
Report to Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 October 2025

Subject: Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2024-25

Report by: Chief Social Work Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To present the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report reflecting the reporting period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (attached as Appendix 1).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to scrutinise and note the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2024-25 which will subsequently be submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. This report is presented to fulfil the statutory requirement to publish an annual account of the Chief Social Work Officer's (CSWO) role and responsibilities. It provides elected members with an overview of professional leadership, governance, and oversight of social work practice, values, and standards, as set out in national guidance.
- 3.2. The CSWO role is a statutory appointment under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. The report outlines areas of decision-making and practice where legislation confers specific functions directly on the CSWO.
- 3.3. The report follows the structure and guidance issued by the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser in Scottish Government. It focuses on:
- Local governance and accountability arrangements
 - Service delivery and performance
 - Resources
 - Workforce

3.4. Overview of Activity and Performance

The report provides a summary of social work and social care service activity during the reporting period of 2024/25. It includes performance information across key areas of statutory social work and public protection.

The report also highlights significant developments, achievements, and challenges faced by services throughout the year, particularly in the context of increasing demand and ongoing budgetary pressures across both the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

3.5. Key Achievements in Social Work and Social Care

The following achievements demonstrate innovation, leadership, and impact across social work and social care services in Clackmannanshire:

- **National Innovation Recognition:** The Early Help Team was awarded the prestigious COSLA Excellence Award – SOLACE Team of the Year 2024, recognising its pioneering cross-sector collaboration.
- **Transforming Child-Centred Practice:** The development of Bairns' Hoose is setting new standards in trauma-informed, rights-based support for children.
- **Excellence in Joint Investigations:** The Scottish Child Interview Model is fully embedded, with 100% of Joint Investigative Interviews delivered in partnership—ensuring consistent, high-quality, child-focused outcomes.
- **Support for Care-Experienced Young People:** A new Care Experience Hub, launched in partnership with Barnardo's, provides weekly opportunities for connection and support.
- **Leadership in Justice Services:** The Justice Hub model delivers early, preventative support through a skilled multi-disciplinary team—leading the way in proactive justice interventions.
- **Community Impact through Unpaid Work:** Unpaid work projects are making a visible difference in local communities, earning national recognition and being showcased during a Scottish Government visit.
- **Innovative Adult Social Work Model:** A newly established Multi-Disciplinary Team is transforming adult social work through integrated decision-making, timely interventions, and strengthened multi-agency collaboration.
- **Pioneering Hoarding Initiative:** This pilot is driving high engagement through tailored, person-centred support that empowers meaningful, self-paced change.

3.6 Workforce Recognition

The achievements outlined in this report reflect the commitment and professionalism of the social work and social care workforce. It also

acknowledges the vital role of unpaid carers who continue to support children, young people, and adults across Clackmannanshire in often very challenging circumstances.

3.7 Looking Ahead

Clackmannanshire's social work and social care services continue to navigate a complex and evolving landscape shaped by increasing demand, legislative developments, financial and workforce pressures. Despite these challenges, the service remains committed to delivering high-quality, responsive support—guided by the voices of local people and communities. Looking ahead, the focus will be on sustaining transformation, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring services are compassionate, purposeful, and aligned with the changing needs of those we serve.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. There are no financial implications from this report.

5.3. *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

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☒

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☒

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☒

(2) **Council Policies**

Complies with relevant Council Policies



8.0 Impact Assessments

- 8.1 Have you attached the combined equalities impact assessment to ensure compliance with the public sector equality duty and fairer Scotland duty? (All EFSIAs also require to be published on the Council's website)

Yes ☐

No ☒

- 8.2 If an impact assessment has not been undertaken you should explain why:

This annual report is provided for information purposes only. It does not introduce a new policy, function, or strategy, nor does it propose any significant changes to existing ones. As such, an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

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".

Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report 2024-2025

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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Clackmannanshire
Council



Clackmannanshire & Stirling
Health & Social Care
Partnership



Cover designed by Blake, Aged 14

Clackmannanshire
Chief Social Work Officer
Annual Report 2024/2025

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Welcome to the 2024/25 Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) annual report covering the period **1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**, and fifth annual report in my CSWO role. This report reflects on the achievements and the challenges in the delivery of social work and social care services in Clackmannanshire and priorities for the year ahead.

The delivery of high-quality social work and social care services continues to be shaped by significant and unprecedented challenges. This year has been no exception. Services have faced increasing complexity of need, rising demand, an ageing population, escalating poverty, and the ongoing cost of living crisis. These pressures are further compounded by persistent recruitment and retention challenges, which continue to impact the wellbeing of our valued workforce.

Financial constraints remain a critical concern, exacerbated by the rising costs associated with social care provision. Despite these challenges, our commitment to delivering effective and efficient care and support to those who rely on our services has remained steadfast.

In this demanding operating environment, our social work and social care teams, working in close collaboration with local community planning partners and provider organisations, have demonstrated exceptional resilience and dedication. Together, we have continued to support and protect our most vulnerable citizens, address inequalities, and foster local capacity for transformational, whole-system change. This progress has been driven by innovative, preventative approaches, delivered at the earliest point of need. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across Clackmannanshire.

Key Achievements in Social Work and Social Care

- National Innovation Recognition: The Early Help Team received the prestigious COSLA Excellence Award – SOLACE Team of the Year 2024, highlighting its groundbreaking cross-sector collaboration.
- Transforming Child-Centred Practice: Bairns' Hoose is setting new standards in trauma-informed, rights-based support for children.
- Excellence in Joint Investigations: The Scottish Child Interview Model is fully embedded, with 100% of Joint Investigative Interviews delivered in partnership—ensuring consistent, high-quality, child-focused outcomes.
- Support for Care-Experienced Young People: A new Care Experience Hub, launched with Barnardo's, provides weekly connection and support.
- Leadership in Justice Services: The Justice Hub model delivers early, preventative support through a skilled multi-disciplinary team—leading the way in proactive justice interventions.
- Community Impact Through Unpaid Work: Unpaid work projects are making a visible difference in local communities, earning national recognition and being showcased during a Scottish Government visit.
- Innovative Adult Social Work Model: A newly established Multi-Disciplinary Team is transforming adult social work through integrated decision-making, timely interventions, and strengthened multi-agency collaboration.
- Pioneering hoarding and self-neglect pilot: This initiative is achieving high engagement—delivering tailored, person-centred support that empowers individuals to make meaningful changes at their own pace.

Key Acknowledgements

With deep respect and admiration, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire social work and social care workforce for your extraordinary dedication, compassion, and relentless commitment to protecting and empowering children, adults, and families. Your tireless efforts uphold the rights, safety, and wellbeing of those who rely on our services—often at the most vulnerable moments in their lives. You are the backbone of high-quality care and support, ensuring that help is not only available, but delivered with humanity,

integrity, and professionalism. Your work makes a profound difference, every single day. Thank you for everything you do.

I want to offer a special tribute to our unpaid carers, whose selfless dedication and daily support for loved ones embody the very essence of compassion and resilience. Their quiet strength and unwavering commitment form a vital foundation of our community's wellbeing. Your contribution often goes unseen, but it is deeply felt—and profoundly valued. Thank you for the care you give, the sacrifices you make, and the difference you bring to so many lives.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Blake, aged 14, for his imaginative and artistic contribution in designing the front cover of this report.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose and Background

This Annual Report has been prepared to fulfil the statutory requirement for the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) to report on the delivery and performance of social work services within the local authority area. It provides a comprehensive overview of the CSWO's role in providing professional leadership, oversight of practice, and assurance of governance, values, and standards, as outlined in national guidance.

The report also addresses areas of statutory responsibility where legislation confers specific functions directly on the CSWO. These responsibilities primarily relate to public protection and decisions involving the restriction of individual liberty, where the CSWO plays a critical role in ensuring ethical, legal, and person-centred practice.

2.2 National and Local Reporting Requirements

In accordance with national expectations, each local authority is required to submit an annual CSWO report to the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government. This contributes to the development of a national overview of the social work profession, practice, and service delivery across Scotland.

Locally, the report also satisfies the statutory requirement to produce and publish an annual report for both the Council and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). It supports transparency and accountability by providing elected members, partners, and the public with insight into the performance, challenges, and achievements of social work and social care services.

