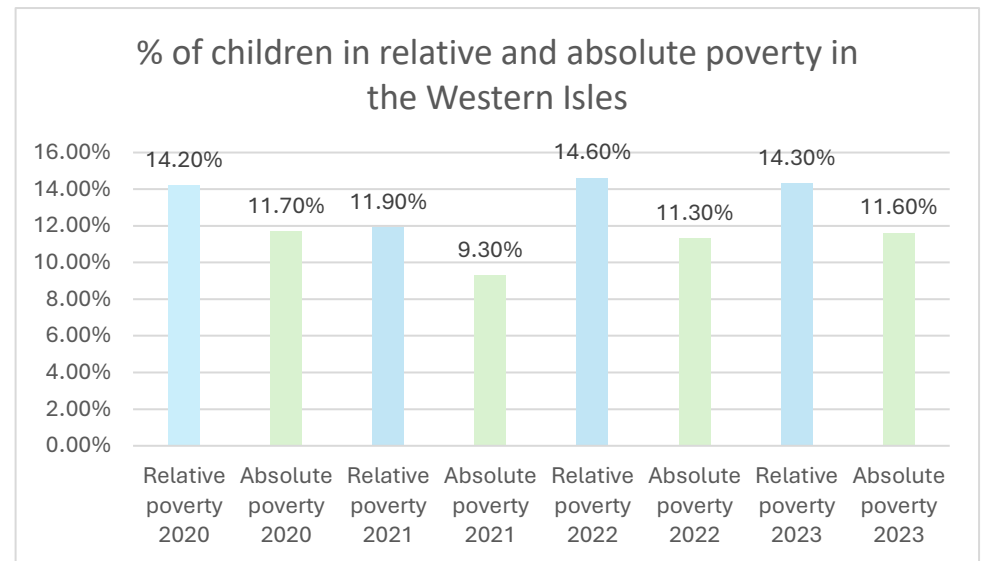
As with many areas across Scotland, the Western Isles has seen the increasing impact of poverty, further exacerbated by the Cost of Living Crisis. Island and rural communities have been greatly impacted, due to the general elevated costs of living compared to mainland Scotland, the prevalence of fuel poverty, challenges in accessing good, affordable and insulated housing, and the challenges of seeking and accessing support in close-knit communities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of children in the Western Isles in relative and absolute poverty has remained stable, despite increasing levels of financial support available to families in the forms of benefits, grants and crisis support. Applications for community care grants and crisis support have begun to reduce from peak number of applications indicating that immediate needs for crisis and urgent financial support may be declining.

It is recognised that there is still much more to be done to alleviate financial hardships and to lift families out of poverty. The [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#) places a duty on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Western Isles Health Board to prepare and publish an annual, joint Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) which sits alongside the wider Western Isles Anti-Poverty Strategy 2019 - 24.

What are we doing?

- The Appointment of a Child Poverty Coordinator to establish a new Child Poverty working group,
- By creating a new multi-year Anti-Poverty Strategy with a specific focus on strategy and collaborative projects to tackle Child Poverty and inequalities throughout the Western Isles,
- Creating opportunities to hear from people in our communities who are experiencing poverty through the Get Heard Hebrides campaign,
- An all-island campaign to persuade people to apply for all benefit entitlements with maximum publicity.



Source: Department of Work and Pensions, local area statistics

	Number of Applications – Eilean Siar					
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Community Care Grant	100	95	110	155	150	105
Crisis Grant	190	205	280	290	300	245

Source: Scottish Welfare Fund

Child Protection

The Child Protection Committee (CPC) have created a [Two-Year Improvement Plan 2024-2026](#) to build on previous planning and to ensure commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of partnership work to protect children and young people.

The function of the CPC, as described by the Scottish Government is:

- Continuous improvement
- Public information, engagement and participation
- Strategic planning and connections
- Annual reporting on the work of the CPC



The ambition:

“Keeping children and young people safe from harm, abuse and exploitation”

Ensuring all policies, plans and child protection practices are compliant with equality and the UNCRC.

National and local child protection guidance is clear, concise, readily accessible and supports effective day-to-day child protection practice.

A culture of continuous improvement and learning, built on reflective practice and self-evaluation.

Ensuring comprehensive and age-appropriate Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) resources.

Improved understanding of the risks and prevalence of child exploitation including Sexual Extortion and Exploitation, County Lines and Cuckooing.

Increase awareness of the risks of social media platforms and technology.

Earlier identification and support for children and young people who display developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviours.

Practitioners and managers are confident, competent and skillful in child-protection learning.

