
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 15th December 2011

**Subject: Early Years Framework/Model for Early Co-ordinated
Intervention for Vulnerable Families with children aged 0
- 5 years**

Report by: : Head of Joint Social Services Clackmannanshire & Stirling

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to present to Council the Early Years Framework and the new model for service delivery of Early Co-ordinated Intervention for Vulnerable Families with children aged 0 - 5 years. The Implementation plan and model are attached as an appendix to this report. It sets out a targeted framework detailing the National and Local picture. It is a key document which sits within the Children and Young People's Integrated Services Plan up to 2013.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1** Approve the Framework and model to enable the new service delivery to begin formal implementation process with the model operational from April 2012.

3.0 Considerations

In December 2009 the Scottish Government launched the Early Years Framework. With the framework the Scottish Government identified 10 key areas for Local Authorities and their partners to work on the delivery of "transformational change". These were identified as

- a) A coherent approach
- b) Helping children, families and communities to secure outcomes for themselves
- c) Breaking cycles of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes in and through the early years
- d) A focus on engagement and empowerment of children, families and communities

- e) Using the strength of universal services to deliver prevention and early intervention
- f) Putting quality at the heart of service delivery
- g) Services that meet the needs of children and families
- h) Improving outcomes and children's quality of life through play
- i) Simplifying and streamlining delivery
- j) more effective collaborations

3.1 In March 2010, Services to People, Children and Young People's Partnership Group came together with partner services including NHS Forth Valley and Central Scotland Police in a planning day. The aim was to develop a short term and medium term plan on the delivery of services for children. In making decisions on the future of services it focussed on supporting vulnerable families with children aged 0 - 5 years, discussion also focussed on ensuring we have the balance correct between universal versus specialised provision.

3.2 The Partnership Group agreed that we would adopt the following principles;

- consistency of approach
- balance between prevention and early intervention,
- build on the best of what we know works effectively for children and their families
- stop what we know does not work effectively

Underpinning the work is the key principle of building on success, breaking the cycle of family poverty and reducing failure. What was agreed is that maintaining the current status quo and all of the methods of how we work with families is not an option if we are to achieve transformational change and improve the outcomes for children and families in Clackmannanshire. In February 2011 the Council agreed that a key action of the Authority should be the development of a Multi-disciplinary Early Co-ordinated Intervention Service for Vulnerable Families with Children Aged 0 - 5 years with the new service operational by April 2012.

3.3 The Early Years Service in Clackmannanshire currently provides a diverse range of support services through a range of interventions with families. This is delivered by a mix of methods including the traditional Family Centre model. There has been significant investment in the Family Centre services over a number of years, however the traditional model of supporting parents has not changed and research clearly tells us that by working in the traditional day care model, primarily with the children will not solve the range of family problems we are seeing repeating over the generations in Clackmannanshire.

3.4 The Council also works closely with a range of partners in the health and voluntary sectors and provides a range of services to meet the ongoing needs of our vulnerable families with young children aged 0 - 5 years. However, within Clackmannanshire our focus must now shift to ensuring our services and those of our partners are working together to deliver much

more flexible, targeted, effective and best value services to meet those families most at need and vulnerable. There requires to be a particular focus on children aged 0 - 5 years and those who are affected by family substance misuse. Working practically with families and parents in their homes and home type settings are key areas of work in improving and changing parenting behaviours. Working much closer with fathers also requires to be developed further. If we are to improve the outcomes for our children and families there must be much clearer co-ordination of services. Services must also work much closer with and in their local communities.

- 3.5** A range of policy documents highlight the need for positive parenting work as a priority for our Community Planning Partnership (Alliance) and the Community Health Partnership. Improving partnership working to support and engage the most vulnerable families to increase their knowledge and skills for parenting is a core objective in a range of National Strategic documents. These include "Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and Health for all Children Version 4 (HALL4).
- 3.6** The need to identify and provide early intervention and include people in the process are explicit objectives in the Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement and the Joint Health Improvement Plan. Within Clackmannanshire our delivery of the Early Years Framework will directly support those key objectives. The service will continue to work closely with our partners in health and midwifery services to fully develop and strengthen our multi-professional and multi-agency antenatal, postnatal and 0 - 5 years pathways for vulnerable children and families, building on the good practice and range of resources which already exist. The service will also continue to consult and work closely with parents and the wider community as we move forward in determining with them what other parental and practical supports parents would find helpful and of most benefit to them.
- 3.7** The proposed model is to deliver services from one Local Authority Family Centre building located in Alloa, with a satellite building in Tullibody, whilst using a range of community and outreach services including direct work in the family home. This will ensure that Clackmannanshire delivers appropriate services council-wide. Core functions have been identified across three specific areas.
- 3.8** The Service will aim to meet the community needs through engagement and capacity building under the umbrella and direction of the Alliance through our Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Intervention Working Group. This multi-disciplinary group is made up of representatives from Central Scotland Police, NHS Forth Valley, Mental Health Services, Social Work, Education Psychological Services, Housing, Third Sector and Social Policy Portfolio holder. Services will work together to take forward a new model of working with our most vulnerable of families with a particular focus on those families with children aged 0 - 5 years and those affected by substance misuse. The key priority in establishing the new model was ensuring that services make the most effective use of existing resources and

to ensure we target the most vulnerable children and families in Clackmannanshire.

- 3.9** Co-ordination of services is the key element in the way forward. The model reflects GIRFEC principles and is similar to groups already operating within some of the Council's services e.g. Early and Effective Intervention Pilot Project.

The model is proposed on the basis it reflects good practice, takes into account research findings and policy development, makes effective use of existing resources and strengthens partnership working among key services in Clackmannanshire.

- 3.10** Consultation has taken place with a range of partners, families and other stakeholders. This has been led by the Early Years Early Intervention working group, this group is made up of representatives from social services, housing, education/psychology, Central Scotland Police, Mental Health services, NHS Forth Valley and third sector services. Consultation has also taken place with users of family centre services including parent and toddler, baby group/baby massage, young parents and other groups and services who attended the Focus group meeting. Consultation has also been directly undertaken with all of the Clackmannanshire Health Visitors.
- 3.11** In September 2011 the Local Authority and partners also met with senior officers of the Scottish Government new Early Years team and the model for delivery was discussed in detail. The Scottish Government confirmed that the model was 'very much in line with the thinking' of the Scottish Government and their direction of services for families.
- 3.12** The Early Years Framework/Model for Early Co-ordinated Intervention for Vulnerable Families with children aged 0-5 years was also placed on the Clackmannanshire Council public consultation website.
- 3.13** The service will focus on core and essential services, placing emphasis on building community capacity, resilience and reducing cycle of dependency and culture of poverty. Improving outcomes for our children and families is a fundamental objective for all our services and partnership organisations. By ensuring our children and families get the help they need, when they need it will give our children the opportunity to thrive and longer term this will reduce the intergenerational cycle of dependency in Clackmannanshire. Services will improve outcomes for our most vulnerable by the adoption of common frameworks for assessment, planning and action that helps identify needs and risks and works together to address them appropriately.
- 3.14** By ensuring the continuum of support from universal provision (the universal pathway) through to specialist targeted provision most effectively meets the needs of children and families. We are fully aware that a variety of different services and interventions are required to address the very often different needs of families and the multiple risk factors that impact on children's outcomes. The aim for our services with children particularly under five years is to support children and their families to remain with the (universal pathway)

wherever possible bringing in targeted or specialist provision only where appropriate.

To deliver on this objective the service will deliver services and will be staffed around three core functions

3.15 Core functions will focus on three specific areas;

1) Assessment and Contact Service

Assessment and contact service will concentrate on 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. The families who will access this area of service are referred from a range of services and are often known to a range of statutory services who are working together with the family. Often the children are accommodated by the Local Authority and assessment work will be undertaken to determine the suitability of the children to return to their parents and family homes. Intensive work with the family will initially be undertaken in a 'home type setting' prior to moving the work into the family home as appropriate. The contact element of the service will look at where parents have access to their children through social work on a 'supervised' capacity and how parents appropriately meet their child's needs. Contact is a planned period of time where parents are observed in a range of settings with their own child. Contact is also assessed as part of a child and family plan.

2) Outreach (Including a Developmental role in defining the parenting Support Strategy and supporting communities to define and meet their own needs).

Outreach services will be a range of work done with and to support families in a much wider way across the County. Outreach work can be done as work in a family home where families require practical support, this can for example take the form of very practical parenting skills, including the skills required to run a family home, including cooking skills and budgeting. This will as required involve other services like money advice and housing support services. Outreach will also include the service running a range of parenting groups across communities in Clackmannanshire. This will include baby groups/baby massage, young parents groups, breast feeding support groups and toddler services.

Groups will be run by qualified Early Years & Family Workers in partnership with colleagues from e.g. Third Sector services and Health Service, this includes Midwives and Health Visitors. Through a variety of consultations parents have reported that by having the groups in their communities and supported and staffed in this way is a 'lifeline' comments such as having a worker to talk to saved my sanity' 'it was good to know that other parents felt the same, it wasn't just me that was feeling low'. Parents also commented that 'by coming together in the groups the support they got from other parents was invaluable' getting to know other parents in the community stopped them feeling isolated, 'having someone to talk to who would listen and understand'. Many parents have commented through the consultation process that if you bring a range of services together in various locations there would be more cross over opportunities for groups and parents

in the communities to get to know and help each other. Parents also requested joint workshop opportunities within buildings where more than one service could come together under one roof as this would provide continuity in the community.

3) Group Care as part of planned package

Children are placed in group settings in Family Centre buildings as part of a time limited, planned package of support for parents and their children. This could be to support particular child development issues or e.g. young parent accessing well being support groups and peer support.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1** The prevention and Early Intervention service and agenda detailed in the appended plan will have a positive effect on social and economic issues, whilst breaking down the barriers to the long term intergenerational issues that are a problem within Clackmannanshire.
- 4.2** There is strong evidence of a positive economic social return from investment in early years. By spending money on services and programmes that are high quality, preventative, targeted, and based on sound research, and effective methodology we can save money in future years.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

Total cost to deliver the services Clackmannanshire wide including a range of outreach support with partnership services and Third sector is £1,119,818.00.