2.3 Scope of the Report

This report covers the period **1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025** and provides:

- An overview of the delivery of social work and social care services across children's, justice and adult services
- A summary of governance and accountability arrangements
- Performance and quality assurance information
- Reflections on workforce capacity, service pressures, and innovation
- Key developments and priorities for continuous improvement

3. Clackmannanshire Profile

Our Local Area

- Clackmannanshire is a semi-rural area, covering **158** square kilometres (**61.4** square miles): the second smallest Scottish local authority, by area, with the smallest road network (**300** kilometres).
- **51.2%** of local residents rate their neighbourhood as 'a very good place to live', which has improved substantially (from 41.5% six years ago) but is below the Scottish average of 54.8%.
- Unemployment is higher than average, at **5.4%** (Scotland = 3.1%), including for young people (aged 16-24); **5.1%** (Scotland = 3.4%). The Clackmannanshire Works programme, however, supports higher than average proportions into work; **22.1%** against a Scottish rate of 12.1% (of all unemployed people).
- **94.9%** of school leavers go on to positive destinations (training, employment, etc.), below the Scottish rate of 95.9%, as is the participation rate of 16-19 year-olds: **90.3%**, with a Scottish rate of 92.7%.
- While income and crime deprivation in young people (under 25) are higher than average, access deprivation has been 6th lowest in Scotland for 7 years due to available amenities in local communities.

Our People

- We have the smallest population of any mainland authority: **52,110** (1% of the Scottish population), likely to **fall by 2.9%** in the next 20 years, with the Scottish population is expected to **increase** by 2.5%.
- We have a slightly higher than average proportion of older people locally; **21.4%** aged 65 and over, in comparison to 20.5% across Scotland.
- The proportion of children and young people is lower than average – **25.9%** aged under 25, while this is 26.9% for Scotland, but we have a slightly higher than average proportion aged under 16.
- With more older and younger people, our working age population (aged 16-64) is lower than average – **62.1%**, with a Scottish figure of 63.3%.
- **23.2%** of the population were prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis compared to 20.9% in Scotland, and we have a slightly higher than average rate of psychiatric patient hospitalisations, at **241** (per 100,000 population), with a Scottish figure of 216.
- **17.3%** of adults in Clackmannanshire are current smokers, compared to 14.9% in Scotland.
- **26.1%** of the local population (13,426 people) live in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.
- High levels of deprivation mean rent arrears of **11.1%** are higher than the Scottish rate of 9.5%.
- **98.5%** of crisis grant application decisions are within 1 day (Scotland: 93.9%), and **99.5%** of community care grant decisions within 15 days (Scotland: 83.6%), the 3rd highest rate in Scotland.

Our Children & Young People

- **29.2%** of children in Clackmannanshire live in poverty (after housing costs); the 3rd highest rate in Scotland, where the overall result is 21.8%. Despite this, **82.5%** of children are meeting their developmental milestones compared to 82.1% across Scotland.
- **222** children and young people were being cared for by the Council (31 July 2025) which is a 5% increase from 31st July 2024 which was 210.
- **28.2%** of school pupils are registered for Free School Meals.
- **37.5%** of school pupils have additional educational support needs.
- School attendance rates are higher than average – **91.1%** for all children & young people and **86.1%** for those who are care-experienced, with Scottish rates of 90.3% and 84.4%, respectively.

- The academic attainment gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced. In primary schools, we are close to the Scottish average for numeracy, and have the 5th lowest gap for literacy. In secondary schools, however, attainment remains below average, including in deprived areas.

Our Older People

- The ageing population is a significant local issue, with a **38%** increase in people aged 65+ since 2010. We still support the same number of residential care clients (**230**), while homecare hours provided for older people has increased by **109%**, in line with the aim of supporting more people in the community.
- **70.5%** of older people (65+) with long-term needs receive homecare (Scotland = 62.6%) where we have been ranked within the best 4 authorities in all 14 years for which data is available.
- The national rate of delayed discharge for older people (75+) has **increased by 12.1%** over the last two years (to **841** unnecessary days spent in hospital per 1,000 older people) while, over the same period, the local rate **reduced by 7.8%** (to **679** days).
- We also perform consistently well in Adult Care inspections, within the top 6 authorities for a decade, currently 4th best in Scotland, with **87.7%** of services graded Good or better in 23/24 (77% nationally).

Our Health & Wellbeing

- Life expectancy is **80.3** years for females and **76.3** for males (similar to Scotland: 80.8 and 76.8). Healthy life expectancy, however, is among the lowest in the country, with both men and women expected to live **55.1** years in 'good' health (around 5 years less than the Scottish average).
- Alcohol-related mortality of **23.4** is above the Scottish rate of 21.8, as are drug-related deaths of **24.7**, where the Scottish rate is 22.6. The smoking-attributable mortality rate of **288.8** is also higher than the national average of 270.0 (all rates per 100,000 population).
- Suicide rates (per 100,000 population) are higher than average (**19.2** versus 17.4 across Scotland). Substantial local efforts, however, have significantly reduced rates in young people (aged 11 to 25), from 21.2 five years ago (the 2nd highest in the country) to only **2.4** (the 2nd lowest), while the Scottish rate has increased slightly to 10.2.
- The area has higher than average rates of domestic abuse – with a Scottish rate of 116 per 10,000 population, the Clackmannanshire figure of **141** is the 4th highest of the 32 local authorities.
- Local crime rates are higher than average, however, there has been a substantial reduction in young people hospitalised due to assault (aged 15-25, per 100,000 population), down 75% over the last 16 years, though the Scottish rate reduced by 82% over this period.
- Our rate of hospital re-admissions within 28 days (for people of all ages) is the 3rd highest in Scotland at **140** per 1,000 discharges, while the national rate is 103.
- While only **14.3%** of adults use active travel to work (nationally 14.7%), exemplary numbers of children and young people use active travel to school – **62.5%** (Scotland: 47.2%), where we have been in the top 8 authorities for over a decade, with the 2nd highest rate in the country for the last 5 years.

Further information on Council and partnership performance, and other facts and figures, can be found at: <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/performance/> and <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/factsandfigures/>

4.1 Statutory Role of the Chief Social Work Officer

Under Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, local authorities are required to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The CSWO holds a unique statutory role, providing strategic and professional leadership in the delivery of social work services across the local authority area. The CSWO is responsible for ensuring professional oversight of social work practice and service delivery. This includes:

- Upholding professional governance and standards
- Driving continuous service improvement
- Providing leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services, whether directly provided by the local authority or commissioned through third or independent sector partners.

4.2 Framework for Delivery

Social work services operate within a complex framework of statutory duties and powers. These services are required to meet national standards, deliver best value, and ensure that the rights, safety, and wellbeing of individuals and communities are protected and promoted.

The CSWO plays a critical role in ensuring that services are delivered ethically, legally, and in line with professional values, particularly in areas involving public protection and decisions that may restrict an individual's liberty.

The professional governance of all social work services in Clackmannanshire is undertaken by the CSWO, who is also the Senior Manager, People with lead responsibility for the strategic and operational management of Children's and Justice Services.

In Clackmannanshire, Social Work Services and the CSWO role, operates in the context of the following governance structures:

- Clackmannanshire Council
- Clackmannanshire & Stirling Integrated Joint Board (IJB)
- Clackmannanshire Community Planning Partnership Board (The Alliance)

Clackmannanshire Council and the Community Planning Partnership strategic planning framework are set out in our **Corporate Plan Be the Future** and **Clackmannanshire's Wellbeing Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034**.

4.3 Governance and Oversight

Within Clackmannanshire, Children's and Justice Services are managed and governed by Clackmannanshire Council and is situated within the People's Directorate (which includes Education Services). The People Directorate Business Plan 2024–25 sets out the key actions delivered by the Directorate that contribute to the strategic objectives outlined in the **People Community Wellbeing Plan 2024–25**.

To ensure robust governance and accountability, the People Directorate maintains and regularly reviews:

- A Delivery Plan aligned to strategic priorities
- A Service Risk Register to monitor and mitigate operational risks
- Exception reporting through the Senior Leadership Group/Extended Senior Leadership Group
- Annual reporting to the relevant Council Committee.

Adult social work and social care services, including community health are delegated to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) which spans Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley. Clackmannanshire

Adult social work and social care services are delivered and managed by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). It is a unique partnership in Scotland as it is the only Health and Social Care Partnership that brings together two Councils and a Health Board. The Board, through the Chief Officer, has responsibility for the planning, resourcing and operational oversight of integrated services through the **Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033** which sets out how services will be delivered across Clackmannanshire and Stirling over the period of the Plan.