Funding

The Promise Project

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar was awarded £200,000 over 18 months from CORRA Foundation via the Keep the Promise Fund Round 2, through the thematic challenge area of 'Supportive School Structure – the Right to Education'. This funding has created a resource targeted towards Care Experienced Children and Young People and those who are 'on the edge of care'. The Promise Project provides a dedicated Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP) teacher based in Room 19 in the Nicolson Institute, and two full-time mentors via the Shed Project. One mentor will directly support children in Primary 5 through to Secondary year 3, and one mentor will support young people from Secondary year 4 up to age twenty-five. The aim of the mentorship role is to create and sustain positive relationships, support an enhanced transition process from primary to secondary school, and support the transition process from school into adulthood and positive destinations.

“It is easier to concentrate [in room 19] and I completed my Maths and English since I was getting more support. In my normal classes I wasn't getting any done because I would get distracted” – pupil accessing Room 19

“I used to skive and now I don't” – pupil accessing Room 19

“I go to more classes and get more work done than I used to” – pupil accessing Room 19

“I know if I'm having a bad day in school that I now have someone I can talk to as opposed to being on my own. It's helped me a lot to have him there and know he is there for me. He makes me want to try harder with going to class and staying in school.” – pupil accessing Mentorship

Taigh Solas – The Bairns' Hoose Pathfinders Project

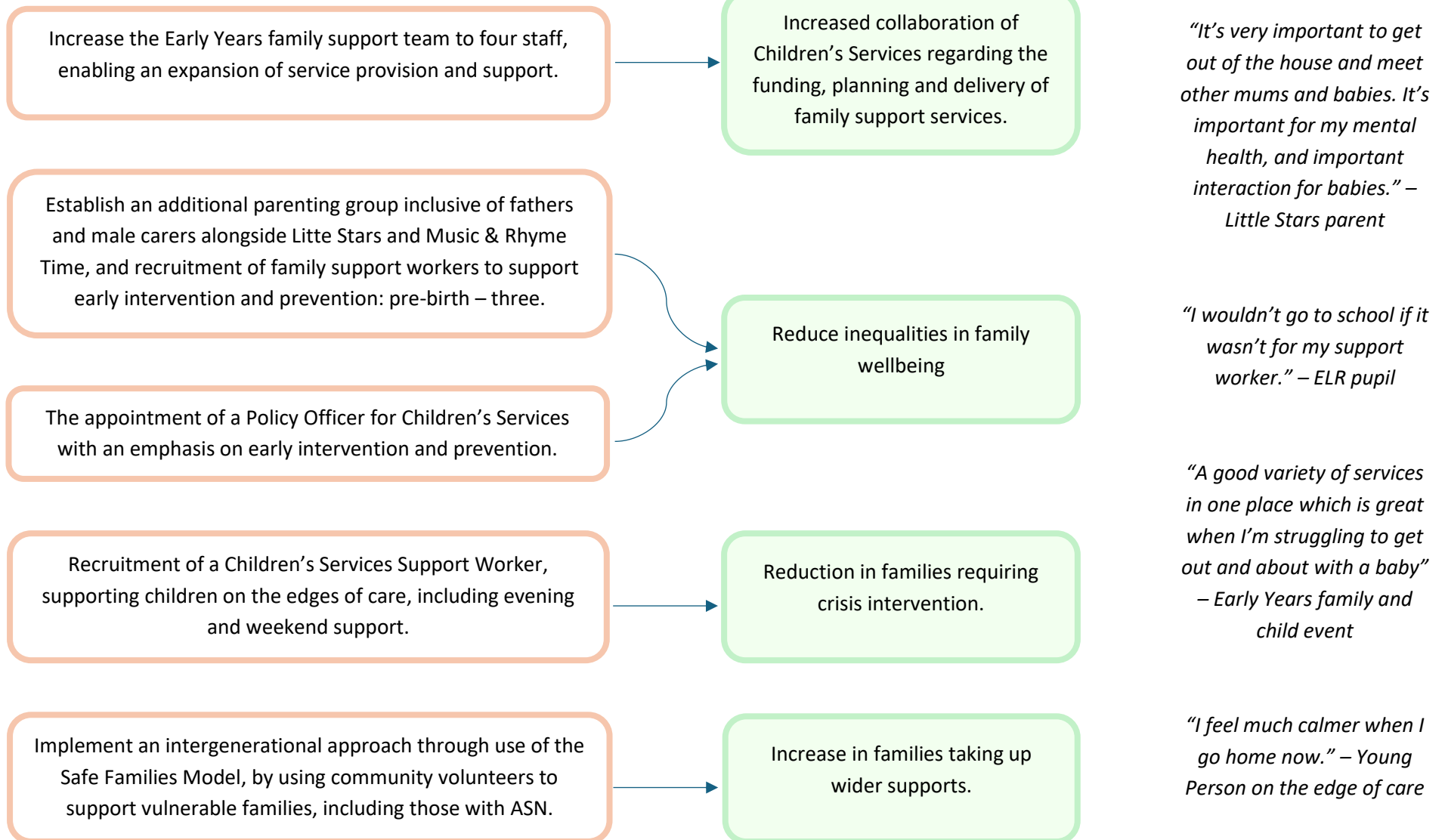
The Outer Hebrides was successful in its bid to be one of the six pathfinder locations for the Bairns' Hoose. The Bairns' Hoose offers holistic, child-centered support to those who have been victims or witnesses of abuse and to children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused harm. The model connects services around the needs of the child by collaborating across agencies and disciplines. The four rooms approach does this by bringing together child protection, health, justice, and recovery services in one setting. It's important to reduce the number of times children are asked to retell their stories as this can be difficult and re-traumatising. Instead, trauma-informed practice is prioritised to support the child's recovery in a safe, respectful, friendly and welcoming environment. The Bairns' Hoose will be located above Stornoway Library in the Education Development Centre (EDC) and will be known as Taigh Solas. It is planned that the Bairns' Hoose will be opened around Summer 2025.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF)