Following review of service budget requirements, the cost of delivering the strategy can be accommodated within existing budget provision.

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

Existing Family Centre staff will deliver the services across the core function areas identified, Clackmannanshire wide.

Access to a Clinical Psychologist post is seen as a key area of service development, this is particularly important in some of the very serious and high tariff families that the service works with. Access to this area of service will in particular assist when we are looking at parenting capacity and court issues.

Access to Play Therapy on a directed basis and through staff training will enhance the level of knowledge we have as a service as to particular play behaviours in some of our most high tariff families.

The family support worker post will provide additional practical support to parents linked in to supervised contact.

The Senior Social worker will focus on families where permanency planning for young children has been identified through a programme of intensive parenting assessments.

6.0 Exempt Reports

Is this report exempt? Yes please detail the reasons for exemption below) No **X**

The Early Years Framework is a National and Local Priority.

7.0 Declarations

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

(1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (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	X
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	X
Our communities are safer	X
Vulnerable people and families are supported	X
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	X
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	X
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	X

(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 **X** 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 **X**

10.0 Appendices

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

Appendix 1 - Clackmannanshire Early Years Framework Implementation Plan.

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 **X**

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EARLY YEARS FRAMEWORK



Clackmannanshire
Council

www.clacksweb.org.uk

Clackmannanshire Local Implementation Plan

Draft



DRAFT

TRANSLATION PAGE

This document is about the Clackmannanshire Early Years Framework Implementation Plan. If English is not your first language and you require assistance to read this document, please call 01259 450000 and ask to speak to the Social Services Support Officer.

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਲੈਕਮਨਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਈ ਯੀਅਰਜ਼ ਫਰੇਮਵਰਕ ਇਮਪਲੀਮੇਂਟੇਸ਼ਨ ਪਲਾਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਕੋ ਕਾਲੀ 01259 450000 ਤੇ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਜਿ ਸੋਸ਼ਲ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਸਪੋਰਟ ਓਫਿਸਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਲਈ ਕਹੋ।

Tha an sgrìobhainn seo mu dheidhinn seirbhisean na cloinne ann an Siorrachd Clack Mhanainn. Mura bi Beurla na ciad cànan agaibh agus ma bhios sibh feumach air cuideachadh airson an sgrìobhainn seo a leughadh, mas e bhur toil e, fònaibh gu 01259 450000 agus faighnichibh airson Oifigear Poileasaidh Dealbhadh airson seirbhisean na cloinne.

本文件是關於赫克曼蘭郡(Clackmannanshire)的兒童服務。如果英語不是你的第一語言，而你需要這份文件時需要協助，請致電兒童服務部的政策及規劃主任，電話是01259 450000。

Ten dokument dotyczy usług dla dzieci w Clackmannanshire. Jeżeli język angielski nie jest Twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy do przeczytania tego dokumentu, proszę zadzwonić na numer 01259 450000 i poprosić o pomoc o: "Policy and Planning Officer for children's services". [Przetłumaczony usług dla dzieci]

ਕਲੈਕਮਨਸ਼ਾਇਰ - ਈ ਯੀਅਰਜ਼

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਲੈਕਮਨਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਈ ਯੀਅਰਜ਼ ਫਰੇਮਵਰਕ ਇਮਪਲੀਮੇਂਟੇਸ਼ਨ ਪਲਾਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਲਈ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਕੋ ਕਾਲੀ 01259 450000 ਤੇ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਜਿ ਸੋਸ਼ਲ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਸਪੋਰਟ ਓਫਿਸਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਲਈ ਕਹੋ।

If you require a copy of this document in a different format e.g. large print or audio tape please call 01259 450000 and ask to speak to the Social Services Support Officer.

Or email cjohnson@clacks.gov.uk

The most up to date version of this document can be found on the Children's Services Planning section of Clackmannanshire Council website:

www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childrensservicesplanning/

Executive Summary

"It is during our very earliest years and even pre-birth that a large part of the pattern for our future adult life is set."

Source: Early Years Framework

What are our key drivers?

- National Early Years Framework
- Single Outcome Agreement
- GIRFEC
- Children and Young People's Integrated Services Plan

What the Early Years framework will mean in practical terms:

For Services

- A strategic vision for children at Community Planning level. The statutory Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) is an integral part of the community plan;
- Services that are not traditionally seen as children's services are asked to consider the impact of the services on young children. Services such as childcare, pre-school education and support for parents are seen as core components of successful delivery of the framework.
- Universal services are strengthened to improve early identification and intervention to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and families;

For Families

- Parents and carers receive the support and advice they need to be the best parents they can be for their children, including access to intensive family support for those who need it;
- The importance of the home learning environment in improving educational outcomes for children is recognised. The importance of play is recognised;

For the Workforce

Members of the early years workforce across the various agencies receive support and training to enable them to engage effectively with families and contribute to the early identification and early intervention

Local Model

Key Principles of Early Coordinated Intervention With Vulnerable Families With Children Aged 0-5

- Focus and targeted improvements in the life chances of vulnerable families and their children
- Identification and appropriate levels of support for those families as early as possible
- Re-provision of services to support the most vulnerable of families Clackmannanshire wide.
- Change of delivery of services using current resources to maximum effect. Delivery will be robust, appropriate and supportive of the needs of families in Clackmannanshire
- Services working closely together in a co-ordinated way to identify families at the earliest point possible.
- Consistent with the recommendations in "Joining the Dots", Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the Early Years Framework.

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1.0 WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The national Early Years Framework focuses on preventing problems and intervening early and effectively, to correct problems before they have a long term effect on life chances for the child and their family. This document expands on the Framework which sits within the Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan 2013¹.

1.1 Background

On 10 December 2008, [The Early Years Framework](#)² was launched, signifying the Scottish Government and COSLA's commitment to giving all children the best possible start in life. An update on progress was published in January 2011: [Early Years Framework - Progress So Far](#)³.

"It is during our very earliest years and even pre-birth that a large part of the pattern for our future adult life is set. "

Source: Early Years Framework

There is a wealth of evidence indicating that the earliest years of life are crucial to a child's development and future life chances. It is increasingly evident that inequalities in health, education and employment opportunities are passed from one generation to another. The Early Years Framework aims to break these negative cycles through early and effective intervention, together with the Scottish Government's other 2 social policy frameworks - [Equally Well](#)⁴ which focuses on addressing health inequalities, and [Achieving Our Potential](#)⁵ which aims to tackle poverty.

"This will mean a shift from intervening only when a crisis happens, to prevention and early intervention. In turn, that will mean providing a supportive environment for children and the earliest possible identification of any additional support that may be required."

Source: Early Years Framework

The Early Years Framework sets out 10 elements of transformational change, to be realised over a 10-year time horizon, and covers the period from pre-birth to age 8. There are a number of priorities for action set out under each of the 10 elements, with short, medium and long term outcomes for each. Key to achieving transformational change in the long term will be re-aligning services towards early intervention as opposed to crisis management. It is also vital that all relevant services work together to identify and meet the needs of individual children, in line with the principles of [Getting it right for every child](#)⁶

"It represents a new approach – developing policy in partnership, recognising that different local areas have different needs and moving away from a centrally driven, inflexible approach, which has not delivered what is needed."

Source: Early Years Framework

Professor Susan Deacon published her [Joining the Dots](#)⁷ report on 2 March 2011. The report aims to build consensus around the importance of early years and early intervention.

¹ <http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childrensservicesplanning>

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0>

³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/01/13114328/0>

⁴ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/Inequalities/inequalitiestaskforce>

⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/20103815/0>

⁶ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

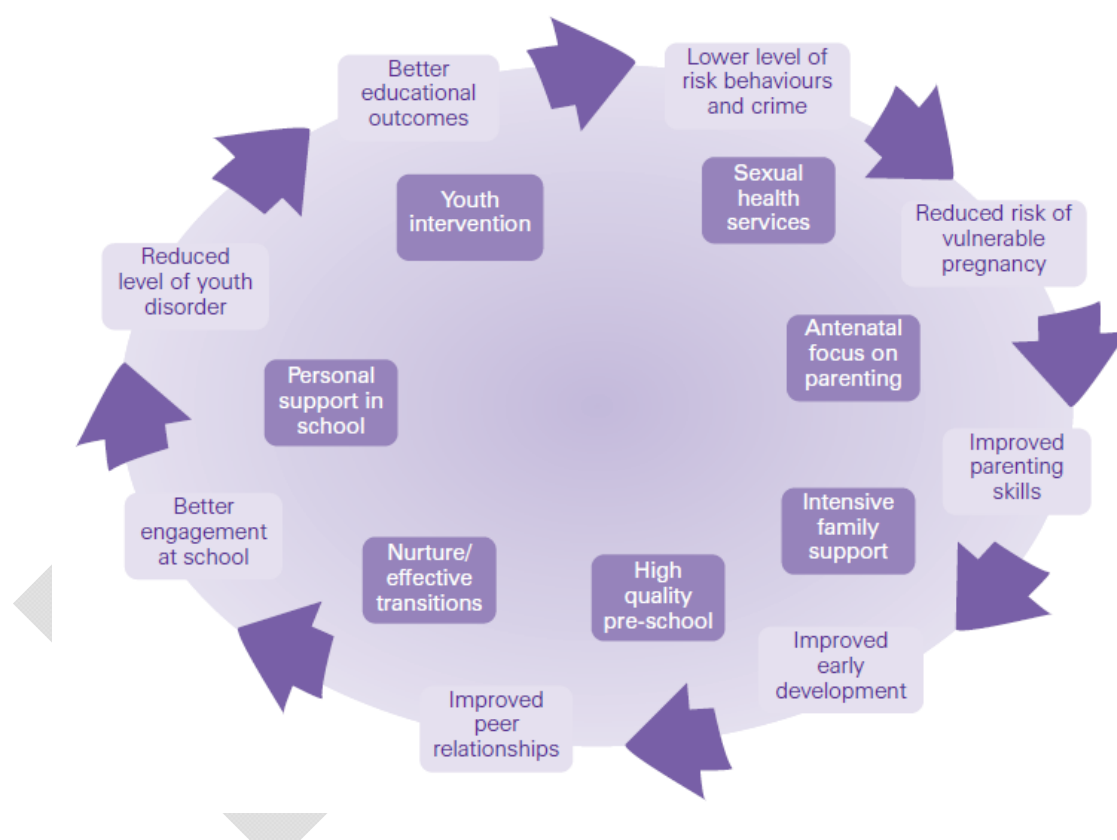
⁷ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/343337/0114216.pdf>

1.2 10 Elements of Transformational Change

1. A coherent approach
2. Helping children, families and communities to secure outcomes for themselves
3. Breaking cycles of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes in and through early years
4. A focus on engagement and empowerment of children, families and communities
5. Using the strength of universal services to deliver prevention and early intervention
6. Putting quality at the heart of service delivery
7. Services that meet the needs of children and families
8. Improving outcomes and children's quality of life through play
9. Simplifying and streamlining delivery
10. More effective collaborations

"Universal services are empowered and confident about identifying needs and assessing risks. Service providers use their skills to address individual needs and bring in more specialised support where that is necessary."