The Chief Officer who is the Director of Adult Services reports to the Chief Executives of Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils and NHS Forth Valley and is responsible for the operational management and performance of integrated services through the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The Chief Officer is a substantive member of the senior management teams of Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley. The Chief Officer has in place a senior team of direct reports that ensures adequate and effective oversight and assurance to the Integration Joint Board in relation to all HSCP performance, professional and clinical and care governance. During 2024-2025 the Interim Chief Officer changed and a further Interim Chief Officer is currently in place.

4.3 Leadership and Professional Accountability

As a member of the Council's Extended Senior Leadership Team, the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) plays a pivotal role in shaping and assuring the quality of social work services across Clackmannanshire. The CSWO works in close partnership with Elected Members, the Chief Executive, the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership, senior officers, managers, and practitioners to provide:

- Professional advice on social work matters
- Governance and oversight of practice standards
- Leadership and accountability for service delivery
- Assurance of quality in social work and social care provision.

The CSWO holds professional responsibility for ensuring that social work services fulfil their statutory duties and operate in accordance with the Code of Practice for Social Service Workers and Employers, as set out by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). This includes upholding values of integrity, respect, and person-centred practice, and ensuring that both staff and the Council meet the standards expected of the profession.

4.4 Public Protection and Strategic Partnerships

The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) plays a central role in public protection and multi-agency strategic planning across Clackmannanshire. As a member of the Public Protection Chief Officer Group (PPCOG), the CSWO provides professional advice on public protection matters. The PPCOG meets quarterly and holds strategic responsibility for the leadership and oversight of services aimed at improving outcomes in the following areas:

- Child Protection
- Adult Support and Protection
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Offender Management – Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

In addition to PPCOG, the CSWO is an active member of several key strategic partnerships, including:

- Community Justice Partnership
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Tackling Poverty Partnership
- MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group

The CSWO also chairs the integrated Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG), which is the principal forum for children's services planning in Clackmannanshire. This partnership is

instrumental in delivering on the collective ambition to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families across the local area.

4.5 Reporting and Governance Structures

As a statutory officer of the Council, the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) reports directly to the Chief Executive and meets regularly to discuss professional social work matters. This direct reporting line ensures that the CSWO can provide timely and informed advice on key issues affecting social work policy, service priorities, pressures, and challenges.

The CSWO ensures that Elected Members are kept informed through a range of governance and oversight forums, including:

- The Alliance (Clackmannanshire's Community Planning Partnership)
- Council and Audit & Scrutiny Committee
- Elected Member Boards: Children & Young People Board and the Adult Social Care Board
- Council Extended Senior Leadership Group
- Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integration Joint Board (IJB)

The CSWO is a non-voting member of the IJB and an active member of the Clinical and Professional Care Governance Group, which is responsible for supporting and scrutinising the delivery of integrated adult care services managed by the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership.

Additionally, the CSWO is a member of the Forth Valley Collaborative Care Home Oversight Group, comprising strategic leaders from across the Clackmannanshire & Stirling, and Falkirk HSCPs and NHS Forth Valley. This group meets monthly to support local care homes and provide assurance on the quality and standards of care delivered to older adults.

5. Service Quality and Performance

5.1 Children and Families

Children's social work services receive a range of referrals from partner agencies including Police, Education, Health, third sector and direct from members of the public. During the reporting period 2024/25 children's services received **1615** referrals (requests for assistance). This is a **13% increase** from 23/24 where there were **1401** requests for assistance.

5.1.1 Early Intervention

The establishment of our Children's Services Early Help team—our front door for early support—has transformed how we respond to initial contacts with children's social work. Through proactive screening, we ensure that only the most appropriate referrals progress to locality practice teams, allowing us to focus statutory and targeted interventions where they are most needed, and provide timely, effective support to children and families.

The Early Help Team supports the Council's commitment to Keep the Promise, transforming how families are supported through early, practical, and impactful help. Working in partnership with NHS, Education, and Third Sector colleagues, the team provides an accessible and responsive social work service at the point of need, building on family strengths to prevent escalation of risk. Key approaches include Family Group Decision Making and Kinship Support, which are central to keeping children within their supported family networks.

The Family Support Collaborative, established in 2024, which is a consortium of families, statutory, and third sector partners co-designs and delivers support where and when it's needed. It plays a key role in Whole Family Wellbeing Funding decisions and is expanding its role in wider funding allocations.

In recognition of their innovative work, the Early Help team received the COSLA Excellence Award – SOLACE Team of the Year 2024.

Early Help Service Achievements:

Whole Family Support Screening Group

Multidisciplinary Collaboration

The group includes local authority and third sector representatives working together to meet families' individual needs.

Referral Allocation Efficiency

112 referrals were allocated within 12 weeks, cover 85% of cases during the review period.

Outcome Achievement

79 outcomes were achieved or partially achieved within 12 weeks representing 73% of total cases.

Tailored Family Support

The approach ensures timely, effective and personalised support tailored to each family's unique circumstances.

Family Support Collaborative and Hubs

Collaborative Support Network

The Family Support Collaborative unites families and partners to co-design impactful support services.

Funding Allocation Role

This collaborative manages Whole Family Wellbeing funding and is broadening influence on funding decisions.

Family Support Hubs

Family Support Hubs provide accessible drop-in sessions, creating a single contact point for family information and help.

Early Years and Mental Health Support

Early Years Group Support

Under 3s groups held twice weekly with health visitors, provided support to 654 families fostering early child development.

Baby Massage Sessions

Baby massage sessions engaged 27 mothers and babies in multiple blocks, enhancing bonding and sensory development.

Adult Mental Health Programme

THRIVE to keep well a 16 week mental health programme, improved confidence and motivation for adults with mild to moderate challenges.

Early Referral Outcomes

933 referrals managed with 90% avoiding statutory intervention, showcasing effective early support.

Impact of Family Group Decision Making

31 family plans led to children staying within family networks and reduced foster care placements.

Positive Child Placement Outcomes

20 children avoided external accommodation, 7 returned home and 2 mother baby placements secured.

Parenting and Youth Support Initiatives

Mellow Parenting Programmes

Mellow Parenting Programmes achieved a 90% attendance rate and improved parental wellbeing and relationships.

Youth Diversion Initiative

The awareness programme helped reduce reoffending by 56% and lowered social work intervention by 31%.

Collaborative Support Efforts

Collaboration between Early Help team and Family Support Collaborative strengthens proactive youth and family support.

Impact of Third Sector Partners

Support Achievements

Action for Children supported 114 families and Aberlour Sustain exceeded targets with 56 children helped in 33 families.

Positive Family Feedback

Home-Start reported 85% of families felt less isolated and 81% felt better equipped to manage challenges.

Third Sector Importance

Third sector partners play a vital role in delivering responsive and impactful support to families in need.

Flexible Service Hours

Services expanded to include evening and weekend hours to better accommodate family schedules and needs.

Reduced Waiting Times

Functional Family Therapy reduced wait times drastically, improving timely access to support services.

Increased Support Reach

Futures programme saw a 35% increase in supported young people through enhanced service delivery.

Innovative Mentoring Initiatives

Two's Company introduced befriending and mentoring, highlighting innovative, responsive service models.

Planned Service Developments 2025/26:

Strengthen Whole Family Support: In partnership with the Family Support Collaborative design and implement whole family support approaches that are tailored to the unique needs of each community. This work will directly aim to reduce the number of children entering care and tackle the root causes of poverty.

5.1.2 Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention (STRIVE)

At the core of our early help strategy is the STRIVE (Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention) team—a dynamic, multi-agency partnership delivering swift, coordinated support to children, families, and adults at the earliest opportunity. By prioritising prevention and early intervention, STRIVE plays a vital role in reducing risk and building resilience across our communities.

The team continues to expand referral pathways and deepen collaboration with both statutory and third sector partners. Key roles include a Women's Support Worker, jointly funded with Police Scotland, and a Perpetrator Support Worker, supported through partnership with Housing Services. Justice Services also contribute through Caledonian Group Workers who provide specialist assessments, targeted interventions, and ongoing support. STRIVE has been further strengthened by a Community Connector based within Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI), who supports families in rebuilding resilience and accessing longer-term resources.

During 2024/25, STRIVE provided critical support to **117** individuals/families, enabling them to overcome crisis, strengthen their resilience through universal services, and reduce reliance on statutory interventions—empowering long-term stability and wellbeing.