The Scottish Government introduced the WFWF in 2022 to ensure that every family can get the right support, at the right time, and for as long as it is needed. The WFWF interlinks with the national vision of The Promise, as well as our local ambitions within the [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#) to ensure early intervention, in particular to keep our most vulnerable children safe.

Some projects we are currently funding through the WFWF are:

Our long-term outcomes are:



Children's Rights

Our Promise Plan 2023-26 has been developed in line with the incorporation of the UNCRC to Scots Law from 16 July 2024. This now requires listed authorities to publish a standard report and child-friendly adaptation every three years to report on progress made. Services provided by the Council, NHS Western Isles and partners will begin work to embed children's rights into all appropriate policies, plans, and strategies and ensure that our decision-making and service delivery is compatible with the rights afforded to children and young people by the Convention. Work to further children's rights has already commenced and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to Children and Young People in the Western Isles. We have a statutory requirement to reflect on the actions we have taken to bolster Children's Rights, and commitments we have made to continue promoting Children's Rights in the Western Isles.

Some of the work currently undertaken by the CYPPP over the previous three years to further our commitment to upholding children's rights is:

Article 4 (implementation of the Convention)

As detailed in our Promise Plan, all partners to the CYPPP will respect, uphold, champion and defend Children's Rights. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has updated the Integrated impact Assessments to include Children's Rights.

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

The CYPPP has updated their membership to include our Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) to ensure regular consultation and inclusion of young people across the Western Isles at all stages of planning and decision making. Young people's voices and views are increasingly included in all stages of decision making across services and agencies to the CYPPP. Through the [Hebridean Year of Care \(HYOC\)](#) in 2022, CECYP came together to share their views and develop actions to take forward in the new Promise Plan 2023-2026.

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) **and Article 24** (sexual exploitation)

The Western Isles Child Protection Committee is committed to upholding children's rights and has developed a two-year improvement plan in line with the UNCRC.

Article 23 (children with a disability)

We have established a subgroup to focus on children with additional support needs (ASN), to ensure targeted and tailored support to this group of children across multiple agencies and services.

Article 29 (goals of education)

Young people in the Western Isles have some of the highest rates in Scotland of reaching positive destinations and participating in work, volunteering or further learning post school.

A more comprehensive report on the work to further children's rights will be produced shortly after the 'reporting period' ends on 31 March 2026.

Corporate Parenting

In the Western Isles we want to be good Corporate Parents to children and young people with care experience and ensure a commitment to improving their experiences, opportunities and outcomes. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a set of duties on Corporate Parents to publish a plan detailing how they will understand and assess CECYP needs, promote their interests, provide meaningful opportunities, look for ways to overcome barriers to accessing services and how they will continually improve. As a partnership, the CYPPP created a subgroup of our Corporate Parents with a focus on discussing the needs of our CECYP and as such, have incorporated future planning and actions into our [Promise Plan 2023-2026](#).