Source: Early Years Framework



"There is a danger that ever greater involvement of public services directly with children simply transfers responsibility away from parents to the state in a way that will not deliver improved outcomes."

Source: Early Years Framework

The Early Years Framework, Equally Well and Achieving our Potential are the three key social policy frameworks, created jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA. Taken together, they form a coherent approach to addressing disadvantage in Scotland and

breaking the intergenerational cycle of inequalities, which hold us back as a country from achieving all that we can achieve.

GIRFEC, the delivery mechanism for all three frameworks, is a national approach to supporting and working with all children and young people in Scotland. Fuller information is available within the Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan, as well as Key Local Drivers section within this document.

1.3 What the Early Years framework will mean in practical terms:

For Services

- A strategic vision for children at CPP level, to develop a local continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school and beyond, based on the GIRFEC methodology;
- The statutory Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) is an integral part of the community plan;
- Services that are not traditionally seen as children's services are asked to consider the impact of the services on young children e.g. housing, planning, transport, addiction services;
- Universal services are strengthened to improve early identification and intervention to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and families;
- Services such as childcare, pre-school education and support for parents are seen as core components of successful delivery of the framework.

"Plans and services should be oriented around doing things **with** people rather than 'to' or 'for' them. This is critical in developing a capacity-building approach. Parents and other members of the communities should be encouraged to be active participants in early years services through community engagement, volunteering and other routes, and be given the support needed to do so."

Source: Early Years Framework Part 2

For Families

- Parents are supported from conception onwards, using the NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHSQIS) Pathway of Care for Vulnerable Families (0-3) if necessary, with integrated services developed in line with GIRFEC principles;
- Parents and carers receive the support and advice they need to be the best parents they can be for their children, including access to intensive family support for those who need it;
- The importance of the home learning environment in improving educational outcomes for children is recognised and the CPP looks to further develop family and community learning;
- The importance of play is recognised, both in terms of outdoor play and of encouraging parents to play with their very young children;

For the Workforce

Members of the Early Years workforce across the various agencies receive support and training to enable them to engage effectively with families and contribute to the early identification and early intervention.

2.0 What Are Our Needs?

Key Issues:

2.1 Deprivation of children in Clackmannanshire:

- has the 5th highest share of population living in the 15% most deprived areas⁸
- significantly above the national average school pupils entitled and registered for a free school meal in both the primary school and secondary sectors in both sectors

The links between socio-economic deprivation, poor health and poor life chances are well known. Clackmannanshire, while it includes communities of outstanding prosperity, it also has neighbourhoods whose income and employment standards sit with the poorest in Scotland.

Within the Clackmannanshire area approximately 40% of school pupils live in the three most deprived levels of the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This compares with an overall 31% of all school pupils in Scotland in these deprivation bands. In February 2010, 23.1% of Clackmannanshire primary school pupils and 18.3% of secondary school pupils are entitled and registered for free school meals.

2.2 Child Protection Statistics for 2009/10

- The major perpetrators of incidents leading to case conference were the immediate family. For those cases going to conference over 45% of the abusers are the natural mother (can often be single parent).
- Clackmannanshire has a higher than national average of children registered as being at risk due to emotional abuse (often related to domestic abuse). Incidents of emotional abuse and physical neglect continue to increase and the level of sexual abuse appear to have reduced.
- Compared to similar authorities, Clackmannanshire had a higher proportion of children per 1,000 population aged 0-15 years on child protection register and is well above the national rate. (Reflects high referral rate and robust response).
- Trend of greater proportion of younger aged children (0-5) being placed on the CP register than older children. (Reflects national trends).

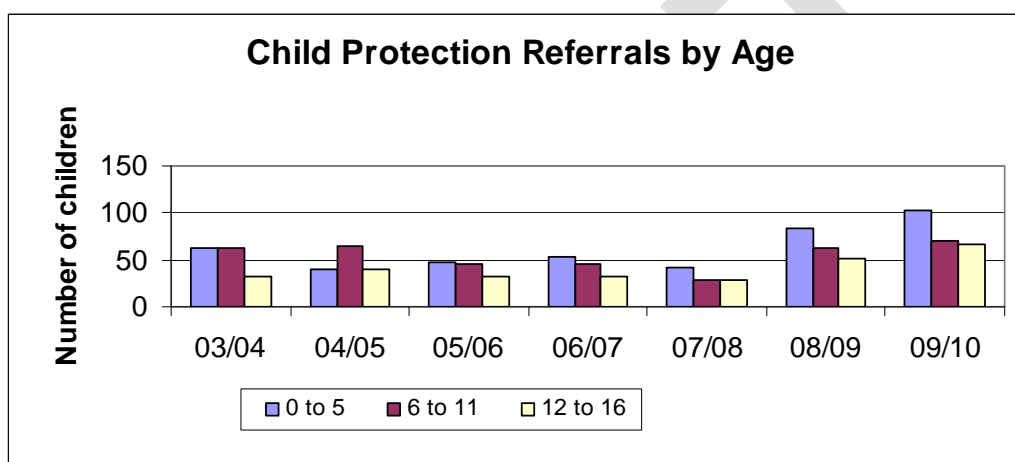
⁸ SOA 09/10

2.3 Referrals

In the year April 09 to March 10, there were 151 child protection referrals involving 238 children (35 unborn). The age break down was 89 between 0-4 years, 76 between 5-10 years, 72 between 11-15 years and one aged 16+.

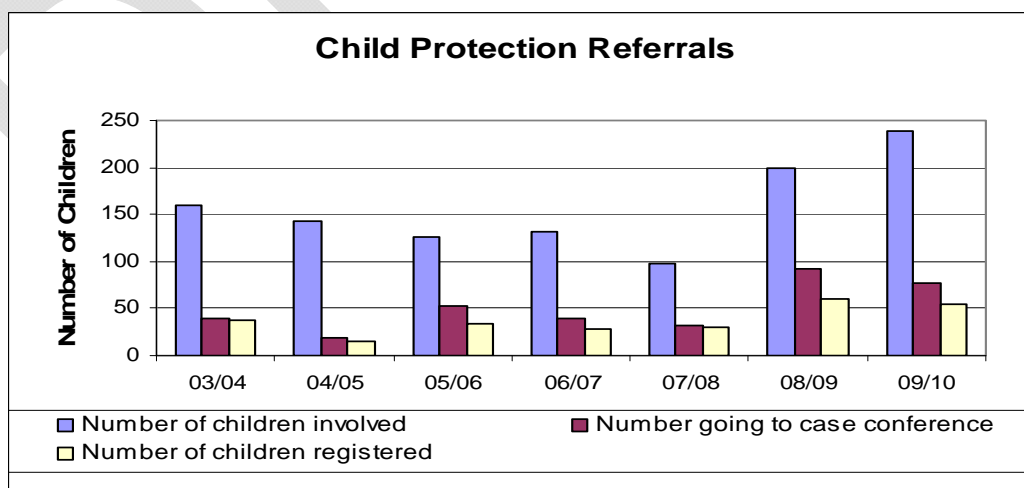
Referrals for 2010/2011; 293, an increase of 31% on the previous year. In 2010/11, 31% of referrals resulted in a case conference. 50% of the identified abusers were the natural mother. In 2010/2011 Physical Abuse remains the highest figure consistently over the year.

****Please note that the 2010/2011 figures are unverified as Scottish figures for comparison will not be available until February 2012. ****



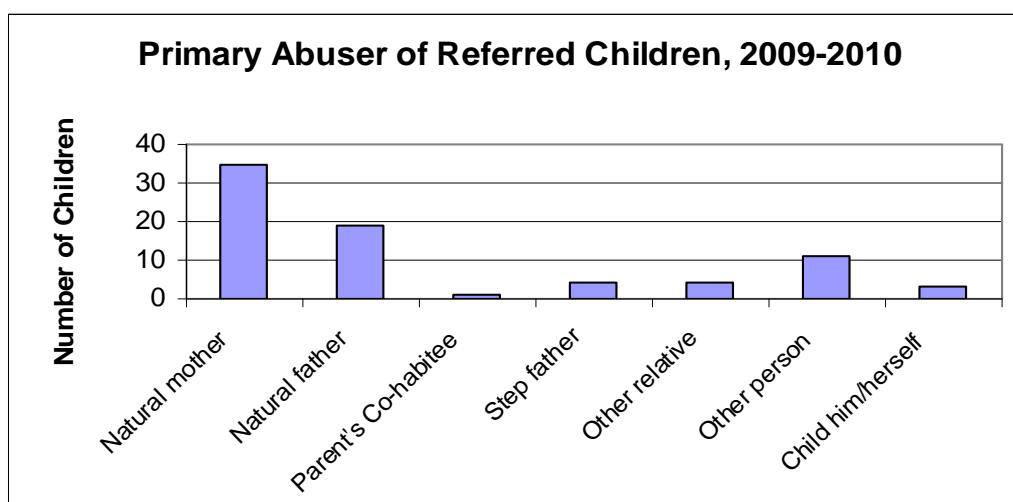
Source: Clackmannanshire Council, CFIS

During the 2009/2010 period, 32% of referrals resulted in an inter-agency case conference. The rate for Scotland as a whole was 34% of referrals going to a case conference. In the previous year (2008/2009), Clackmannanshire had a rate of 46% and the national rate was 37%.