Planned STRIVE Developments 2025/26:

- Appointment of the STRIVE Lead post to streamline and align STRIVE activity
- Promote service more widely to boost appropriate referrals
- Develop effective evaluation process

5.1.3 Children with Disabilities

The team comprises two social workers, a resource worker, and a part-time Occupational Therapist (OT). Despite sustained recruitment efforts, the OT post remained vacant for 18 months, limiting OT input to just one day per week. This shortfall created a backlog of assessments and reduced overall service capacity. However, the recent successful recruitment to the part-time OT role is expected to significantly improve the current situation.

In 2024/25, the team received **102** referrals, reflecting a significant rise in children with additional support needs identified in nursery and school settings. This is **an increase of 131%** compared to the previous year figure of 42 referrals. More children are being referred for disability support not because disability is rising, but because we are now better at identifying and recognising conditions.

Over the past year 49 assessments were completed, with 37 care packages delivered. Five new providers have been added to expand options available to families. Unfortunately the service has currently been unable to source/access suitable support for some children with complex autism and are awaiting an appropriate support package. We are actively reviewing partnership support for children with additional support needs to strengthen service delivery. A pilot programme is underway, providing support during the school day in collaboration with Scottish Autism from the Alloa Family Centre. We are working closely with Education and Educational Psychology to design more appropriate provision. Insights from this pilot will directly inform a commissioning exercise already in progress to address the current provision gap.

In addition, 68 care package reviews were completed, showing strong uptake of SDS options, with most families choosing Option 3 (Local Authority Arranged Support - where the council is responsible for choosing and arranging the type of care and support received). Whilst the majority of families choose this option there is an increase in families choosing Option 1 (Direct Payment - this is where the Local Authority provides a cash payment directly and the parent/carer arranges their own support package for their child).

A new budget allocation system was introduced to support consistent decision-making, including a revised Section 23 assessment tool developed with Forth Valley partners.

A transition support group was established for children moving to secondary school, with a new group planned next year in collaboration with parents/carers.

During 2024/25, 17 young people transitioned from Children's to Adult Services, supported by the Children's Resource Worker through multi-agency collaboration and budget planning.

Planned Service Developments 2025/26:

- Enhance Support for Children with Disabilities: Work in partnership with Education and Adult Services to target support and allocate resources that improve and strengthen the day-to-day experiences of children and young people with disabilities and their families. A key focus will be to streamline and strengthen their transition into adult services, ensuring continuity of care and opportunity.

5.1.4 Care and Protection

The Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) is fully operational, with our Forth Valley SCIM team delivering 100% of Joint Investigative Interviews. This trauma-informed, child-centred approach has received positive feedback, with audits confirming its alignment with UNCRC principles and best practice standards.

The Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) process is fully embedded across police, social work, health, and education, enabling timely information sharing and joint decision-making for children at risk of significant harm. Monthly multi-agency audits confirm high standards in safeguarding and intervention. A standardised assessment tool ensures consistent evaluations, while the re-established IRD Practitioner Forum supports continuous improvement through reflection and shared learning. Outputs from the forum

inform strategic oversight via the IRD Steering Group and Child Protection Committee. Ongoing audits using the IRD standardised tool continue to support quality assurance and improvement.

A major milestone was achieved for our Forth Valley Bairns Hoose partnership, with full Development and Thematic funding from the Scottish Government for the implementation of Bairns' Hoose national standards. Governance has been strengthened through strategic and project groups led by NHS Forth Valley partners, and the appointment of a Bairns' Hoose Coordinator has enhanced delivery capacity and third sector collaboration. National partners including Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) are actively engaged, ensuring alignment with justice and child protection systems. A key priority has been the inclusion of children and young people in shaping services, with progress made toward establishing the Changemaker Participation Group; designed to give children a direct role in influencing Bairns' Hoose development. Despite initial delays due to information governance requirements, these challenges were successfully addressed through the creation and approval of robust data protection frameworks. This achievement lays the groundwork for safe and meaningful engagement with children moving forward. Informative videos were created for practitioners, young people, and their families to explain what to expect during examinations for child sexual abuse, SCIM interviews, and hospital visits for unexplained injuries. These resources were informed by the first year of the project.

Building on insights from the first year, the Forth Valley Bairns Hoose partnership has shaped its Year 2 priorities (2025/26) with successful funding secured for continued development and test-of-change initiatives. This includes sustaining the Coordinator role and embedding the Clackmannanshire-based Changemaker participation group. Key test-of-change projects will introduce:

- Speech and Language Therapy support for practitioners involved in the SCIM process.
- Clinical Psychology input focused on vicarious trauma and direct support for frontline staff working with children and young people affected by significant harm.

Additionally, a digital justice journey map will be developed to identify therapeutic touchpoints for children and young people.

Audit and Quality Assurance Activity

The 2024/2025 Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) audit assessed the quality of assessments and chronologies presented at Child Protection Planning and Review Meetings. It identified strong practice in evidence-based assessments, effective risk analysis, and capturing children's views. Historical concerns were appropriately linked to current circumstances, with SHANARRI wellbeing indicators well applied.

Minor improvements were noted in some chronologies and assessments. In response, IROs are developing training for children's services social work staff, to be rolled out in the coming year.

A follow-up audit is scheduled for October 2025, focusing on unborn babies discussed at Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs). The audit will examine decision-making, support provided, and whether developmental milestones are met post-birth, identifying any gaps in support. This follows a rise in unborn babies being placed on the Child Protection Register. The Care Inspectorate will support record-reading training to ensure consistency across the audit team.

Whole System Approach – Youth Justice

Clackmannanshire Council continues to strengthen its Whole System Approach for young people in conflict with the law, supported by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). A further workshop is planned in September 2025, with input from a CYCJ participation worker actively engaging young people to shape the agenda.

Justice Services remain closely involved in supporting Children's Services through this period of transformation. Co-working and mentoring are being used to support new staff, alongside accredited

training in risk assessment tools and the Safe and Together model. Two of our social workers are now delivering both individual and group interventions, enhancing workforce capacity and resilience.

The Early Help team, in partnership with Barnardo's, continues to deliver effective Early and Effective Intervention (EEI), significantly reducing reoffending. This work aligns with the reimagining of youth justice, ensuring support is timely, trauma-informed, UNCRC compliant, and rights-based.

Additionally, Children's Services and Barnardo's are collaborating to develop a place of safety provision for young people in conflict with the law, in line with the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024, which aims to improve experiences within the care and justice systems.

Key Service Achievements:

- Full integration of the IRD process across key agencies.
- Monthly multi-agency audits confirming high-quality safeguarding.
- Implementation of a standardised assessment tool for consistency.
- Reintroduction of the IRD Practitioner Forum to support reflective practice.
- 100% delivery of Joint Investigative Interviews via SCIM.
- SCIM model confirmed as trauma-informed, child-centred, and UNCRC compliant.
- Secured full Development and Thematic funding for Bairns' Hoose.
- Appointment of a dedicated Bairns' Hoose Coordinator to drive delivery.

Planned Service Developments 2025/26:

- Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024: With full implementation underway, our focus is on delivering responsive, proportionate support to young people in conflict with the law. This includes alternatives to Deprivation of Liberty: Expanding use of bail supervision, community disposals, and Children's Hearings referrals.
- Enhanced Partnership with SCRA: Strengthening collaboration through CHIP and the Enhanced Partnership Model to ensure timely and appropriate referrals.
- Pre-Birth Pathway Development: Improving referral processes to Aberlour Perinatal Services and the Mother and Baby Recovery House to support vulnerable families early.
- Multi-agency audit planned October 2025 on unborn babies discussed at Inter-agency Referral Discussions.

5.1.5 Delivering on The Promise

Clackmannanshire is driving forward transformational change to deliver on *The Promise*, with significant and sustained progress across key areas that matter most to care experienced children and young people.

At the heart of this work is a deep commitment to trauma-informed practice, early intervention, and the development of a skilled, compassionate workforce. The expansion of accommodation and support services reflects a growing capacity to meet needs in ways that are nurturing, stable, and rights-based.

This progress is being strategically coordinated through our Promise Delivery Group, reporting to the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership. In September 2024, a pivotal development session—facilitated by Clackmannanshire's Promise Delivery Partner—brought partners together to shape Plan 24–30. The session identified shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration, all underpinned by the principles of voice, rights, and participation.