Hebridean Year of Care (HYOC)

The HYOC ran for one year and concluded on 18 Feb 2022 to raise awareness of the care experienced community of the Western Isles and in the context of The Promise. There was a diverse range of awareness-raising opportunities and fun events enabling children and young people with care experience to come together and assess the needs of our CECYP and actions which need to be taken forward to improve their experiences of care and their life outcomes. Information and ideas from CECYP formed have been taken forward by the CYPPP.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved school experiences for CECYP including improving attainment and reduced exclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our recent school exclusion rates for CECYP have decreased by 43.6% and the Promise Project has provided a dedicated teacher and classroom for CECYP and access to mentorship. There is a CECYP Attainment Worker who supports our most vulnerable pupils and provides opportunities for extra-curricular activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved whole-family support to keep families together when safe to do so, and to strengthen family relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We implemented the Safe Families model to support families in need and a 'Prevent and Return' approach for young people requiring out of region placements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More sustained and nurturing relationships between school and adulthood and more support for the workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Throughcare and Aftercare Practitioner is in post supporting CECYP into early adulthood. Trauma-informed training and approaches are being implemented locally.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved experiences of hearings and meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) are delivering nationwide changes to how hearings are designed and held. We are developing plans to enable young people to have more control over their meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of venues and spaces in the community for CECYP to socialise, and to improve accommodation options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Street house was developed for young people requiring supported accommodation. The Shed and Action for Children are introducing young people to local community spaces where they can meet and socialise with friends in a safe space.

Our Promise Plan 2023 – 2026

Our Promise outlines our commitment to a range of actions we have developed to ensure that Care Experienced Children and Young People in the Western Isles have the very best support, protections, chances, and opportunities possible so that they can lead loving, settled, and fulfilled lives well into adulthood. We want to minimise any further trauma and ensure we deliver support and environments to offer the best chance of success. We are passionate in ensuring that the voices of children and young people are heard and listened to, and that they have opportunities to contribute to decision making and how we develop our services.

In acknowledging the priorities of [Plan 24 – 30](#) and identifying how these align with our local need, we have set out our own vision to improve Children’s Services within the Western Isles. As a planning partnership and as Corporate Parents, we believe that in setting out our ambitions to fulfil our Promise, we can transform our approach to engaging with and improving outcomes for all Children and Young People in our communities.

We Promise that by 2030, we will make every effort to improve the experiences of the care system for Care Experienced Children and Young People, and children on the edges of care.

Voice



Children must be listened to and involved in decision making about their lives, in a way that is meaningful to them and without communication barriers.

Family



If children are living with their family and are safe and feel loved, they should stay there. Their family should be given all the help they need to stay together and for as long as they need it.

Care



When it is not safe for children to live at home, they must stay with their brothers and sisters as long as it is safe to do so. All children should live in a safe and loving home for as long as they need to.

People



Relationships are important, and children should be supported to make new relationships as they grow and keep relationships with people important to them. The workforce must be supported to develop meaningful relationships with children, actively listen to children, and have the right training to do this.

Scaffolding



Children, families, and the workforce must have help available to them whenever they need it, by a system of help, support, and accountability. This must be done in line with legal obligations and with weight given to the UNCRC.

VOICE 

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
<p>Children and young people’s voice’s provide feedback loops into planning, service design and delivery.</p>	<p>All Subgroups</p>	<p>Partners to the CYPPP will ensure a process of feedback loops into their service development so that the views of children and young people guide and inform our action planning.</p>	<p>Engaging with young people through consultation events.</p> <p>Regular opportunities for CECYP to come together as a group and share their views and be involved in co-design opportunities such as the Bairns’ Hoose.</p> <p>CLD will continue to support the Lewis and Harris and Uist and Barra Youth Council to meet, discuss relevant topics, gather views of young people, and share with the MSYPs, CnES committees and the CYPPP.</p> <p>Children and young people will be consulted with for the new Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy.</p> <p>Establish a Champions Board of CECYP who will meet regularly to share their views.</p>	<p>Reports are produced evidencing that feedback from children, young people and their families is guiding strategic planning.</p> <p>We will have ascertained levels of understanding and established what young people would like to know more about.</p> <p>The voices of the Youth Council will be embedded into CYPPP planning and the local MSYP’s will be invited to attend CYPPP meetings.</p> <p>CECYP will meet regularly to share their views and feed into service planning. Their views are represented to the CYPPP.</p>	<p>The HYOC enabled CECYP to contribute to ICSP planning. MSYPs are now attending CYPPP meetings.</p>
	<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup</p>	<p>Developing our evidence base through the views of children and young people.</p>	<p>Set up feedback systems to evaluate current services and inform future developments.</p> <p>A regular report to the CYPPP to inform of the data on referrals, support pathways, and population analysis of mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Trial single point of support multi-agency triage in one locality to demonstrate the impacts of multi-agency decisions and supports.</p>	<p>Evidence of involvement of children and young people.</p> <p>Annual Service Mapping to include impact assessments.</p> <p>Embedding of the ‘no wrong door’ approach.</p>	