Source: Clackmannanshire Council, CFIS

The reported incidents of children needing protection shows that in 2009/2010, the major perpetrators of incidents leading to case conference were the immediate family. For those cases going to conference over 45% of the abusers are the natural mother.



Source: Clackmannanshire Council, CFIS

2.4 Registrations

The table below demonstrates the distribution of types of abuse which required the registration of the 54 children. While national statistics show that 44% of children suffer from physical neglect, 26% of emotional abuse, 22% of physical injury and 7% of sexual abuse, compared with Clackmannanshire 39% of emotional abuse, 28% of physical injury, 24% of physical neglect. Approximately 9% of children suffered sexual abuse.

Clackmannanshire has a higher than national average of children registered as being at risk due to emotional abuse.

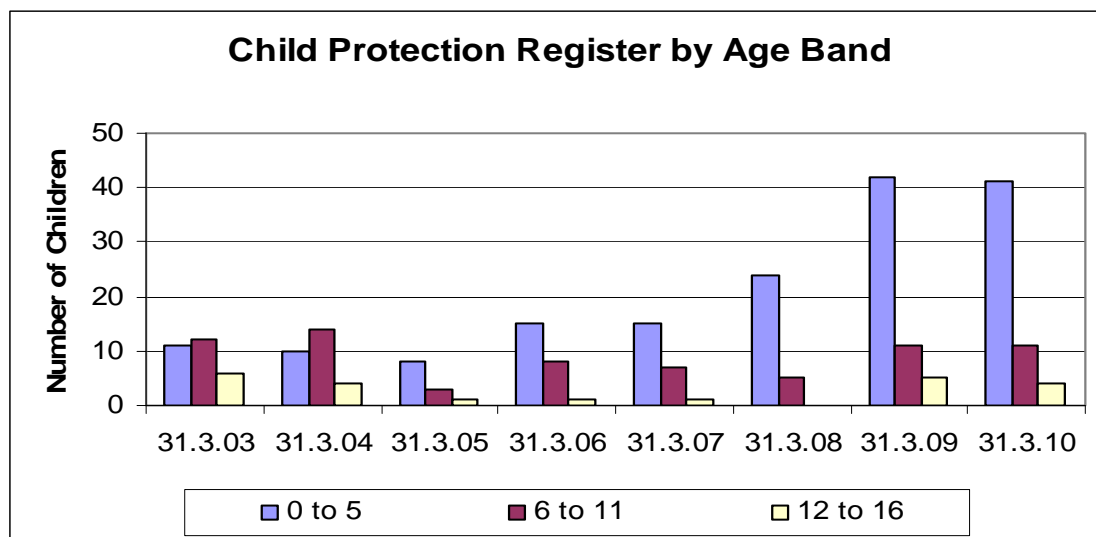
Child Protection Registration List as at 31 March 2010⁹

For Clackmannanshire, 56 children were on the register. Compared to similar authorities, Clackmannanshire had a higher proportion of children per 1,000 population aged 0-15 and is well above the national rate.

Rate per 1,000 of aged 0-15 as at March 2010/Comparator Authorities

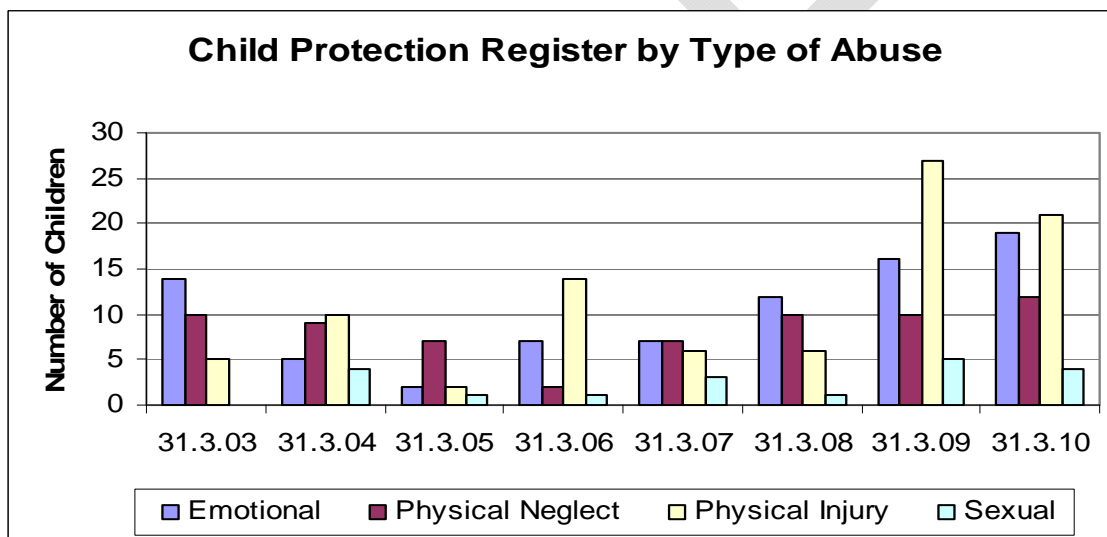
Clackmannanshire	5.9
East Ayrshire	2.0
Falkirk	2.6
North Lanarkshire	1.0
South Lanarkshire	2.4
West Lothian	3.4
Scotland	2.8

⁹ Scottish Government is now moving to a 16 month reporting period to align other figures. This means that the 10/11 data will not be available until February 2012.



Source: Clackmannanshire Council, CFIS

The chart above shows a higher number of younger aged children being placed on the register than older children.



Source: Clackmannanshire Council, CFIS

In this chart about type of abuse, of the four categories shown, incidents of physical injury remain high, incidents of emotional abuse and physical neglect continue to increase and the level of sexual abuse appear to have reduced.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration 09/10¹⁰

Children referred and referrals received by gender

Gender	Number of children	Number of referrals
Female	305	486
Male	380	782
Total	699	1,285

Key Issues

- 59.5% of children aged 0-5 are referred to reporter on grounds of lack of parental care

Children referred by age and source of referral

Number of children																			
Age (years)																			
Source	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	5	7	< 5	0	0	21
Father	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	< 5	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	< 5
Health	0	< 5	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	6	13	10	0	0	35
Mother	0	0	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	< 5
Police	46	46	28	37	35	25	20	17	24	33	34	43	61	72	84	84	10	< 5	623
Sheriff Court	< 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5
Social Work	16	5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	5	< 5	0	< 5	5	< 5	< 5	< 5	5	< 5	0	0	53
Total:	59	50	30	42	36	30	25	20	25	35	40	44	67	79	100	93	10	< 5	699

0-5 age breakdown of children referred to reporter:

0 yrs 59 children, 1yr 50 children, 2yr 30 children, 3yr 42 children, 4yrs 36 children, 5yrs 30 children.
 Total 247 children

¹⁰ http://www.scra.gov.uk/publications/online_statistical_service.cfm

Children referred by age and grounds of referral¹¹

Number of children
Age (years)

Grounds	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
a	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	0	0	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	11	21	16	18	0	0	64
b	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	5	< 5	5	< 5	9	8	0	0	44
c	34	31	20	24	17	21	14	11	12	16	20	19	15	12	14	9	0	0	270
d	26	19	13	17	19	6	12	8	10	13	9	5	11	17	26	13	< 5	0	212
e	< 5	5	0	6	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0	39
f	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	0	0	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	0	0	0	16
h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0	< 5	5	9	< 5	0	0	22
i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	< 5	< 5	6	14	28	36	43	51	8	< 5	167
j	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	17	22	0	0	59
Total:	59	50	30	42	36	30	25	20	25	35	40	44	67	79	100	93	10	< 5	699

¹¹ 0-5 age breakdown of children referred to reporter by reason C - is likely (i) to suffer unnecessarily; or (ii) be impaired seriously in his health or development, due to a lack of parental care:

0yr 34 children, 1yr 31 children, 2yr 20 children, 3yr 24 children, 4yr 17 children, 5yr 21 children

Total 147 children = 59.5% of total referrals

The grounds for referral are a series of conditions that may exist in relation to a child as detailed in section 52(2) of the Children (Scotland)

(a) is beyond the control of any relevant person, (b) is falling into bad associations or is exposed to moral danger, (c) is likely (i) to suffer unnecessarily; or (ii) be impaired seriously in his health or development, due to a lack of parental care, (d) is a child in respect of whom any of the offences mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (offences against children to which special provisions apply) has been committed, (e) is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as a child in respect of whom any of the offences mentioned in paragraph (d) above has been committed, (f) is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as a person who has committed any of the offences referred in paragraph (d) above, (g) is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as a person in respect of whom an offence under sections 1 to 3 of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (incest and intercourse with a child by a step-parent or person in position of trust) has been committed by a member of that household, (h) has failed to attend school regularly without reasonable excuse, (i) has committed an offence, (j) has misused alcohol or any drug, whether or not a controlled drug within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, (k) has misused a volatile substance by deliberately inhaling its vapour, other than for medicinal purposes, (l) is being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority under s25, or is the subject of a parental responsibilities order obtained under section 86, of this Act and, in either case, his behaviour is such that special measures are necessary for his adequate supervision in his interest or the interest of others, (m) is a child to whom subsection (2A) below applies: *(2A), (a) A requirement is made of the Principal Reporter under s12(1) of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act (asp 8) (power of a Sheriff to require Principal Reporter to refer case to Children's Hearing) in respect of the child's case; and (b) the child is not subject to a Supervision Requirement.