Workforce development has been a cornerstone of this progress. In 2024/25 alone:

- 1,440 hours of trauma-informed training were delivered across skilled, enhanced, and specialist levels.
- An additional 653 hours of training were provided in partnership with the Resilience Learning Partnership.
- Over 4,800 hours of CPD were completed across the People Directorate, reflecting a strong and collective commitment to trauma-transformational approaches.

Caregivers and key staff are being equipped to deliver reparative models of care that reduce the need for physical intervention, prevent unplanned endings, and promote placement stability.

In education, all secondary schools have received specialist training through the *Communities that Care* programme, delivered by Who Cares? Scotland. Training for primary and early years staff is ongoing, and every primary and high school is now working toward accreditation for the *Keep The Promise Award*—a powerful signal of system-wide commitment to change.

Regulated Care Services

Woodside Children’s House was inspected in March 2025 and received a *Good* rating for care, support, and outcomes for children and young people. While leadership and capacity were rated *Adequate*, targeted development work is underway. The team continues to collaborate with community police, health, and education partners to reduce stigma around residential care and manage risk through trauma-informed approaches. Inspectors highlighted strong relationship-based practice and the breadth of opportunities available to young people as key strengths.

Across all registered services, staff have begun training in the ‘*Readiness for Care*’ programme, developed jointly by Psychological Services and Children’s Services. Based on the BALTIC framework (Brain-based, Attachment-led, Trauma-informed, Community-focused), this model is designed for sustainability through a train-the-trainer approach. Training already delivered includes the Neurosequential Model, Solihull, PACE, and the Dynamic Maturation Model, with further sessions planned for Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) Levels 1 and 2.

The Family Connections Team, comprising adoption, fostering, and continuing care services, was inspected in September 2025 and evaluated as *Good* or *Very Good* across key areas. The number of registered foster carers remains stable at 1.6 households per 1,000 children aged 0–17 in Scotland. There are 19 registered households. However, legacy planning remains a challenge, with several carers retiring and recruitment impacted by delays in accessing the Fostering Network’s Skills to Foster materials — a national issue felt acutely in Clackmannanshire.

In a significant milestone, one of our foster carers represented the service in the National Fostering Campaign, sharing their story through radio and online platforms. The campaign launched in May 2025.

Strengthening Families and Relationships: Progress and Priorities

Over the past year, we have focused on growing and supporting our community of foster carers and adopters. The rollout of *Readiness for Caring* began with staff training, laying the foundation to deliver PACE and Solihull approaches directly to caregivers.

Adoption support has been a key priority. Local support groups have restarted, and a dedicated Social Work post has been created to strengthen post-adoption support. Reflecting the needs of families, the adoption service has strategically shifted from recruitment and assessment to early intervention and sustained support for adoptive families. Foster carers continue to be assessed as adopters where they care for Clackmannanshire children.

We remain committed to keeping brothers and sisters together. At the start or change of placement, 92% of siblings were placed together. Where this isn’t possible, decisions are guided by the *Together or Apart* framework, ensuring placements are planned and assessed with care.

The importance of sustaining sibling and family relationships is embedded in our practice through the *Safe and Meaningful Contact* model and *Staying Connected*, ensuring children maintain vital bonds with parents and key family members.

Permanence Planning and Early Intervention: Progress and Challenges

The profile of care in Clackmannanshire remains stable, with a reduction in the overall number of children looked after. A decrease in kinship care placements is balanced by an increase in children looked after at home, reflecting a shift toward family-based support.

Notably, the number of children placed in external care settings outside the authority has reduced by 8%, and those experiencing three or more placement moves dropped from 5% to 4%, showing progress in placement stability. Between January and December 2024:

- 7 children were registered for permanence
- 8 children were matched with adopters or permanent carers

The Infant Assessment Team continues to lead on early permanence planning, particularly where adoption is the legal route. The team is testing creative, child-led approaches informed by national and UK-wide best practice, including:

- Consistency of care for babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Use of concurrent placements
- Implementation of the *Trauma Nurture Timeline* from Wales

However, significant delays in permanence medicals persist due to limited capacity within Paediatric Services in Forth Valley. This national issue affects Clackmannanshire acutely, impacting planning timelines and support for panels and prospective carers.

A strategic priority is addressing intergenerational trauma, particularly among mothers with repeated pregnancies where children have been adopted. Despite increased early intervention, this remains a complex challenge. The service is exploring new ways to support women in line with The Promise, to offer compassionate, preventative support that breaks cycles and promotes healing; recognising the repeated trauma they experience.

Supporting Care Experienced Young People

Efforts to improve pathways planning and aftercare continue to show year-on-year improvement. While reporting systems are being strengthened, under-reporting remains a risk. Collaboration with Barnardo's has enabled the Care Experience Hub, offering weekly support, social connection, and community building.

Team capacity challenges are prompting a strategic review of service delivery. The next phase will focus on creative, flexible approaches in partnership with others to better meet the diverse and changing needs of care experienced young people.

Clackmannanshire met its allocation of nine young people under the National Transfer Scheme during the reporting period. Additional support has been provided locally through an alternative care model, reducing reliance on out-of-area placements. This approach has strengthened local partnerships and improved our capacity to meet the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) within the community.

Advocacy access continues to grow, with 91 young people supported by Who Cares? Scotland in 2024/25, up from 81 the previous year and 43 in 2022/23. This reflects successful awareness-raising and the impact of Communities that Care programme in local schools.

Key Service Achievements:

Inspection Outcomes:

- Woodside Children's House rated Good for care, support, and outcomes.
- Family Connections Team services (adoption, fostering, continuing care) rated Good to Very Good.

Training and Practice Development:

- Rollout of Readiness for Caring training based on the BALTIC model (Brain-based, Attachment-led, Trauma-informed, Community-focused).
- Staff trained in PACE, Solihull, Neurosequential Model, Dynamic Maturation Model, with DDP Level 1 & 2 planned.

Adoption and Permanence:

- Strategic shift in adoption service focus from recruitment to post-adoption support.

- Restart of local adoption support groups and recruitment of a dedicated adoption support social worker.
- 7 children registered for permanence, 8 matched with adopters or permanent carers.
- Innovative approaches tested by the Infant Assessment Team, including concurrent placements and the Trauma Nurture Timeline.

Care Experience and Advocacy:

- 92% of siblings placed together at the start or change of placement.
- 8% reduction in external placements.
- Decrease in placement instability (3+ moves reduced from 5% to 4%).
- Year-on-year improvement in pathways planning and aftercare.
- Care Experience Hub established in partnership with Barnardo's.
- 91 young people supported by Who Cares? Scotland in 2024/25 (up from 43 in 2022/23).

National Recognition:

- Clackmannanshire foster carer featured in the National Fostering Campaign.

Planned Service Developments:

Scaling Up Training:

- Expand trauma-informed practice through train-the-trainer model for Readiness for Caring.
- Deliver PACE and Solihull training directly to caregivers.

Improving Permanence Planning:

- Address delays in permanence medicals through strategic engagement with Paediatric Services and national partners.
- Explore new approaches to support women experiencing intergenerational trauma, in line with The Promise.

Enhancing Support for Care Experienced Young People:

- Develop more flexible, creative service models to increase reach and engagement.
- Strengthen collaboration with partners to meet diverse and fluctuating needs.

Advocacy and Voice:

- Continue to build on advocacy access through awareness and school-based initiatives like Communities that Care.

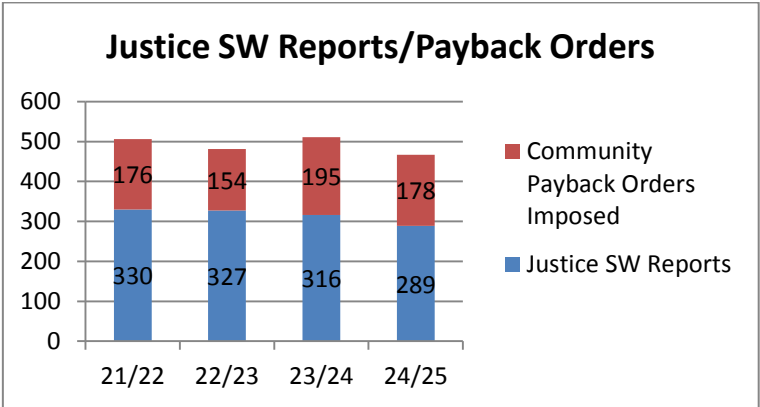
5.2 Justice Services

5.2.1 Community Justice Team

Between April 2024 and March 2025, Clackmannanshire Justice Services completed 289 Justice Social Work Reports for the Courts, with 178 Community Payback Orders being imposed. This represents a slight decrease compared to 2022/23, where 316 reports were completed and 195 Community Payback Orders were imposed—an 8.5% and 8.7% reduction respectively. These figures reflect a continuing shift in the justice landscape, with fewer formal disposals being made, potentially influenced by increased use of early intervention measures such as Diversion and Bail Supervision. Despite the reduction, the service remains focused on delivering high-quality, person-centred assessments and interventions that support rehabilitation and reduce reoffending.