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Better Children's Hearings.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Implementation of SCRA/ CHS Promise Projects and programmes to improve the experience of children and young people attending hearings.	<p>Develop pre-hearing checklists for use by social worker, reporter, and panel members.</p> <p>Nationwide changes to Hearings, in line with the Promise, will be implemented locally.</p> <p>Deliver and report on the 6-month 'Understanding My Hearings Project'.</p>	<p>The checklists have been completed and shared with all social workers, panel members and SCRA staff.</p> <p>The Understanding My Hearings Project will be piloted locally and reported on to the CYPPP.</p>	SCRA actions are now completed, and progress will be monitored.
Better Children's Meetings	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Improve review meetings, TATC meetings and pathways planning meetings for young people.	<p>CECYP will inform how meetings can be improved and ensure their views form updates to policy and guidance for meetings.</p> <p>A 'Pre-Meeting' checklist will be created and trialled - like the 'Pre-Hearing' checklist used by SCRA - to ensure children and young people have a say in how their meetings should be.</p>	<p>Experiences of meeting are reported as more positive and attendance to meetings is proportionate and appropriate.</p> <p>The 'Pre-Meeting' checklist will be rolled out to children and young people who attend formal meetings.</p>	This is in the initial stages of planning.
Developing systems to ensure a reduction in the barriers to the communication of children and young people with ASN.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	CECYP with language and communication difficulties will access language screening and fast-tracked assessments.	Talking Mats training will be implemented across more services supporting CECYP and staff will feel confident to use this.	Chairs of meetings will report that communication is no longer a barrier and have received positive feedback regarding the use of Talking Mats.	
	ASN Subgroup	Improved sexual health and relationship advice and services for children and young people with ASN and their families.	<p>A sexual health and contraceptive services leaflet in an easy read/accessible version will be sourced for children and young people with additional support needs.</p> <p>Provide a rolling programme of sexual health and relationship training for all relevant staff to share with their client group.</p>	<p>The information leaflet will be available.</p> <p>Data will confirm an increase in the numbers of staff trained to deliver this programme, and the programme will be accessible to children with ASN.</p>	

FAMILY

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
We will have stopped the practice of separating brothers and sisters unless for reasons of safety	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	There will be no barriers to maintaining sibling relationships when this is wanted by children and young people with care experience, and it is safe to do so.	<p>Increase the number of carers who can care for larger groups of children i.e. siblings and there will be a geographical spread of foster carers.</p> <p>When siblings need to be separated, we will encourage continuing positive relationships between sibling groups.</p>	<p>If sibling groups are separated, this will only be done where there is no other placement available, or the risks are too great to keep siblings together.</p> <p>Independent Review Officers will have an oversight of this.</p>	
More support for families who have children with ASN at pre-diagnosis, at the point of diagnosis, and post diagnosis.	ASN Subgroup	<p>Improved access to support before, during and after diagnosis.</p> <p>Develop awareness and capacity of universal and targeted/specialist service practitioners.</p>	<p>Development and implementation of the 'Outer Hebrides Pathway' for neurodevelopmental assessment and diagnosis, through consultation and planning workshops.</p> <p>Ensure that resources are available to staff groups and parents.</p>	<p>The OH Pathway will be available.</p> <p>Workforce will report they are better informed.</p> <p>Resources will be easily accessible, and well-advertised to make them visible.</p>	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	Improved wellbeing support for children and young people who are diagnosed with ASN.	<p>Deliver training on and implement good practice for the use of a combined assessment process for integrated neurodevelopmental (ND) pathways.</p> <p>Implement national best practice guidance on transition into adult mental health services.</p>	<p>Training is rolled out and education staff are aware of the new ND pathways assessment process.</p> <p>Feedback will be received to support good implementation.</p>	
Families with children who have ASN will be supported to live in a home that meets their needs now and into the future.	ASN Subgroup	Homes will meet the needs of children and young people with additional needs and families will have realistic expectations about what is available	<p>Raise awareness of the issues surrounding the housing needs of children with ASN, to facilitate support and possible solutions.</p> <p>Collaboration with Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) to create a communication strategy relating to accessible and adapted housing.</p>	Documented notes of discussions/meetings and outcomes.	