* This ground of referral was added by the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004

2.5 Teenage Pregnancy

Key Issues:

- above national average in two age groups (<18, <20)
- has highest rate in Forth Valley except in under 16's
- figures are consistently higher than national average for years

Teenage Pregnancies (aged < 18)

Council Area ¹	1996 /98	1997 /99	1998 /00	1999 /01	2000 /02	2001 /03	2002 /04	2003 /05	2004 /06	2005 /07	2006 /08	2007 /09
Clacks rate	52.6	47.7	49.9	46.3	47.4	42.1	44.5	44.3	44.9	44.4	46.1	45.2
Clacks number	158	138	141	131	137	122	129	130	134	136	143	141
Scot rate	44.7	44.0	42.8	40.9	39.8	39.6	40.2	40.8	41.1	41.5	41.1	39.8
Falk rate	44.4	42.9	42.0	40.9	40.7	40.7	42.3	43.8	45.7	47.2	45.5	44.2
Falkirk	357	338	327	315	317	317	333	352	375	396	384	372
Stirling rate	36.3	37.3	35.3	37.1	33.8	31.0	27.3	28.2	29.5	28.2	26.3	22.1
Stirling	176	179	170	175	162	151	134	143	151	153	146	125

Poor outcomes associated with teenage parenthood:¹²

- premature birth and low birthweight
- infant mortality, hospitalisation of infant, accidental injuries in childhood
- smoking in pregnancy
- low breast feeding rates
- poor diet
- poor maternal health, postnatal depression, isolation and relationship breakdown
- repeat unplanned pregnancies
- no qualifications, not in education training or employment
- parenting difficulties
- mothers at risk of poverty and poor housing in later life
- children at risk of lower academic achievement, poverty and unemployment in later life

¹² Teenage Parent who cares?

3.0 WHAT ARE OUR LOCAL KEY DRIVERS?

Nationally, Single outcome agreements and the community planning processes like the Integrated Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan, are seen as the key local mechanisms for putting the Early Years Framework into practice. In doing so, the focus remains on outcomes rather than inputs, and the Scottish Government will work to develop better indicators of outcomes from early years policies and services.

"Local partners have had much flexibility in implementing the framework and it is clear that there is a great deal of excellent and innovative work going on across Scotland to deliver against the ten elements of transformational change. This is happening in line with Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) principles".

Source: Early years framework - progress so far

3.1 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)

All councils and community planning partnerships are required under the terms of the Concordat¹³ to produce a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which demonstrates how the local partners are contributing to the agreed national objectives. The Clackmannanshire SOA for 2011-12¹⁴ is structured around local community planning outcomes, and has been approved by Council, the Scottish Government, and endorsed by the Clackmannanshire Community Planning Alliance.

The 2011-2012 SOA highlights the following priority area:

EARLY INTERVENTION, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PRE-5s IN VULNERABLE FAMILIES

It states that "the focus of this early intervention is on parents who are susceptible to the risks and behaviours which will limit their child's options in later life. Evidence shows that the influences on the early years of children's lives will determine their social, educational and spiritual aspirations, so while remedial work will continue with children who have grown up in chaotic environments, partners will also prioritise the family setting from as early as pre-birth.

Partners will improve how they weave together the different strands of work which will help us to address this action, by simplifying information sharing and broadening links with other partners with expertise in community education, substance rehabilitation and preventing violence against women."

SOA ACTIONS

- The development of a multi-disciplinary early co-ordinated intervention service for vulnerable families with young children
- Direct engagement with a range of partners to deliver targeted and appropriate services

SOA TARGET

- Reduce the number of children where partners are required to provide alternative care on a temporary or permanent basis by increasing the capacity of parents and carers to care for very young children

¹³ Further information on the Concordat can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/923/0054147.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/site/documents/communityplanning/clackmannanshiresingleoutcomeagreement20092012/>

This action is primarily being taken forward by the Early Co-ordinated Intervention Project working with vulnerable families with children aged 0-5. Actions relating to this work are contained within the Integrated Children's Services Action Plan¹⁵.

3.2 Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan

"Integrated Children's Services Plans (ICSP) are a statutory obligation for local authorities and should also be seen as an opportunity to take forward transformational change in their local area. ICSPs should be seen as the children and young people's component of Community Plans, but should become increasingly focused around the needs of children and families, rather than around systems and processes."

Source: Early Years Framework Part 2

The Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan sets out a targeted framework of strategic priorities and objectives, for development and improvement across the range of services for children and young people in Clackmannanshire throughout 2010/2013. The Plan is the single vehicle through which plans and strategies for children and young people will be implemented. It is the means by which outcomes for children and young people will be evaluated, and sets out how local partnerships intend to plan jointly and strategically to deliver the relevant Concordat and Single Outcome Agreement commitments in relation to children and young people and families.

Vision

That every child and young person has the best possible start in life, and achieves their potential.

Relevant 2010/2013 Priorities:

- Ensure that **GIRFEC principles** and processes are embedded in all partner organisations.
- **Improve targeted services for vulnerable children** especially in the area of early intervention with an emphasis on pre-5s and those affected by parental substance misuse.

Objectives:

- Protect children and young people from neglect and abuse, and support those experiencing abuse
- Support parents, carers, and their families
- Support children affected by parents' and other family members' substance misuse
- Ensure children, parents & carers are involved in & consulted about key decisions that affect them
- Improve access to services
- Develop systems that ensures children will receive the most appropriate services at the most appropriate time
- Reduce children and young peoples substance misuse
- Promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Improve the sexual health of children and young people
- Support young people to reduce offending

¹⁵ <http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childrensservicesplanning/>

3.3 GIRFEC

"The common values required by the Early Years Framework are enshrined within the GIRFEC values and principles. These values and principles are currently being embedded across Scotland"

Source: Early years framework - progress so far

A focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families based on a shared understanding of well-being.

An integral role for children, young people and families and those with a relevant interest in reaching the decisions that affect children's lives as part of assessment, planning and intervention.

Maximising the skilled workforce within universal services to address concerns at the earliest point themselves, where they can, bringing others around them as needed.

A common approach to gaining consent and to sharing information where appropriate.

A coordinated and unified approach to identifying concerns, assessing needs, agreeing actions and outcomes based on indicators of well-being.

Streamlined planning, assessment and decision making processes that lead to the right help at the right time for the child.

Consistent high standards of co-operation, joint working and communication, where more than one agency needs to be involved.

A confident and competent workforce in the statutory universal and targeted services as well as the independent sector.

A lead professional to co-ordinate and monitor multi-agency activity where necessary.

The capacity to share demographic, assessment, planning and outcome information electronically within and across agency boundaries through the national eCare programme where appropriate.

The Regional GIRFEC strategy group are developing an **Integrated Assessment Framework** for Forth Valley, and this group reports to the Joint Chief Executives Group (G5)¹⁶. Locally, a joint Clackmannanshire and Stirling **GIRFEC Implementation Group** linked to the Children's Planning Process will drive forward implementation of relevant principles, focussing initially on vulnerable young people and child protection. To date this has included multi-agency GIRFEC training across Forth Valley, and training on the Integrated Assessment Framework.

The Forth Valley Early and Effective Intervention Hub has been operational since August 2011 and will ensure that responses are coordinated, appropriate and responsive.

¹⁶ Forth Valley has a Chief Officer's Strategic Group entitled G5. The G5 Group has membership from the 3 local authorities that make up Forth Valley (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling); Central Scotland Police and NHS Forth Valley. They have a subgroup entitled G5 Reporting Group.

Within Clackmannanshire work is taken forward by the Clackmannanshire Early Co-ordinated Intervention with Vulnerable Families with Children aged 0-5.

4.0 What Do We Need To Do?

It is recognised that the experiences that children have during their early years are of crucial importance in a child's future physical, emotional, creative and intellectual development.

From the child's perspective, there is evidence¹⁷ that **exposure to high levels of parental stress, neglect and abuse can have a severe effect on brain development**. There are clear gaps between the development of children whose parents face such stresses and those being brought up in less stressful households. These gaps continue through life. At age 3, children at higher risk of poor outcomes can be identified on the basis of their chaotic home circumstances, their emotional behaviour, their negativity and poor development. These children face many risks and improving early years support is key to improving child protection.

By the time such children reach adulthood, these children are more likely to have poor health outcomes, be unemployed, have criminal convictions, have substance misuse problems and have experienced teenage pregnancy. Improving the early years experiences of these children is therefore a central element for **regenerating communities, reducing crime, tackling substance misuse and improving employability**. It will also help us to break the repeating cycle of poor outcomes often associated with teenage pregnancy.

"A package of effective early years support to reduce the frequency and type of services demanded by children with the most severe needs could have a significant impact on improving outcomes for them and reducing long term costs to the public purse. If earlier, effective support could be given to a child with the most severe needs, resulting in a 10 per cent reduction in the total amount paid out to cover services later in life, this could result in potential savings of around £94,000 for each individual."

Source: Early years framework - progress so far

4.1 What Works?

- working with the family in a coordinated and most effective way - GIRFEC
- agreed referral process/pathway with multi-agency screening and review group
- integrated teams better connect children and adult service with a focus on the family as a unit
- targeted family support reduces the number of 'looked after' young people
- intensive family support service and group work programmes aimed at vulnerable young people and their families whose needs have been complex - achieves positive outcomes at both home and school
- the establishment of working relationships (integrated/joint initiatives) with a range of support agencies facilitates a holistic approach to meeting the needs of families
- multi-agency initiatives reduces stigma and increases involvement by service users

¹⁷ Early Years Framework Dec 2008 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/6>

- intensive support is provided in a flexible way that suits the needs and demands of service users - including evenings and weekends
- addressing the psychological consequences of poor parenting to break the generational cycle (counselling, raising self esteem etc)
- shifting the focus from crisis intervention to providing early support to families
- Interventions with parents ensure there is increased insight into children's perspectives and needs
- Children are able to understand their parent's substance misuse and develop their coping strategies - Resilience
- interventions are responsive enough to be delivered at their maximum at the particular time when change is most likely to happen in people's lives
- Family centres are used as a community resource by a variety of agencies, groups and organisations to provide services that benefit both children and their families.
- increasing the capacity of agencies to collaborate.