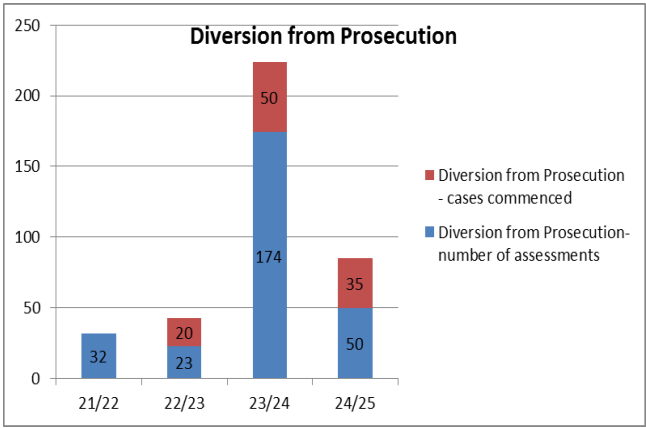
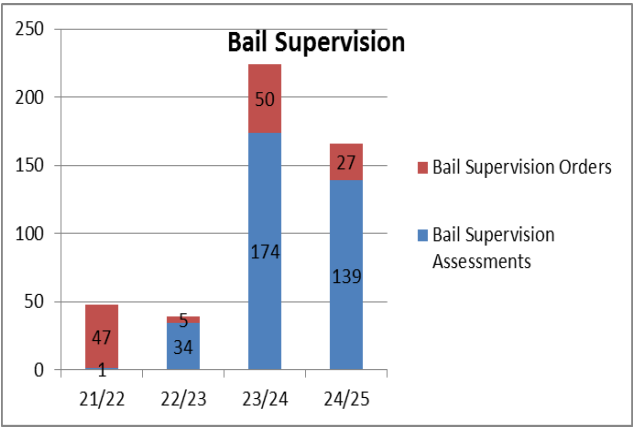
In 2024/25, Clackmannanshire Justice Services deepened its commitment to collaborative working, forging stronger partnerships across the justice and community sectors. Regular engagement with the Courts through Court User Groups was complemented by active participation in both the Community Justice Partnership and the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership, reinforcing our integrated approach to

justice and wellbeing. A key highlight of the year was our continued collaboration with SACRO, whose Women’s Worker Service played a vital role in delivering both Court-mandated interventions through the Caledonian Programme and early intervention support. This partnership enabled our multi-disciplinary Justice Team to offer the Courts a broader range of community-based disposals, tailored to the assessed needs of individuals and focused on rehabilitation, prevention, and positive outcomes.



Aligned with Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland priorities, Clackmannanshire Justice Services continued to champion the use of community-based disposals as effective alternatives to remand and short-term custodial sentences. The Courts maintained their use of bail supervision and diversion from prosecution, recognising the value of these approaches in promoting rehabilitation and reducing reoffending. This shift in practice contributed to a notable increase in unpaid work hours delivered through Community Payback Orders—demonstrating a tangible commitment to restorative justice and meaningful community contribution.

In 2024/25, Clackmannanshire Justice Services responded to 139 Bail Supervision Assessment requests, with 27 individuals commencing supervision. During the same period, 50 Diversion from Prosecution Assessments were undertaken, resulting in 35 individuals receiving support through this pathway.



Each intervention provided a vital opportunity to stabilise and support individuals within their communities, addressing underlying issues and reducing reliance on custodial measures. These tailored approaches enabled people to either divert from the justice system entirely or remain safely in the community while engaging with services to overcome identified challenges. Justice Services continues to strengthen its impact in this area through robust collaboration with key partners, including Health, Education, Employability, Police Scotland, and both Children and Adult Social Services—ensuring a holistic and person-centred response to justice.

5.2.2 Unpaid Work Team

In 2024/25, Clackmannanshire Justice Services delivered a significant increase in unpaid work hours—rising from 15,681 hours in 2023/24 to 20,200 hours. This growth reflects the Courts' continued confidence in community-based disposals and the effectiveness of our Unpaid Work Team.

The team's visibility and capacity were further enhanced by the addition of a new Work Supervisor, enabling operations seven days a week and expanding our reach across the community. Through strategic use of social media, we showcased the impact of unpaid work projects—earning recognition from Community Justice Scotland and prompting a visit from the Scottish Government to see the work of the team first hand.

Projects undertaken included:

- Supporting the local Family Centre by clearing grounds and constructing new children's play equipment.
- Recycling materials from fly-tipping to build play staging areas for nurseries, while removing unsafe equipment.
- Maintaining local infrastructure, including flood-priority waterways, walkways, and bridle paths, with repairs to bridges, fencing, and wooden structures.
- Assisting emergency services during named storms, clearing fallen trees that disrupted travel across Clackmannanshire.

These efforts not only provided meaningful reparation but also strengthened community resilience and demonstrated the value of justice-led collaboration.

As part of our commitment to public engagement and responsive service delivery, our Service Manager attended a local community group event where residents shared concerns and ideas. This direct dialogue led to specific requests being actioned, resulting in tailored unpaid work projects that addressed local needs and strengthened community trust.

Looking ahead, unpaid work is projected to grow significantly over the next five years as a key alternative to custody. In preparation, Clackmannanshire Justice Services is undertaking a strategic redesign to enhance capacity and impact and ensure unpaid work continues to deliver real value to communities while supporting rehabilitation and reintegration.

This includes:

- Expanding engagement with community groups to ensure unpaid work remains locally relevant and responsive.
- Upgrading digital systems to better monitor, manage, and report on increased demand.
- Strengthening partnerships with the Community Justice Partnership, Employability and Education services, and third sector organisations to create meaningful opportunities for individuals—both during their unpaid work placements and beyond their involvement with Justice Services.

5.2.3 Early Intervention & Community Impact: A Whole-System Approach

Clackmannanshire Justice Services has continued to lead with a proactive, prevention-focused Hub model—delivering early support through a skilled multi-disciplinary team. Collaborative working with key partners, including the Community Justice, and Violence Against Women and Girls Partnerships, enabled targeted interventions that addressed complex needs.

By combining resources and funding, the team was strengthened with the addition of a lived experience worker, supporting individuals with substance use challenges to access rehabilitation, maintain tenancies,

and avoid homelessness. This approach contributed to increased uptake in voluntary throughcare and helped address issues such as drug-related deaths.

Our early intervention efforts aligned closely with the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, with the Women’s Worker Service expanding from two to four staff. Support was provided across mental health, housing, child welfare, and protection processes—resulting in positive outcomes such as children being removed from the child protection register.

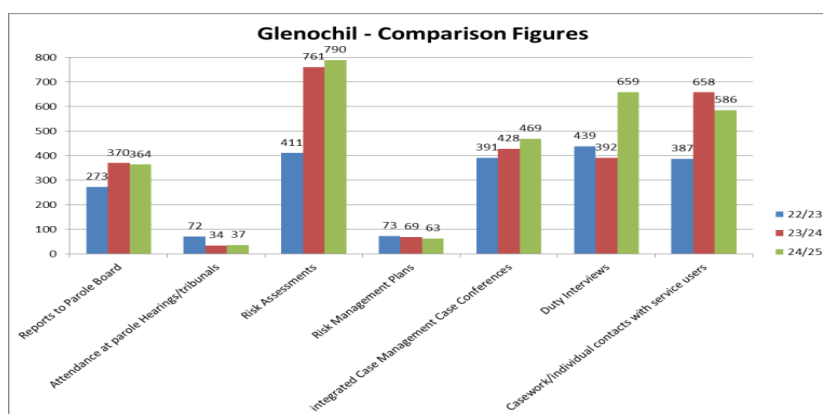
Through STRIVE (Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention), 74 women were supported at crisis points, with 9 DASH RIC assessments (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment, and Honour-based violence risk assessment tool) completed and 6 individuals receiving intensive follow-up support. We also engaged with over 200 individuals seeking voluntary support to address harmful behaviours. While uptake was modest, targeted interventions promoted healthier relationships and contributed to long-term behavioural change.