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Development of early intervention and prevention services	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	There will be a reduction in the number of children becoming care experienced.	<p>Increased focus on intensive family support for whole families via a “Prevent and Return” approach, therapeutic interventions, and partnership work with Safe Families.</p> <p>Recruitment of a prevention of reception into care worker to support young people disengaged from education.</p>	<p>We will see a reduction in the number of young people becoming care experienced.</p> <p>Young people returning to the island from out of region placements will have the right support.</p>	Reception into care worker has been recruited and in post.
	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	Ensuring children and young people receive help in a timely manner supporting the principles of early intervention and prevention.	<p>Emerging mental health difficulties will be identified and addressed sooner.</p> <p>Commitment to working with families at earliest opportunity, and tests of change projects to develop this.</p> <p>Support and further develop nurture approaches within Early Years services.</p> <p>Establishing a young people’s mental health consultation group.</p>	<p>A reduction in the need for access to more specialist services.</p> <p>Links to the development of the evidence base for needs assessments.</p> <p>Children and young people will have improved emotional wellbeing and mental health, and greater access to support.</p>	
		Promoting early intervention and prevention.	<p>Improve access to perinatal mental health care, in line with published guidance.</p> <p>Develop and implement a model for peer support with children and young people and their families.</p> <p>Encourage the uptake of digital tools to support mental health in young people.</p>	<p>Families will self-report feeling more supported and improved mental health outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>Digital tools are identified, and uptake can be measurable by data.</p>	
Improved parental mental health and resilience.	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	Increased access to mental health resources for parents.	<p>CAMHS will run parenting sessions to share information around children’s behaviour and mental health, and a multi-disciplinary focus on developing therapeutic parenting skills.</p> <p>Increased early intervention help and services offered to families.</p>	<p>Parents and carers will feel better equipped with knowledge and skills to improve their wellbeing and that of their families.</p> <p>Feedback will sought from the CAMHS sessions.</p>	CAMHS sessions have been piloted and are under review.



PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Residential and aftercare accommodation for CECYP is sufficient for the demand and needs of our young people.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	<p>Increased aftercare accommodation options throughout the Western Isles, and Continuing Care will be prioritised for CECYP as best practice.</p> <p>Increase the number and capacity of foster carers.</p> <p>Improve support for kinship carers and reduce the need for independent living for young people by supporting them to remain with family.</p>	<p>Aftercare accommodation at Keith Street has now opened and will be further developed to increase capacity.</p> <p>Foster care provision and capacity will be monitored by the CYPPP.</p> <p>The CYPPP will regularly discuss increasing provision for residential and aftercare accommodation, and additional plans to increase/ improve capacity for when the financial climate improves.</p> <p>The Kinship Care service will be brought into the Family Placement team. Kinship Care will also look to support carers around the young person’s educational and therapeutic needs through an integration of services.</p>	<p>Keith Street will be used as supported living accommodation.</p> <p>There will be an increase in the number of children using Continuing Care as a preferred option.</p> <p>The CYPPP will develop a plan for residential and supported accommodation provision for children and young people with ASN.</p> <p>Kinship carers will report feeling better supported and their needs can be met through one service reducing the need for multiple workers.</p>	Continuing Care is promoted as best practice. Three bedrooms are available in Keith St and two 2-bed flats to be developed. Report has gone through Comhairle regarding local ASN accommodation provision.
Improved education attainment and outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs.	ASN Subgroup	<p>Improved educational attainment and outcomes for post-school destinations for children and young people with ASN.</p> <p>Ensuring play-based curricula in the early years is inclusive of children and young people with ASN.</p>	<p>Explore and agree a plan across agencies for the implementation for the SCERTS approach.</p> <p>Reduce the barriers to learning for ASN pupils e.g. providing school equipment, breakfast clubs, etc.</p> <p>Ensure that play-based curricula in the early years is inclusive of children and young people with additional support needs.</p>	<p>A holistic approach is evidenced in the planning for children and young people with ASN.</p> <p>The SCERTS approach is piloted and then implemented depending on the outcome.</p> <p>Play-based curricula in early years, and senior phase pathways to positive post-school education is inclusive of children with ASN.</p>	96.8% of ASN pupils in 2023 moved into a positive post-school destination.