4.2 What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?

Child outcomes

- Shanari¹⁸
- improved school attendance, behaviour at school and educational attainment
- developing more appropriate friendships and extending friendship networks

Family outcomes

- Improved positive interaction within families and enhanced parenting skills
- reduced dependency on drugs and/or alcohol
- increased self-esteem and confidence amongst family members
- taking enhanced responsibility and increasing autonomy for decision making
- improved anger management
- improvements in health awareness and diet
- improvements in mental health
- resolving family crisis situations more effectively
- improved danger awareness

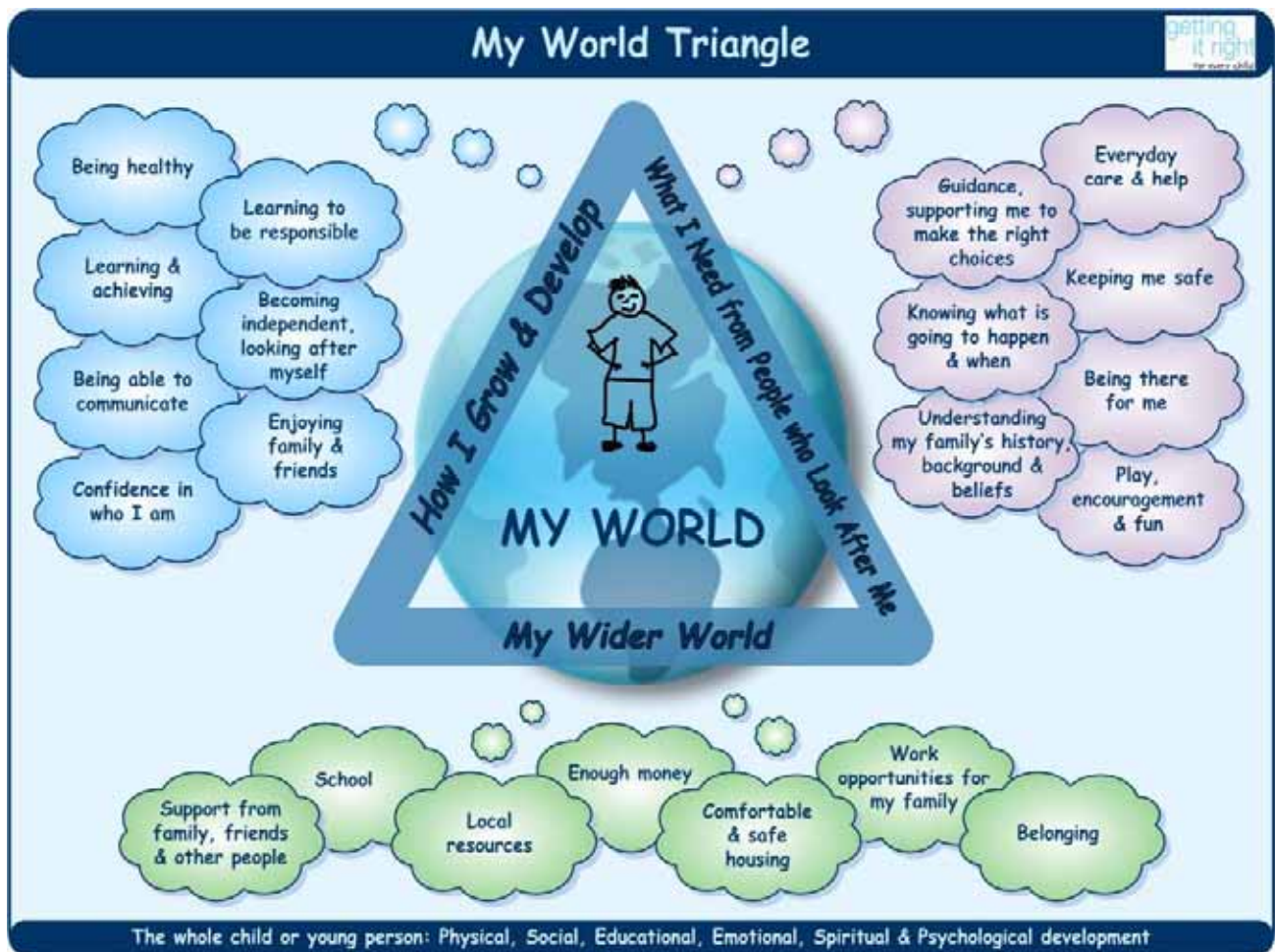
Community Outcomes

- improved household management skills, including financial and tenancy management
- reduced number of complaints and antisocial behaviour
- enhanced employment opportunities and access into employment
- developing respect for others
- ceasing involvement in criminal activities
- enhanced communication/involvement of agencies

Funding opportunities may arise from the proposed **Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund** 2012/2013 which will be overseen by the Early Years Taskforce and is aimed at using evidence-based interventions to give our children the best start in life. The resourcing of this fund will be provided by NHS Boards and local authorities, working together to agree their local contributions and achieve maximum impact and value for money. As a central contribution to this, the Scottish Government will provide £50 million

¹⁸ Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected and Responsible and Included. These are known as the 'wellbeing indicators' and are remembered by the acronym S.H.A.N.A.R.I.

of resource over the lifetime of this Parliament through the Sure Start Fund component of the Scottish Futures Fund.



4.3 What Should Clacks Model Include?

Recommended - Holistic Approach

- Multi-agency screening panel^{19, 20}
- Integrated Teams/Joint Working^{21, 22, 23}
- Targeted Family Support.²⁴
- Prevention/Early Intervention^{25, 26, 27}
- Outcome focussed
- Agreed referral pathways
- Dedicated community based resources^{28, 29, 30, 31}

¹⁹ Luton Borough Council

http://www.luton.gov.uk/internet/health_and_social_care/children_and_family_care/multi-agency%20family%20support%20panel

²⁰ Evaluation of Intensive Family support projects in Scotland.

²¹ Case Study Family Support Worker

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources_and_practice/case_studies/familysupportworker/

²² Contact details: Families First; 8 Centre Court, Main Avenue, Treforest Ind. Est., CF37 5YL Tel: 01443 827000 Email: families_firstproject@hotmail.com

²³ Wrexham Borough Council Council http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/council/social_services/ifss/index.htm

²⁴ Birmingham City Council

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=SystemAdmin%2FCFPageLayout&cid=1223092566422&packedarqs=website%3D4&pagename=BCC%2FCommon%2FWrapper%2FCFWrapper&rendermode=Live>

²⁵ Wrexham Borough Council Council http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/council/social_services/ifss/index.htm

²⁶ Families First; 8 Centre Court, Main Avenue, Treforest Ind. Est., CF37 5YL, Tel: 01443 827000 families_firstproject@hotmail.com

²⁷ <http://www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz/about/>

²⁸ Devon County Council <http://www.devon.gov.uk/family-support.htm>

²⁹ Knowsley Council family.supportservices@knowsley.gov.uk

4.4 Local Delivery Model

Background

In March 2010, Services to People, Children and Young People's Partnership Group came together with partner services including NHS Forth Valley and Central Scotland Police in a planning day. The aim was to develop a short term and medium term plan on the delivery of services for children. In making decisions on the future of services focussed on supporting vulnerable families with children aged 0 - 5 years, discussion focussed on ensuring we have the balance correct between universal versus specialised provision.

It was agreed that we would adopt the following principles; consistency of approach, balance between prevention and early intervention, build on the best of what we know works effectively for children and their families and what we know does not work effectively and should therefore stop. Underpinning the work is the key principle of building on success, breaking the cycle of family poverty and reducing failure. What was agreed is that maintaining the current status quo and the methods of how we work with families is not an option if we are to improve outcomes for children and families in Clackmannanshire. In February 2011 the Council agreed that a key action of the Authority should be the development of a Multi-disciplinary Early Co-ordinated Intervention Service for Vulnerable Families with Children Aged 0 - 5 years with the new service operational by April 2012.

The Local Authority and partners met with senior officers of the Scottish Government in September 2011 and the model for delivery was discussed in detail. The Scottish Government confirmed that the model was 'very much in line with the thinking of the Scottish Government and their direction of services for families'.

Key Principles of Early Coordinated Intervention With Vulnerable Families With Children Aged 0-5

- Focus and target will be to sustain improvements in the life chances of vulnerable families and their children across Clackmannanshire. Working towards the Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) priority to support vulnerable families
- Identification and appropriate levels of support for those families as early as possible remains a key priority for the Council.
- Re-provision of services to support the most vulnerable of families Clackmannanshire wide.
- Change of delivery of services using current resources to maximum effect. Delivery will be robust, appropriate and supportive of the needs of families in Clackmannanshire
- Services working closely together in a co-ordinated way to identify families at the earliest point possible.
- The new model of working is consistent with the recommendations in the recently published paper "Joining the Dots" and will address our delivery of both Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) 0-5 years and the Early Years Framework.

The proposed model for service delivery is from one Local Authority Family Centre building located in Alloa, with a satellite building in Tullibody, whilst using a range of

³⁰ Borough Of Poole <http://www.boroughofpoole.com/children/services/ref:S464C1DDBDC967/aka:Family+Support+Service/#what>

³¹ Evaluation of Intensive Family support projects in Scotland

community and outreach services, and work in family homes. This will ensure that Clackmannanshire delivers a range of appropriate services council wide.

The Service will aim to meet the community needs through engagement and capacity building under the umbrella and direction of the Alliance through our Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Early Intervention Working Group. This multi-disciplinary group is made up of representatives from Central Scotland Police, NHS Forth Valley, Mental Health Services, Social Work, Education, Psychological Services, Housing, Third Sector and Social Policy Portfolio holder. Services were brought together to take forward a new model of working with our most vulnerable of families with a particular focus on those families with children aged 0 - 5 years and those affected by substance misuse. The key priority in establishing the new model was ensuring that services make the most effective use of resources and to ensure we target the most vulnerable children and families in Clackmannanshire.

It is proposed that co-ordination of services is the key element in the way forward. The model reflects GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) principles and is similar to groups already operating within some of the Council's services e.g. Early and Effective Intervention Pilot Project.

The model is proposed on the basis it reflects good practice, takes into account research findings and policy development, makes effective use of existing resources and strengthens partnership working among key services in Clackmannanshire.

The service will focus on core and essential services, placing emphasis on building community capacity, resilience and reducing cycle of dependency and culture of poverty. Improving outcomes for our children and families is a fundamental objective for all our services and partnership organisations. By ensuring our children and families get the help they need, when they need it will give our children the opportunity to thrive. Services will improve outcomes for our most vulnerable by the adoption of common frameworks for assessment, planning and action that helps identify needs and risks and we work together to address them appropriately.

By ensuring a continuum of support from universal provision³² (the universal pathway) through to specialist targeted provision most effectively meets the needs of children and families. A variety of different services and interventions are required to address the very often very different needs of families and the multiple risk factors that impact on children's outcomes. The aim for services with children particularly under five years is to support children and families to remain with the (universal pathway) wherever possible bringing in targeted or specialist provision only where appropriate.