5.2.4 Glenochil Prison-Based Social Work Team (PBSW)

In 2024/25, the Social Work Team at HMP Glenochil continued to deliver statutory services focused on risk assessment, risk management, and public protection, supporting the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) across a national estate. The team maintained strong links with prison-based social work teams and Justice Services across all 32 local authorities.

A rise in the national prison population led to the early release of short-term offenders, placing additional pressure on services. Despite these challenges, the team remained resilient, supporting release processes and maintaining service delivery. Enhanced collaboration with SPS and the Parole Board has led to positive outcomes and recognition of the need for permanent resource uplift.

An increasingly complex area of work involves supporting prisoners with capacity issues and significant social care needs. The team has taken on roles as Welfare Guardians, contributed to Adults with Incapacity assessments, and managed Compassionate Release applications for vulnerable and ageing prisoners. This growing demand has required staff to develop advanced skills in Adult Support and Protection and incapacity legislation, with expectations that this workload will continue to rise.



5.2.5 Building a Skilled and Resilient Workforce

Recruitment, training, and retention remain strategic priorities for Clackmannanshire Justice Services. Despite national workforce challenges, the service has remained fully resourced—ensuring continuity, stability, and a consistent approach for individuals under supervision, which is critical to achieving positive outcomes.

Staff development has been a cornerstone of our approach. Training in the Outcome Star tool has been delivered across multiple Council services, fostering a shared language and promoting inclusive, goal-oriented support for service users. Decider Skills training, led by Health partners, has equipped staff across services to better support individuals experiencing mental health challenges. Justice Services has also invested in Safe and Together training, with one team member now qualified as a national trainer—

strengthening our alignment with Clackmannanshire Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and embedding gender-based violence awareness across all Council services. Further investment includes supporting staff to undertake social work qualifications, become practice educators, and attend national training events—ensuring our workforce remains skilled, motivated, and future-ready.

5.2.6 Community Justice Partnership

The Community Justice Partnership (CJP) continues to play a pivotal role in advancing early intervention and whole-system approaches within Justice Services. Key developments over the past year include:

- **Shared Leadership Model**

The Co-Chairing arrangement—shared by Justice Services, Police Scotland, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership, and Resilience Learning Partnership, reinforces the CJP's dedication to collaborative leadership and lived experience representation at the strategic level.

- **Formalisation of the CJP Coordinator Role**

Transitioning the Coordinator post to a permanent position within Clackmannanshire Council's Justice Services underscores the partners' long-term commitment to the CJP's strategic goals.

- **Establishment of the Lived Experience Panel**

Funded by the CJP and supported by the Resilience Learning Partnership, this panel ensures lived experience is embedded at the heart of decision-making. Panel members actively contribute to policy and service development, attend CJP meetings, and have already influenced the upcoming Public Attitudes to Crime survey and the 2025/26 CJP self-evaluation process.

- **Strengthening Whole-System Collaboration**

A co-funded Addiction Recovery Worker post—shared between Housing, Justice Services, and Police Scotland—demonstrates the power of integrated support. Based within Justice Services, the worker presented compelling case studies to the CJP in January, showcasing improved outcomes for individuals in the justice system.

- **Enhanced Community Engagement in Unpaid Work**

Justice Services delivered a well-received presentation to the Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland (CJS), highlighting innovative approaches and strong community involvement in unpaid work delivery.

- **Sustained Use of Bail Supervision**

The continued high uptake of bail supervision reflects the CJP's commitment to effective alternatives to remand and custodial sentencing.

- **Ongoing Implementation of Naloxone Policy**

Developed jointly by the CJP Coordinator and Clackmannanshire & Stirling Alcohol Drugs Partnership, and introduced by Clackmannanshire Council in 2023, the Naloxone Policy remains active and is supported by regular staff training.

- **Boosting Employability Through Targeted Support**

With funding from 'No One Left Behind' via the LEP (Local Employability Partnership), a new pilot will assess the impact of dedicated employability support for individuals completing unpaid work and preparing for release.

5.2.7 Justice Service Funding and Impact

Over the past three years, Clackmannanshire's Justice Service, in collaboration with the Community Justice Partnership, has introduced a range of early intervention initiatives aimed at supporting individuals who previously did not meet the criteria for statutory services. These initiatives have delivered demonstrable

positive outcomes for families across the local community, particularly in addressing the impacts of gender-based violence.

The service has expanded to include staff with lived experience and has broadened its focus to encompass areas such as substance use and housing. These developments have been informed by lived experience panels and national statistics, which consistently highlight the critical need for such support. However, like many services across Scotland, Clackmannanshire faces increasing challenges in sustaining these initiatives due to ongoing financial pressures.

Under the Scottish Government's revised funding formula, approved by COSLA, Clackmannanshire has been notified of a significant reduction in Caledonian programme funding. Over a four-year dampening period, the service will experience a 68% funding cut, equating to a 25% reduction annually. This is the largest reduction across Scotland, despite Clackmannanshire remaining in the highest percentile for gender-based violence prevalence.

These cuts pose a substantial risk to service delivery. Nevertheless, Clackmannanshire Council remains firmly committed to tackling gender-based violence and is actively exploring alternative funding avenues to maintain essential support. It is anticipated that the Section 27 award will more accurately reflect the needs of the local community and help mitigate the impact of these reductions.

5.2.8 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Clackmannanshire Council plays a key role in Forth Valley MAPPA, working alongside Falkirk and Stirling Councils, Police Scotland, NHS Forth Valley, the Scottish Prison Service, and the State Hospital to manage individuals who pose a risk to public safety.

MAPPA governance is delivered through the Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) and Operational Group, both meeting quarterly. The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is an active member of the SOG, which is chaired independently. The Chair also engages with the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Public Protection Chief Officers Group and the National Strategic Oversight Group. The SOG oversees the Forth Valley MAPPA Business Plan and Risk Register (2024–2027). The Risk Register is a live document, reviewed quarterly to ensure alignment with strategic objectives and to identify areas requiring action.

2024–2025 has seen a significant rise in Registered Sex Offender (RSO) numbers across Forth Valley, reflecting national trends. This has placed increased pressure on resources, yet MAPPA partners continue to deliver high-quality, risk-focused services to protect the public.

Forth Valley MAPPA partners are actively contributing to the development of MAPPS (Multi-Agency Public Protection System) the new multi-agency information-sharing system set to replace ViSOR. Our focus is on strengthening public protection through improved collaboration, faster data sharing, and more effective decision-making across agencies.

To meet growing demand, Forth Valley Responsible Authorities have agreed to supplement Scottish Government MAPPA funding until March 2027. This has enabled the recruitment of an additional temporary MAPPA Administrator, increasing team capacity by 19%. Clackmannanshire Council continues to manage MAPPA staffing on behalf of the partnership.

