
Report to Housing, Health & Care Committee

Date of Meeting: 31st March 2016

Subject: Realigning Children's Service Progress Report

Report by: Head of Social Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of the Realigning Children's Services Programme in Clackmannanshire.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee notes this report, and provides comment and challenge as appropriate.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Our ambition is that Scotland has the right services for children - geared towards prevention and early engagement, tailored to local need, joined up and holistic - through collaborative and evidence based planning and delivery.
- 3.2. The Realigning Children's Services programme will work with Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to support communities to make better decisions using high quality data on local need, to improve the lives of children in their area adopting a joint strategic commissioning approach.
- 3.3. The Realigning Children's Services Programme is working across the Clackmannanshire Community Planning Partnership to ensure that we deliver better outcomes for children and young people. This means ensuring that services at a local level are integrated, geared towards prevention and early intervention, meet local need and make best use of our combined resources. The Realigning Children's Services Programme will achieve this by ensuring we have access to high quality data and use this to inform service planning.
- 3.4. Community Planning Partnerships play a critical role in delivering improved outcomes for children and families in their communities. Leaders and operational staff must work together across organisational boundaries to shape services that are child and family centred and fit for the future. It is essential that we place a clear focus on prevention and early intervention and address health inequalities, reducing expenditure focused on crisis intervention. The Realigning Children's Services programme, funded by the

Scottish Government, provides support at a local level to help this become a reality.

- 3.5. The Clackmannanshire Alliance signed up to participate in the Realigning Children's Services Programme in 2015. The Realigning Children's Services Programme will require significant commitment from all the key partners involved in the delivery of children's services over the next two years and beyond to start to realise the benefits. At a local level, the programme has the full involvement of all key partner agencies. A sub group of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) - the Realigning Children's Services Task and Finish Group - has responsibility for the delivery of the Programme with oversight from the Partnership Group. Reports are provided on progress to the Clackmannanshire Alliance.
- 3.6. The Realigning Children's Services Task and Finish group has worked with representatives from the Programme team in the Scottish Government to ensure a common understanding of the vision for the programme and what it will deliver.
- 3.7. The key priorities are:
 - 3.7.1. The need to build on the Integrated Children's Services Plan and agree a common set of principles and priorities which will underpin a collaborative approach to joint delivery of children's services across Clackmannanshire
 - 3.7.2. The need to develop a fuller evidence base. This will be supported by the survey work commissioned by the Scottish Government. This will also be supplemented by the use of locally held data.
- 3.8. This requires to be supported by meaningful communication with all stakeholders and in particular fully involving communities in the planning, design and delivery of services was identified as critical to the success of the Programme. Links have been established with other developments including the Early Years Collaborative, the Raising Attainment for All Programme, the Parenting Strategy and the implementation of Multi-Systemic Therapy, designed to improve outcomes for children and young people through focused community based support and interventions. Governance through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group ensures these links are made and maintained.
- 3.9. The key areas of work to support delivery of the RCS Programme are:
 - Data Gathering and Analysis
 - Service Mapping (including Resources and Investment)
 - Development and Facilitation Sessions
 - Communication Strategy to support delivery
- 3.10. A comprehensive project plan has been developed to ensure oversight of all areas of the Programme in conjunction with the Scottish Government.

Data Gathering and Analysis

- 3.11. The surveys in the three Clackmannanshire Secondary Schools were completed in December 2015-January 2016.
- 3.12. The parent surveys of parents with children's under 8 years old are scheduled to take place in February - April 2016.
- 3.13. The surveys of Primary Pupils in all Clackmannanshire Primary Schools are scheduled for March - May 2016. These surveys had been due to be completed by March 2016. The delay is at a national level due technical issues with the survey. This will impact slightly on timescales for the overall programme.
- 3.14. There is a review of the requirement to gather data about the needs children who will not be covered in the above surveys e.g. children placed in different educational settings at the time of the surveys, some children with additional and more complex support needs and children who receive schooling at home.

Service Mapping (including Resources and Investment)

- 3.15. This work includes identifying areas of investment, activity and outcomes. This will include core investment by individual services, as well as areas of joint investment. The Programme Lead has made contact with relevant support staff in Finance Accountancy, in conjunction with Service Leads, to commence this work.

Development and Facilitation

- 3.16. The 3 day Development Programme supported by the Scottish Government commenced on 29 February. Further dates are set for 23 March and 28 April 2016. Attendance has been confirmed by representatives from all key agencies. The purpose of the Programme is:
 - To create a 'state of readiness' and fertile ground for the CPP receiving and acting upon its RCS child well-being survey findings [together with other local data]
 - To support and further develop effective and full partnership working across the CPP
 - To provide participants with an increased knowledge and understanding of the 3-Step Improvement Framework, improvement methodology, implementation science and strategic commissioning.
 - To enable participants to further understand and utilise data and evidence to further inform and support decision making

Communications

- 3.17. Corporate communications staff have been involved to support the work of the programme and have provided input into the design of publicity materials (developed nationally) to raise public awareness. This is particularly critical in the context of supporting take-up for the survey of parents of under 8s. Hard copy publicity material has been distributed across the area and awareness

raising has about the Programme has taken place through Social Media and Grapevine.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The Realigning Children's Services Programme is designed to ensure the delivery of services for children and their families that are fit for purpose and sustainable.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

- 5.2. There are no financial implications of the recommendations as set out in the report. Yes

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

5.4. *Staffing*

6.0 Exempt Reports

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

7.0 Declarations

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

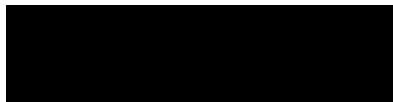
11.0 Background Papers

- 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

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Approved by

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