To deliver on this objective the service will deliver services around three core functions.

Core functions will focus on three specific areas;

1) Assessment and contact service.

Assessment and contact service will concentrate on 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. The families who access this area of service are referred from a range of areas and are often known to a range of statutory services who are working together with the family. Often the children are accommodated by the Local Authority and assessment work will be undertaken to

³² See glossary in Appendix A

determine the suitability of the children to return to their family homes. Intensive work with the family will initially be undertaken in a 'home type setting' prior to moving the work into the family home as appropriate. Contact service will look at where parents have access to their children on a 'supervised' capacity and how parents appropriately meet their child's needs. Contact is a planned period of time where parents are observed in a range of settings with their own child. Contact is assessed as part of a child and family plan.

2) Outreach (including a developmental role in defining the Councils Parenting Support Strategy and supporting communities to define and meet their own needs).

Outreach services will be a range of work done to support families in a much wider way across the County.

- Outreach work can be done in a family home where families require support, this can take the form of very practical skills (required to run a family home) including cooking skills and budgeting. Where necessary, this will involve other services such as; money advice, and housing support services.
- Outreach will also include the service running a range of groups across communities in Clackmannanshire. Groups are run by qualified Early Years and Family Workers in partnership with colleagues from agencies such as the Health service. Through a variety of consultations parents have reported that having the groups in their communities and staffed in this way is a ***"lifeline - having a worker to talk to saved my sanity" "it was good to know that other parents felt the same ..its wasn't just me that was feeling low"***, parents also commented that ***'by coming together in the groups the support they got from other parents was invaluable' 'getting to know other parents in the community stopped them feeling isolated' having someone to talk to who would listen and understand'***

Many parents have commented through the consultation process that if you bring a range of services together under one roof, there would be more cross over opportunities for groups and parents in the communities to get to know and help each other. Parents also requested joint workshop opportunities and buildings where more than one service could come together under one roof, as this will provide continuity in the community. See appendix B for current groups that will continue to run across the county.

3) Group Care as part of planned package

Children are placed in group settings in Family Centre buildings as part of a planned package of support for parents and their children. For example, parents accessing well being support groups and peer support.

Referral Process/Pathway

The allocation of services to families will be co-ordinated. To access services via the Screening Group the agreed paperwork must be submitted to the co-ordinator with full details of why a service is requested. This is then discussed at the Screening Group and a decision taken by the team of the most appropriate method of intervention. The Screening Group will be made up of a range of services, Early Years, Psychological Services, Health Service (NHS), CADS³³, CAMHS³⁴, Third Sector Services, Education,

³³ National Health Service - Community Alcohol and Drugs Services (CADS)

³⁴ National Health Service - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Housing and may also include Police and other services dependent on the content of applications and reviews received.

The group will meet monthly or as required to consider all of the applications/reviews received, decisions will be taken by the group on the type of assessment/service/support required, this will also include duration of support, service or assessment, clear review timescales and identification of the lead professional and service to deliver it as appropriate.

It is proposed to use the Common Health IAF (Integrated Assessment Form) paperwork.

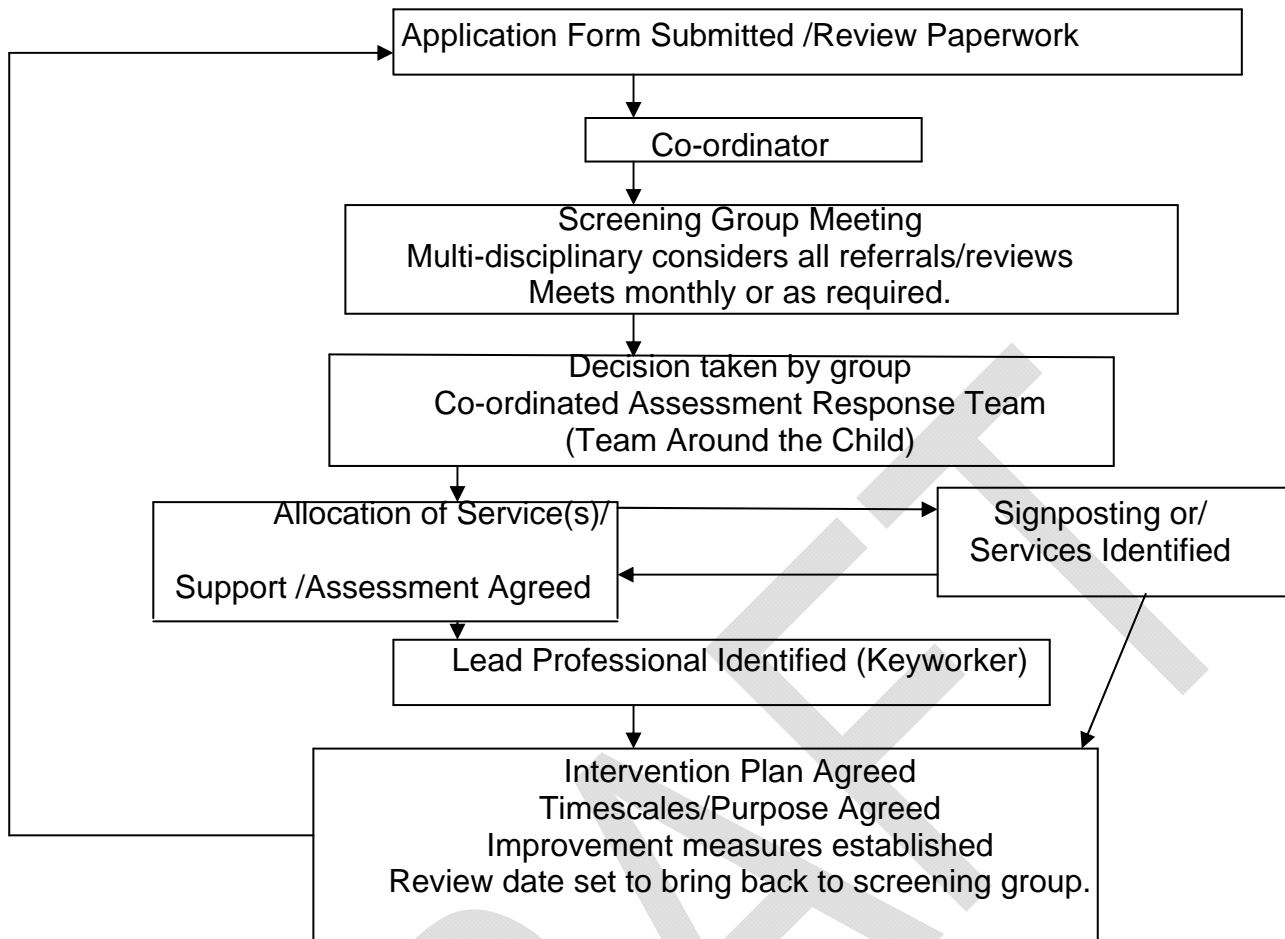
Criteria for Referral

- Child is on Child Protection Register and service is part of Child Protection Plan
- Child is at risk of failing in normal developmental patterns as a result of lack of stimulation. (This could be as a result of domestic abuse, mental health difficulties/learning difficulties)
- Child has Additional Support Needs as defined by Additional Support Learning Act (Revised 2009) (clearly defined criteria and to prevent reception into care or using more expensive services)
- Children of substance misusing parents where child is failing to meet developmental milestones
- Prevention of becoming accommodated as part of agreed package of support (multi-disciplinary planning)
- Short term assistance (when family in crisis) to prevent child coming into care e.g. parental illness, death, mental health breakdown - after all other possibilities explored
- As part of multi-disciplinary assessment to determine need/or not for substitute care for a child on a permanent basis

Referral Process/Pathway

Referrals may come from a range of areas, these can include Social Work, Health, Police, Psychological services, The Early and Effective Interventions Service and other areas of service including Housing. Access to services is through application to the Referral Screening Group.

All applications, referrals for a service, are discussed at the Multi-disciplinary Screening Group meeting. This is held monthly or as required. The application must detail: Concern and what is being requested, this must also detail if other services are already involved with the family, who they are and what they are doing. This will enable the service to determine the need for initial assessment/support/service or signposting, it will also enable to clearly identify if it requires single agency planning or a full integrated assessment/multi-agency assessment.