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Transitions will be better managed.	ASN Subgroup	Children with additional support needs (ASN) to have a smooth integrated transition between children's and adult services.	<p>Develop health protocols to direct the transition from specialist children's services to adult health services for Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Learning Disabilities, and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service.</p> <p>Education and Children's Services will work in partnership to review the current transition guidance and raise awareness about their transition pathways.</p>	<p>Transition protocols and guidance are updated and reviewed and will be available and promoted to parents.</p> <p>Positive feedback received from children and young people and parents following a smooth transition.</p> <p>100% of children with a Child's Plan will have a meeting at key transitional stages.</p>	
	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Improved school year and post-school transitions for CECYP.	Award of £200k Promise Funding which is targeted towards a project which will provide dedicated mentorship for these transition periods for CECYP and other vulnerable children.	Use of the Outcomes that Matter Framework, review, and evaluation of the programme from data, and feedback from children and young people accessing the project.	Ongoing support in place.
Inclusion, involvement, and health and wellbeing support to children with ASN	ASN Subgroup	Increased inclusion, involvement, and support to participate in community activities, sports, and leisure.	Provision of training for parents, club volunteers and coaches to ensure clubs and physical activities are adaptable to children with ASN to enable full participation.	Assessing the number of parent and club volunteers who have accessed the training and reported increased confidence supporting children and young people with ASN.	
Increased access to mental health support for CECYP.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	CECYP will have increased access to CAMHS support until aged 25 years old.	Recruitment of a nurse to provide additional CAMHS support to our most vulnerable young people.	<p>We will be able to obtain data on the number of CECYP using the service as well as other vulnerable groups including asylum seekers and those involved in youth justice.</p> <p>Our most vulnerable children will have improved transitions for mental health support from childhood to adulthood.</p>	Recruitment processes have begun.

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Improved mental health, behaviour management and self-regulation in children and young people.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Increased opportunities for CECYP to participate in extra-curricular school holiday activities.	Use of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund monies to fund these activities.	There will be a regular programme of activities accessible to CECYP during school holidays.	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	Increase access to self-regulation tools for children and young people.	<p>Test supports that can assist young people to develop self-management and self-care strategies to support their own mental health.</p> <p>Young people themselves lead, give feedback, and develop services and supports that maintain wellbeing and prevent poor mental health.</p>	<p>An increased number of children will be able to develop protective factors to support their wellbeing.</p> <p>Staff will be more skilled in supporting children and early identification of mental health issues.</p> <p>Young people with NDD have timely support and can access appropriate services.</p> <p>Transitions and working between children's and adult services will be appropriate and effective, and person centred.</p>	
Improved educational experiences for children and young people with care experience.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	Improved attainment through our Promise project via a dedicated CECYP outreach teacher and mentorship support from Primary 6 – early adulthood.	<p>Review of school attainment and exclusion data and create resources within schools to be used in place of exclusions.</p> <p>There will be a review of the school exclusions policy and no CECYP will be excluded without prior discussion with social work.</p>	<p>There will be a reduction in the reporting of challenges for this group during education and reduced exclusion data for CECYP.</p> <p>The dataset for this project will be analysed, reviewed, and reported on.</p>	School exclusions for CECYP have decreased by 43.6% in 2022/23.
The development of full-time residential provision for ASN locally.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup & ASN Subgroup	Children with ASN can access full time residential placements on the island so that they remain close to their families and to their community.	<p>A working group will be established to detail planning for the residential provision.</p> <p>Planning for the development and implementation of the provision will be submitted to the Comhairle for approval.</p>	There will be a reduced need for ASN residential placements on the mainland.	The Comhairle has approved reports on the project.

PEOPLE 

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Trauma-informed and responsive systems, organisations, and workforces.	CnES	<p>A continuous programme of trauma-informed practice training will be available across all workforces.</p> <p>CnES will work towards the organisation becoming trauma-informed.</p>	<p>Trauma-informed training is embedded into the local council and extended to partner agencies within the CYPPP.</p> <p>Services and organisations within the CYPPP are supported to use the 'Roadmap for Creating Trauma-Informed and Responsive Change.'</p>	<p>Uptake of training within the National Trauma Transformation Programme will be monitored and reported on.</p> <p>Services working with vulnerable populations will be supported to use the 'Roadmap' to adapt how they work to make a positive difference to those affected by psychological trauma or adversity.</p>	Trauma-informed training now embedded into CnES.
Training, development, and capacity within the workforce.	ASN Subgroup	Children and young people with ASN will be supported by a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.	<p>We will deliver training for staff on evidence-based approaches and interventions to support children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions.</p> <p>Increased safeguarding and child protection within Early Years and education staff.</p>	Staff are better equipped to undertake evidenced based interventions.	
	CPC Subgroup	Delivery of Get Our Priorities Right (Gopr) training across the CYPPP.	<p>Inter-Agency Training Sessions planned for October and November 2024.</p> <p>Delivery to all staff across Western Isles via face to face / MST.</p> <p>Launch of Gopr local Framework will coincide with training launch.</p>	<p>Completion of agreed inter-agency training sessions.</p> <p>Completion of training evaluation by staff in attendance.</p> <p>Staff are aware of local Gopr Framework and how to use, where to access.</p>	Planning for delivery is underway. Gopr Framework to go for consultation.

