

Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-2022

Comhairleachas Plean
Coimhearsnachd
Innse Gall



**Outer Hebrides
Community Planning
Partnership**



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2.1 This is the latest Outer Hebrides Annual Report on the Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) and is presented to fulfil the requirements of Section 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the Annual Report is to provide an overview of activity and performance for the year to demonstrate how the Outer Hebrides Children's Services Partnership (the Partnership) has, collectively, worked to improve outcomes for children and young people and to target resources effectively whilst doing so.

2.2 The reporting period for this report runs from April 2021 to March 2022 with the report highlighting the achievements made against those targets set out in the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2020-2023. The 2020-23 Plan was created during the Covid-19 pandemic and in recognition of the changes that have occurred over the past two years a comprehensive review of the Plan is under way.

2.3 The Annual Report is presented using 5 main headings, reflecting the 5 main themes during the reporting period – Mental Health and Wellbeing, Care Experienced Young People, Child Protection, Children with Additional Support Needs and Early years. Common threads run through each of these themes – Participation, Rights, Early Intervention and Prevention/GIRFEC.

2.4 Services provided to children and young people take many forms and adapt to time and circumstance. This includes having to adapt to workforce and other resource challenges. The services cover universal, targeted and specialist services, delivered by statutory and voluntary sector providers. The annual report does not seek to describe all services to children and young people but instead focuses on those issues requiring a collective response, where working in partnership in new and innovative ways will deliver identified positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

2.5 The Outer Hebrides provides a safe and nurturing environment where our children and young people can grow and flourish. We generally have high standards of service, and high expectations of these, but because of a more challenging financial climate, at the time of writing, difficult decisions are having to be made about future spending commitments.

2.6 For some of our children and young people there are barriers that prevent them from getting the best start in life and from reaching their full potential such as poverty and deprivation, isolation, domestic abuse, alcohol and drug misuse, and mental health and emotional wellbeing.

2.7 The Annual Report sets out some of the progress towards the Plan's longer-term ambition to improve children and young people's life chances by:

1. By improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.
2. By co-producing service improvement plans with children and young people and families.
3. By tackling inequality for our children and young people, including those with additional support needs.
4. By ensuring that our resources are best deployed to the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our most vulnerable, including looked after children and young people, and care leavers.
5. By ensuring that every child has the best possible start in life and that the early stages in a child's life equip them for when they transition to pre-school establishments.
6. By having a particular focus on early intervention and prevention, and a move away from crisis interventions.

7. By improving the experiences of our children and young people of school age, as we seek to understand the fundamental barriers to attainment and achieving positive destinations in adulthood.

9. By supporting parents and carers through partnership working in the areas of mental health, learning disability, domestic abuse and alcohol and substance recovery services to address the issues affecting families, and to reduce the impact of these.

2.8 The tables below highlight some of the main achievements of the 5 sub-groups working to the Children and Young Person's Planning Partnership for the reporting period.

Protecting and Safeguarding Children

Area of work	Progress made
Implementation of the National Child Protection Guidance	Highlands and Islands IRD protocol is well embedded into practice and Education are now part of this process.
Involvement of children and young people in work of the CPC	The CPC Chair and the CP Lead Officer met with the 'Care through our Voices' group along with representatives from the Young Islanders group,(supported by Who cares? Scotland) and there is agreement for this joint group to be involved in future planning processes for the CPC.
Review the number of risk assessment formats across the partner agencies.	The Comhairle has done a full review of risk assessment processes and guidance given on need to use the corporate risk assessment. The 'Multi-agency Risk Assessment Operational Guidance' provides guidance for risk assessment undertaken as part of the Child Assessment and Plan.
Use data effectively to analyse and identify service needs and measure improvement and impact across services.	National Minimum Data Set and the local VPD Review the number of risk assessment formats across the partner agencies - quarterly reviews are now being held regularly, including identification of Child Exploitation concerns.
Delivering Equally Safe on the Outer Hebrides	A joint application from Shetland, Western Isles and Orkney for funding from the Scottish Government Delivering Equally Safe fund was successful and has led to the establishment of half-time Co-ordinators in each island which provides strategic capacity for work and activities focussed on gender-based violence.
CPC Development Day activities reported to COG representatives at culmination of annual event.	Development Day covering the new guidance took place in March 2022 and a Development Plan is created which is the starting point for the next Improvement Plan. The issues of relevant membership of the CPC and future configuration of the Improvement Plan agreed.

Looked After Children and Care Experienced Young People

Desired Outcome	Output
Looked after children and care experienced young people in the Outer Hebrides will have a voice to fully participate in planning and influence policy and procedures.	Who Cares? Scotland supported the Young Islanders group, ensuring care experienced young people had a voice in the Outer Hebrides. This included care experienced young people being involved in the Hebridean Year of Care 2021.
Looked after children and care experienced young people in the Outer Hebrides will be supported to stay with their families or maintain relationships with their family as appropriate.	Functional Therapy Support (FFT) has been introduced to the Outer Hebrides from 2021 in order to provide intensive family support for families requiring support in the Western Isles, This is a joint project between Action for Children and Social Work with five therapists have been trained from the Children and Families, Extended Learning and Action for Children teams.
Looked after children and care experienced young people in the Outer Hebrides will be cared for in a loving home where it is not possible for them to stay with their family.	Three sets of additional foster carers have been recruited in the last two years. This consists of one additional placement in Lewis and two additional placements in Uist. This means that there are Foster Carers in Uist, Barra, Lewis and Harris.
Develop supported accommodation options for care experienced young people in Uist and Barra.	Rowantree House in Balivanich has been fully registered with the Care Inspectorate for respite.
Looked after children and care experienced young people in the Outer Hebrides will be supported in education, work and the community by people who are willing to listen and be compassionate (Children and young people will be healthy, achieving and active).	Staff supporting looked-after children have been trained in providing support in areas of mental and emotional health. Pupil Equity Funding continues to be used to provide additional support to looked after children and young people at school in the Outer Hebrides.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Desired Outcome	Output
Expand resources for pupils for accessing counselling support, within and out-with school premises.	School Counselling Services embedded across all 4 Secondary Schools in the Western Isles with on average 52 hours of counselling being provided in schools per week.