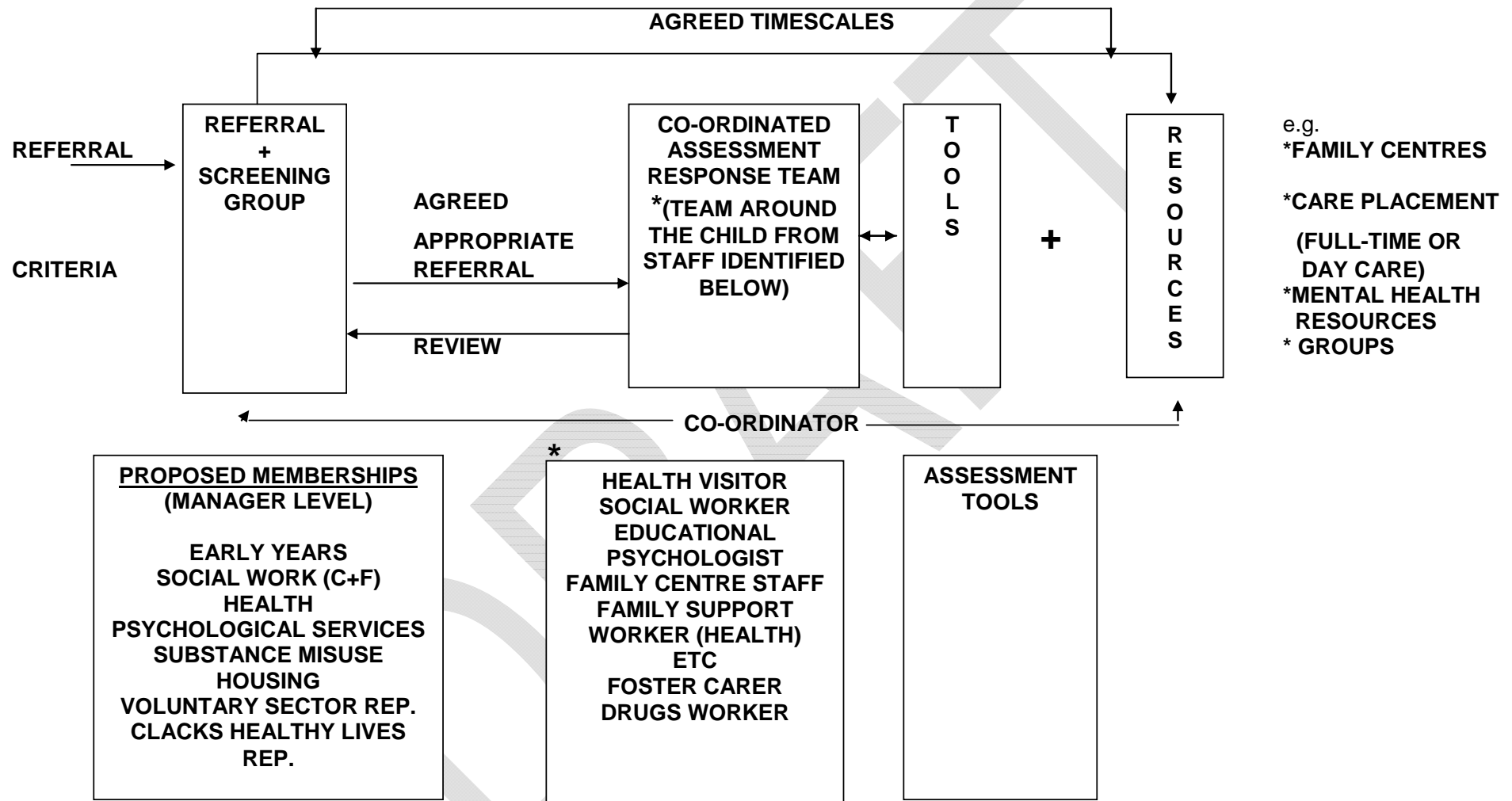


Example of Intervention Plan

Placements will be time limited as part of overall plan.

Timescales	What is purpose/task specific/outcome focussed	Team Around The Child	Expected Outcomes
Start, review and end date of support/assessment detailed	e.g. parenting/risk/viability /pre-birth	Who is Lead Professional/ Service	Improvement measures e.g. .Parent(s) accessing therapeutic help with addiction. .Regular attending programme. .Parents recognise impact of usage on ability to care for child e.g. practical care & recognition of needs of child e.g. feeding/nappy change/sleep/affection etc.
Start Date		Keyworker	Success Measured e.g. .Sustained reduction in use of prescription medication .Sustained and improved ability to cope with child in home environment .Child's physical and emotional needs are appropriately met .Child meets developmental milestones
Review Date	This will be broken down for family/child	Name	
End Date Written contract agreed with parents	If Child Protection, must note date of next Child Protection Case Conference or review	Organisation	

EARLY CO-ORDINATED INTERVENTION MODEL FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN (0-5 years)



5.0 HOW ARE WE GOING TO MONITOR FOR SUCCESS?

"The indicators are neither mandatory nor prescriptive, and are to be seen as a tool for Community Planning Partnerships to support them in measuring progress in achieving better outcomes for children in their areas."

Source: Early years framework - progress so far

The Scottish Government has highlighted a series of indicators that are relevant to the national Early Years Framework. Locally these are monitored through the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and the Children and Young People's Integrated Services Plan (ICSP). Progress on the SOA is reported annually to Scottish Government. Progress on the ICSP is reported to the Children's & Young People's Community Planning Partnership and summarised in the plan.

The Early Years Framework Implementation Plan will be reported to Council Scrutiny committee on an annual basis.

5.1 Indicators³⁵

Core 8³⁶

- Teenage pregnancy rate (*pregnancies among under 16 year olds (3 year average per 1000 relevant population)*)

Monitored through SOA and ICSP. Indicator in SOA (under 18), Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan (ICSP) indicator (under 16). Work in this area is also currently being monitored by the Clacks Sexual Health Implementation Group.

- Appropriate birth weight for gestational age (*low weight live births*)

Monitored through the Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan (ICSP) 2010-2013.

- Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks (*% of newborn children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks*)

Monitored through the Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan (ICSP) 2010-2013.

- % parents who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live (*% of adults stating their neighbourhood is a 'very good' place to live*) Monitored through the SOA.

- Children in benefit dependent households (*% of children living in households that are dependent on out of work benefits or Child Tax Credit*)

Monitored through the SOA.

- % of obese children in P1 (*estimated % of obese children in P1*)

Monitored through the SOA.

- % of children with dental decay in P1 (*% of children with dental decay in P1*)

Monitored through the Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan (ICSP) 2010-2013.

- % of young people in sustainable post school destinations (*% of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations*)

Monitored through the SOA.

³⁵ As a reminder the Core 8 are a subset of the original menu of 35 indicators which were developed by the Data and Indicators Stakeholder Group and published in September 2010.

³⁶ The phrasing in italics and brackets sets out how the indicator is currently expressed in the Menu of Local Outcome Indicators, as it is important that, wherever possible, the early years indicators align with those used in the local Single Outcome Agreement.

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

ADP	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
ASL	Additional Support For Learning
Assessment	The process of defining an individual person's needs, the help that they require and determining their eligibility for services.
CAMHS	The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides assessment and intervention for children and young people with mental health difficulties and their families.
CCHC	Clackmannanshire Community Healthcare Centre
Children's Hearing	Rather than going to Court, this body deals with cases where a child has committed an offence or has been offended against and is in need of care and protection.
CP Register	Child Protection Register A list held by the Local Authority of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect and require protection. http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childprotection/
CHP	Community Health Partnership
Concordat	Sets out the terms of a new relationship between the Scottish Government and local government, based on mutual respect and partnership. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/13092240/concordat
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities http://www.cosla.gov.uk/
CPP	Community Planning Partnership - known in Clackmannanshire as the Alliance http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/community/planning/
EEI	Early & Effective Intervention
Early years workforce	Staff working with children aged 0-5.
Forth Valley	Covers three local authorities (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling)
GIRFEC	Getting It Right For Every Child. A Scottish Government national change agenda. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright
Group Care	Bringing children of similar ages together into a group setting to support child development such as playing, behaviour and friendships.
HMIE	Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education
Home Supervision Order	A statutory order made by the children's panel where a child remains at home.
ICSP	Children & Young People's Integrated Services Plan http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childrensservicesplanning/
Joining the Dots	Report on importance of children in early years www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/343337/0114216.pdf
Looked After	Children who may be supervised, subject to Place of Safety Orders, Child Protection Orders, Parental Responsibility Orders or Warrants and those who are on supervision living at home. Those children who require to be looked after out with their family are referred to as looked after and accommodated children.
Lead Professional	The Lead Professional is the second key role in the Getting it right for every child approach. It is seen alongside the role of the Named Person. www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1141/0109329.pdf
NHS	National Health Service, usually refers to the Forth Valley area and includes Clacks, Stirling and Falkirk Councils.
SCRA	The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.
Scottish Children's Reporters Administration	The organisation that assesses the appropriateness of referring a particular case involving Children's Hearing.
SOA	Single Outcome Agreement presents the Community Planning priority outcomes for Clackmannanshire in the context of the national performance framework. http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/site/documents/communityplanning/clackmannanshiresingleoutcomeagreement20092012/
Universal Services	Public services provided to everyone e.g. School Education, Midwifery and Health Visitors (Public Health Nurses).

APPENDIX B

Early Years Resources

Below is the current range of open groups delivered where referrals are not required and are by Local Authorities and partnership Health service.

What	Where	When
Baby Groups	Tillicoultry	Mondays 1:30-3:00pm
	Alva	Thursdays 10:00-11:30am
	Sauchie (Under1's)	Fridays 1-3:00pm
	CCHC	Thursdays
Toddlers Groups	Alloa Family Centre	Daily
	Tullibody Family Centre	Daily
	Tillicoultry	Tues & Thurs 1:30-3:00pm
Young Mums	Alloa Family Centre	Wed 1-2:30pm
	Tillicoultry	2012
Breastfeeding Groups	Clackmannan	Alternate Wed afternoons
	Alloa Family Centre	Monday evenings
Baby Massage	Tillicoultry	Mondays 1:30-3:00pm
	Alva	Thursdays 10:00-11:30am
	Sauchie (Under1's)	Fridays 1-3:00pm
	CCHC	Thursdays
	Clackmannan	3 week blocks run 3-4 times a year
Parentcraft Workshop	Alloa Family Centre	Monday evenings

Other groups will continue to be developed to meet parental need, this can include **Dad's group** and practical groups such as cooking on a budget in partnership with NHS Food Development workers.

Groups will also be developed as appropriate with our Community Learning and Development team (CLD) to support parents in confidence building and preparation for **employment**.

Barnardo's will be starting the **You First programme** in Clackmannanshire in 2012. This is a refer only 20 week programme run for 12 new parents aged under 21 with the first baby under age of 1.

Two further projects are currently being developed to work closely with our services that will work with families with parents who are using substances. **Time4us** project³⁷ run by Signpost Recovery will aim to;

- assist parents to make positive changes in theirs and their children's lives.
- Raise parent awareness of their children's needs.
- Improve parenting skills.
- support families to stay together or be reconciled where it is in the best interests of the child.

The **Forth Valley Family Support** project which is currently being developed will provide opportunities for families affected by substance misuse to participate in a range of support including group work, peer support groups, one to one, telephone support and home visits. This service will link closely with Time4us project.

³⁷ This is a referral service.

Appendix C

CONSULTATION – YOUR COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

We would welcome your suggestions or comments on the Early Years Framework Implementation Plan. Contact can be made via email cjohnson@clacks.gov.uk or. Fax 01259 452440, telephone 01259 450000 or send it to; The Children's Services Policy Officer, Clackmannanshire Council, Services To People, Lime Tree House, Castle Street, Alloa FK10 1EX.

General Comments



Name

Address

.....

.....

Email

Telephone

Would you like to be added to the Children's Services computerised mailing list ? Please sign if you agree to your name being on the list.

Signature

Integrated Children's Services Plan



**Clackmannanshire
Alliance**

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Social Policy Support Officer
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01259 452368

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