
Report to: Housing, Health and Care Committee

Date of Meeting: 2 April 2015

Subject: Parenting Support and Interventions

Report by: Assistant Head of Social Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to give an update in relation to the range of Parenting Support and Interventions work being undertaken across Clackmannanshire Community Planning Partnership area (CPP). This follows the request by Committee on 29 January 2015 for an update of the work being undertaken in relation to parenting support and interventions.
- 1.2. The Parenting and support work being delivered across Clackmannanshire sits robustly within our Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) priorities, National policies including Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), Early Years Framework (EYF), the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) and the Draft Integrated Children's Services Plan and the Draft Parenting and Family Support Strategy. Governance and oversight of this work is enhanced by the EYC.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Committee notes:
- 2.2. The range of work undertaken to support children and families in relation to the parenting support and interventions across Clackmannanshire.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Clackmannanshire and Stirling Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) agreed in 2014 that they would work together to better enable parents, families and communities to raise healthy, fulfilled children and young people through the provision of quality information and advice and accessible and effective supports shaped by the needs of parents, children, families and their communities.
- 3.2. Clackmannanshire and Stirling Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's) are in the process of finalising the Draft Parenting and Family Support Strategy. Clackmannanshire and Stirling Community Planning Partnerships have also

jointly funded a Parenting Co-ordinator to take forward the co-ordination and delivery of this work across both CPP areas.

- 3.3. Clackmannanshire (CPP) works closely with a range of partners in Health, Integrated Mental Health and Third sectors and provides a range of services to meet the ongoing needs of our families with young children aged 0-8 years. Our focus has shifted and refined to ensuring our services and those of our partners are working together to deliver flexible, targeted, effective and best value services to meet families needs and with a particular focus on those most at need and vulnerable including those who are affected by family substance misuse, domestic violence, poverty and parental mental health issues.
- 3.4. Services have been working practically with families and parents in Nurseries, Family Centres, Community Centres, Town Halls, and other settings for groups within Communities throughout Clackmannanshire as well as in their home and home type settings, this is key in changing parental behaviours through modelling and direct practical support and interventions.
- 3.5. We have adopted an approach of ensuring a continuum of support from universal provision through to specialist targeted provision to most effectively meets the needs of children and families. We are fully aware that a variety of different services and interventions continue to be required to address the very different needs of families and the multiple risk factors that impact on our children's outcomes. The aim of our services with families particularly those with children under five years is to support children and their families to remain within the universal pathway wherever possible bringing in targeted or specialist provision only where appropriate.
- 3.6. Early Years Services and our Partnership services including Health, Integrated Mental Health, Action for Children, Barnardo's and Homestart have delivered a range of parenting supports including Baby Massage groups, Parent and Toddlers, Young Parents groups, Mellow Parenting, Tea, Toast and Talk group, cookery groups, Arts and Crafts, Living Life to the Full groups, Play and Swap groups, as well as Incredible Years and Triple P groups as part of Clackmannanshire's commitment to the Scottish Government Psychology of Parenting Programme (PoPP).
- 3.7. PoPP runs parenting programmes designed to help parents identify positive ways of dealing with challenging behaviour and is targeted at 3 & 4 year olds. Incredible Years and Triple P are part of a suite of strength-based parent, child, teacher programmes, topics covered include play, praise, rules and routines, limit-setting and consequences. The focus is on development of strong relationships and effective parenting practices over a 14-18 week programme.
- 3.8. Mellow Parenting is being run from Alloa Family Centre, this is an evidenced based programme which includes, Mellow Bumps and Mellow Babies and is used to support hard to reach and vulnerable families. Alloa Family Centre is currently involved in Mellow Futures Programme and are one of 4 Scottish Local Authorities involved in a National Research Programme through the Norah Fry Research Centre University of Bristol. A member of staff is also

involved in delivery of a Mellow Dads group as part of our partnership work with Stirling Council.

- 3.9. In addition the Local Authority and their partners work together to support parents in their homes through a range of outreach work including practical supports for managing children's behaviour in the home, home safety, the skills required to run a family home, including cooking skills and budgeting. Services have recently trained staff in the use of Video Interaction Guidance (VIG). This is an evidence based technique which aims to improve communication and relationships between children and their parents. It is currently being used in many countries in Europe and in the U.S.A.
- 3.10. Supporting families can also involve working closely with other services such as money advice and housing support. Building on the partnership work of the Early Years Screening group an application to the Scottish Legal Aid Board by Housing and Early Years services for funding to support a money advice officer to work with parents with young families has recently been successful. The new officer will start in post in April 2015. This is important as money advice is a key factor in many of the families Early Years services work with.
- 3.11. The Early Years Service also provides an Assessment and contact service working with families in an intensive and highly focussed way. This area of service is targeted at families who require intensive interventions to support their parenting capacity and are referred for this service through the social work childcare service. This service is normally undertaken within the Lodge House which provides a 'home type setting' for parents to be assessed in. However some assessments can take place in Family Centres. Supervised family contacts also take place within the two Family Centre buildings in Clackmannanshire.
- 3.12. Early Years services in Alloa Family Centre also provide 'Group Care' placements to children as part of planned packages of support for parents and their children. The placements are important particularly for children aged under 3 years of age as they provide opportunities for those children to be supported in small group settings with key workers to work on eg developmental and socialisation issues. Places are also provided for LAC two year old children as part of their Care Plans. This part of the service also works closely with Speech and Language Therapy services to ensure children access this support if needed as early as possible. This is currently funded through the Early Years Change Fund and is a Clackmannanshire wide service.
- 3.13 To deliver on our objectives we have focussed on our Community Planning Partnership vision for our children and young people. Working together with families and communities to nurture, respect and be ambitious for their future. Providing strong universal services whilst targeting support to those who need it most. All planning partners are committed to achieving the very best for all our children and young people through our priority of service delivery towards Early Intervention and prevention.
- 3.14 Services to support families in Early Years in Clackmannanshire are currently co-ordinated through the Multi-agency Early Years Screening Group. This was

identified as an area of good practice in the 2014 multi-agency Inspection of Children's Services. Moving forward this will be incorporated and developed further within the current Draft Parenting and Family Support Strategy. This will be reported to Committee separately on completion.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1 No sustainability implications

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 *Financial Details*

5.2 The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate.

5.3 No Financial implications. Yes

5.4 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.5 Staffing - There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

7.1 The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None.

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)


Yes (please list the documents below) No

Draft Integrated Children's Services Plan 2015-2018

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