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
The workforce is nurtured and supported.	ASN Subgroup	<p>The workforce is knowledgeable and skilled in responding to the needs of children with ASN.</p> <p>Training programmes are targeted towards supporting children with ASN, regularly reviewed, and easily accessible (GLOW).</p>	<p>Scoping exercises conducted to ascertain the mental health and wellbeing training needs of education staff.</p> <p>Training plans will include mental health and wellbeing training as identified through CPD.</p> <p>Identify the numbers of staff who work with children and young people with additional support needs and have identified a training need in this area.</p>	<p>Through review of the training data and course evaluations to ascertain attendance and impact.</p> <p>Guidance will be developed.</p> <p>A directory of mental health services will be developed.</p>	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	<p>Increased access to training for the workforce to support the mental health of children and young people.</p>	<p>Delivery of ACEs/resilience training to all appropriate staff.</p> <p>Continue to train and develop our local workforce to ensure we have the right mix of knowledge, skills, and competencies to respond to needs of children and young people and their families.</p> <p>Delivery of training in managing distress and crisis and responding to those at risk of suicide and self-harm.</p> <p>Continued establishment of practitioner-level supports.</p>	<p>Feedback on delivery of mental health & wellbeing support for families/children.</p> <p>Data on the uptake of training and course evaluations will evidence impact; and decreased numbers of inappropriate referrals to CAMHS.</p> <p>Staff will have increased confidence to respond to those who are in a mental health crisis.</p> <p>Establishment of a Mental Health and Wellbeing practitioner network.</p>	

SCAFFOLDING 

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Work is undertaken to further Children's Rights.	All Subgroups	The Rights of children are respected, upheld, championed, and defended by all partners to the CYPPP.	Awareness raising activities and specific training across the workforce. Chairs to look at the impact of the UNCRC on the implementation of their action plans in their respective subgroups.	At the end of the reporting period in 2026, the CYPPP will be able to report on progress made and steps undertaken locally to further children's rights and will produce actions to implement for the next reporting period.	Children's Rights included in Integrated Impact Assessments
Developing pathways of support.	Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup	A multi-agency approach to pathways of support.	Map current pathways and options of localized mental health support to collate services and support available for different groups. Work with key stakeholders to increase key points of support to facilitate early intervention and prevention. Use the Communities Mental Health funding to support early intervention services and system changes. Build networks and multi-agency working across the pathway.	There will be increased clarity of pathways and provision of local support, and the data will evidence impact on referral number. Feedback will be sought from young people and groups using these pathways. There will be appropriate supports/services available to support prevention, early intervention and to promote protective factors to facilitate mental health and wellbeing in children and young people.	
Increased community awareness about challenges faced by our vulnerable children and their families.	Corporate Parenting Subgroup	CECYP will co-design community awareness activities, to build awareness within the community of what care experience means.	The use of local and social media to inform our community of the prevalence of trauma facing vulnerable children, CECYP and their families. Delivery of training including the use of the 'open-letter' by CECYP in the Western Isles.	Community awareness raising activities will have taken place. Increased evidence of positive police involvement with CECYP and vulnerable children and young people.	The 'Open-Letter' from CECYP is incorporated into Promise training.

PRIORITY	SUBGROUP	VISION	ACTIONS	HOW WILL WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?	UPDATE
Develop and embed a culture of self-evaluation across the CYPPP	CYPPP	Embed robust methods of performance monitoring and improvement measuring.	<p>Apply case file audits – a minimum of twelve per year each for CP cases and for cases of wellbeing concern.</p> <p>A standardised agenda will be created for the subgroups’ meetings to support accountability of actions to this plan to the CYPPP.</p> <p>Effective analysis of data to identify service need, and measure impact and improvement across services.</p>	<p>The auditing of files is accomplished, embedded, and continued annually, and data from case reviews is integrated into existing data and reported to CPC.</p> <p>Actions identified throughout this plan will regularly be reported on and positive progress will be made towards each vision of the ICSP.</p>	
A ‘whole-system’ approach to mental health and wellbeing.	Mental Health & Wellbeing Subgroup	Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing through a whole system approach to resilience.	<p>Meaningful engagement with Education settings and users to create a comprehensive resilience framework including prioritisation of emotional literacy in foundation curriculum.</p> <p>Promote and deliver programmes about mental health and emotional wellbeing, targeted to anxiety and worries, and developing coping strategies; self-harm and suicide; and sexual exploitation awareness.</p> <p>Continue to deliver a standardised parenting programme.</p>	<p>School audit and school ‘self-evaluations’ to demonstrate an improvement in resilience.</p> <p>Improved access to community interventions and services, and improved community support structures.</p> <p>The data will demonstrate a reduction in risk-taking behaviours.</p> <p>Fewer children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health issues being noted as their primary special educational need.</p>	