Better equip parents and carers when responding to children's emotional health and wellbeing.	Continued to deliver standardised parenting programmes by trained multi-agency staff with universal services undertaking a complementary role to its implementation.
Expand range of support services to make services more accessible.	Establishment of online digital support services including provision of support out with the hours of 9am-5pm.
Build on pupils resilience and wellbeing.	Development and implementation of Wellbeing Practitioner programmes to increase resilience and wellbeing through practical support embedded in all secondary schools with around 300 children accessing support.
Better equipping our staff when responding to our most vulnerable children and young people.	Rolling out a pilot program of training for all appropriate staff in managing both distress and crisis and responding to those at risk of suicide and self harm supported by the development of appropriate guidance documents.

Early Years

Improvement in nutrition and healthy weight for children under 5	<p>Healthy Hebridean kids campaign relaunch currently in discussion, roll out planned Easter 2023. Poster produced and awaiting website update.</p> <p>Nursery practitioners trained in various HENRY programmes and some workshops have been run. Staff are aware of how to refer and discuss issues with parents/carers.</p> <p>Discussions held with CNES Schools Catering Department regarding lunch provision.</p> <p>Setting the Table Guidance is being followed – awaiting updated guidance in Autumn 23</p>
Implementation of the maternal infant nutrition work plan	<p>Early Years are actioning Support Financial Inclusion workstreams as part of the MIN work plan.</p> <p>In partnership with other community and/or voluntary organisations, raise awareness of Best Start Foods and other financial inclusion schemes among families and promote uptake within the Board area. Review and routinely monitor collected data to drive improved uptake.</p>

	<p>CSSW's developed a financial help information leaflet and shared with parents and partner agencies through MIN and anti-poverty groups</p> <p>Sessions by CSSW's to support and signpost families to benefits available.</p>
Improvement in Parenting skills, capacity and support	<p>Staff have been trained in deliver online Triple P Group and Standard courses. These are being promoted and sessions have been held online through Teams.</p> <p>Staff have been trained in PEEP programme and will role out online and face to face sessions.</p>
Improvement in the mental health of parents and young children	<p>Staff trained in Baby massage to support attachment/bonding.</p> <p>Some staff have completed the Trauma informed practice module to enable then to support families</p>
Improve the quality of Early Learning provision	<p>Staffing issues and COVID have prevented focus on Forest Kindergarten.</p> <p>Emerging Literacy training sessions have been provided to staff through the Northern Alliance</p> <p>All new documents are shared with staff.</p> <p>Care Inspectorate feedback scrutinised to identify areas for improvement</p>

Children with Additional Support Needs

Children and young people with ASN are better able to recognize their own thoughts, feelings and behaviors, enabling them to monitor and manage their own emotions and behaviors	<p>Decider Skills training was cascaded across Western Isles schools and was inclusive of all pupils..</p>
For children and young people with ASN to have accessible resources available to them to support their mental health and wellbeing.	<p>Mental health wellbeing resource materials for children and young people with additional support needs were sourced and made more readily available.</p> <p>Staff knowledge and skills improved through the provision of a variety of mental health and wellbeing training, such as Seasons for Growth and Low Intensity Cognitive</p>
For children and young people with ASN to be more aware of the risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse.	<p>Annual programme of drug and alcohol education was adapted for students with additional support needs who attend Lews</p>

	Castle College Stornoway as part of their Health and Wellbeing education.
Increase the support available to children and young people with ASN who were experiencing difficulties with their mental health.	The CAMHS service increased its consultations for children and young people with ASN through Team Around the Child meetings, and also increased its universal services by developing behavioral support plans for children and young people with additional support needs.

Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Desired Outcome	Output
Reduction in the number of young people misusing substances and/or a reduction in the frequency and extent of misuse.	Funded Early Intervention Programme where young people and children reduced or stopped their own substance misuse and improvement in mental health with life skills offered.
Identified gap in services in the Uists for children and families affected by substance misuse.	Following the identified gap in the Uists, one of the alcohol and drug services received additional OHADP funding to enhance women and children's services.
Improve skill base for those staff working with families affected by adult substance misuse.	CRAFT training was offered to agencies to support whole families. CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) is an evidence-based, non-judgemental programme for practitioners to use with family members and carers affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use.
Reduce the quantity of illicit substances entering the Outer Hebrides.	The OHADP agreed to fund purchase of a police dog detection vehicle for Police Scotland. A press release was issued to publicise this in July 2021.
Prevent fatal opioid overdoses.	Naloxone Training the Trainer and Naloxone Awareness sessions were delivered to alcohol and drug services and included secondary school teachers who were provided with a supply of Naloxone. A postal service was also set up during covid lockdown. The Naloxone training would be delivered to family members or individuals who are at risk of an opiate overdose.