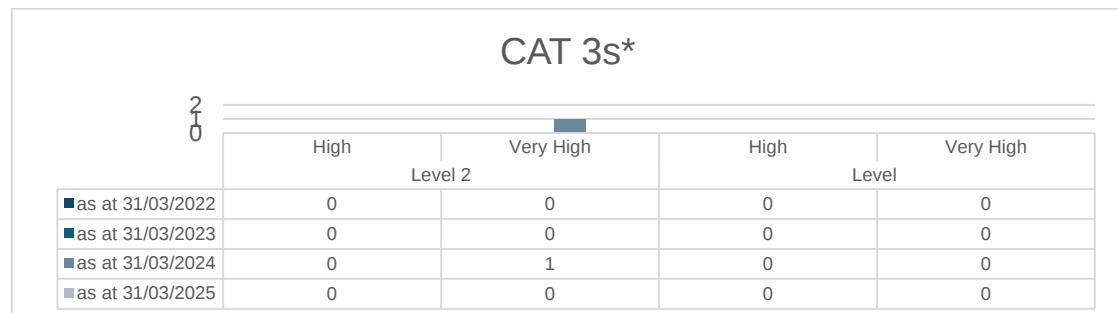
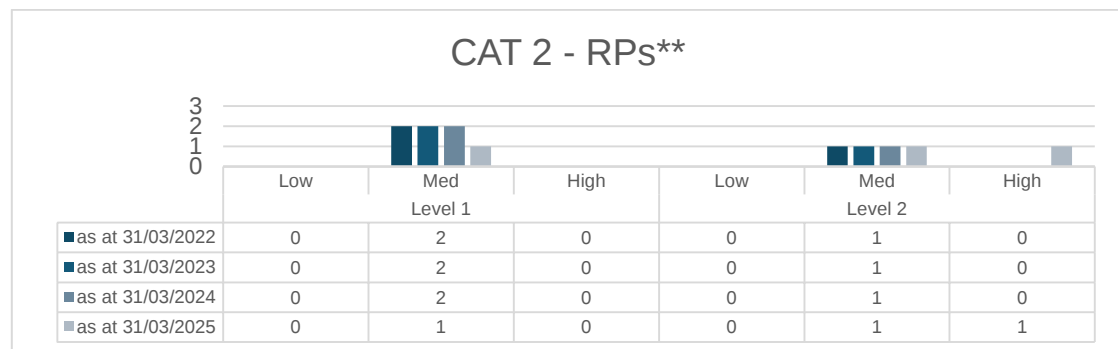
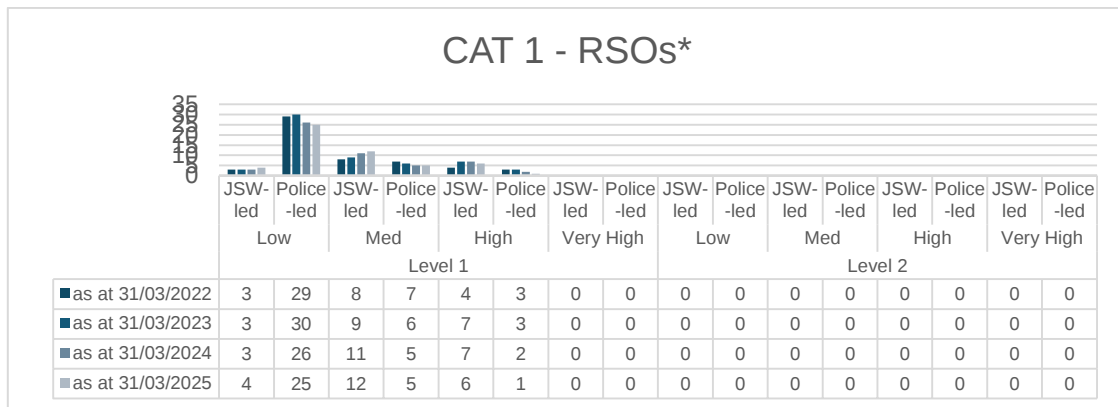
MAPPA Audit, Review & Quality Assurance

Forth Valley MAPPA partners maintain robust internal policies to ensure statutory responsibilities are met. In addition, a structured programme of quality assurance activity supports continuous improvement across the partnership. This includes:

- Routine: Case file audits, MAPPA statistics, quarterly and annual reports
- Reactive: Further offending reviews, national ICR/SCR health checks, and updates to the Business Plan and Risk Register

Oversight is provided by the MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group, which reviews findings and integrates learning into the Good Practice and Areas for Improvement framework. Where issues are identified, actions are taken promptly and reflected in the Risk Register. This approach fosters a proactive, learning-focused culture across Forth Valley MAPPA—ensuring consistent, high-quality risk management and multi-agency collaboration.

Clackmannanshire MAPPA Statistics



* CAT 1 and CAT 3 figures are cases being managed by FV MAPPA – both in community and custody

** RP figures are cases living in the community and hospital (both local and national)

5.3 Adult Services - Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) are set out in the map below. The total population is approximately 142,540. The population of Clackmannanshire is 51,540.



Clackmannanshire Council plays an active part in the leadership and management of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) through participation in the Integration Joint Board.

The Integration Joint Board is made up of Elected Members from Clackmannanshire and Stirling council areas, as well as NHS Forth Valley Health Board nonexecutives, Third Sector representatives, service users, unpaid carers alongside professional advisors and people by virtue of their position, including the CSWO. Clackmannanshire Adult social work and social care services are delivered and managed by the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

The HSCP Transforming Care Board, chaired by the Interim Chief Officer, is delivering a programme of transformational work which supports staff and services to better meet the demands of our changing population and support a 'Needs Led, Resource Bound' approach with clear alignment to the [Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-33](#) priorities. The programme of work reflects legacy commitments linked to local care home capacity as well as recent activity to further integrate community health and social care services. The focus being on modernisation, redesigning the model of care and support locally and meeting legislative requirements such as carers and self-directed support. Throughout 2024/25 this programme of transformation continues to be progressed.

5.3.1 Adult Learning Disability Services

Clackmannanshire & Stirling IJB approved a plan to deliver a revised model of care for adults with learning disabilities across Clackmannanshire & Stirling in November 2024. There are several strands to this work:

- Review of Community Residential Resources
- Review of Day Services/Opportunities
- Self-Directed Support
- Implementation of the Coming Home agenda
- Review of specialist inpatient provision

Community Residential Resources

The Community Residential Resource is a service which provides housing support and care at home over 8 properties across Forth Valley, in Stirling, Dunblane and Falkirk. It accommodates up to 29 adult service users with learning disabilities in shared living arrangements, and provides 24 hour support.

The service is very well evaluated by both the people who live there and the Care Inspectorate, with a report of 9 June 2023 rating the service as excellent. The service is however an unusual arrangement, as it is provided by NHS Forth Valley, who own the premises, act as landlord and employ the staff providing the care. As far as is known, there is only one other Scottish Health Board who operate a similar service.

As part of the wider consideration of the service model for adults with learning disabilities, it was agreed to review the Community Residential Resource model to determine if it remained the most appropriate way to deliver this type of support. Work is ongoing to explore whether the current model should remain unchanged, should continue with some amendments or should be subject to a full redesign process with the engagement of all key stakeholders.

Day Services

Day services for adults with a learning disability are currently provided from two main bases, The Whins in Clackmannanshire and Riverbank in Stirling. However models of day opportunities have progressed since the inception of the current building-based model. More and more service users and their families choose to be supported to access community activities rather than those provided from a specific learning disability day centre. As such, there is a need to review local provision and continue the work both existing day services are currently doing in this regard.

Project Management and planning support has been identified, and a steering group established with Trade Union, HR and management representatives. A detailed project plan with timelines and key deliverables for the implementation of the new model of day support is in development.

Self-Directed Support

On 1 April 2014, the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into effect. This is the law that tells local authorities what they must do to give access to Self-directed Support (SDS) in a way that supports people's rights to choice, dignity and being able to take part in the life of their communities.

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) are committed to continuing to transform the way that social care support is provided within localities and communities. This will ensure a personalised approach to supporting individuals and enable the HSCP to meet the challenges it faces regarding changing demographics and increased demands for support.

SDS is not the name of a type of service, but a way of arranging support that is individual to a person so that they can live as independently as possible. It is for everyone who needs social care services or support. This includes children, adults and unpaid carers, and adults with learning disabilities.

Work is ongoing to ensure that the HSCP is fully aligned with the requirements of the SDS Act. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Establishing a stakeholder participation group consisting of supported people, carers and personal assistants with living experience of SDS.
- Reviewing and developing staff training.
- Redesign of assessment and support planning documentation.
- Developing information and materials for the public.

Coming Home

The Coming Home agenda is aimed at reducing delayed discharges and providing care closer to home for adults with learning disabilities. This is monitored via national reporting into the Dynamic Risk Register. In order to support this work, the Scottish Government offered some fixed term resource to HSCPs until 31 March 2025.

Some of the Scottish Government resource was utilised to provide high level training in Positive Behavioural Support for key staff. This will significantly improve the ability of the service to support service users to live within the least restrictive environment possible.

Delayed discharge meetings with health and social work representation have been restarted, and one person who was significantly delayed has now been discharged from hospital.

In addition to staffing, training and support for delayed discharge, the resource has also been used to:

- Safeguard at risk placement.
- Provide additional staffing to support successful transition.
- Securely store service user belongings to support ultimate transition back to their local area.

As the additional resource ended at 31 March 2025, this work has now been mainstreamed within core resources. While this is likely to limit the pace at which this can be progressed, the intention is for the existing Learning Disabilities infrastructure (e.g. LD Clinical Governance Committee) to oversee a continuation of the work to date.

Specialist Inpatient Services

Loch View is Forth Valley's inpatient unit for adults with learning disabilities. It has 18 beds, and is intended to provide specialist assessment and treatment for adults with complex issues related to their learning disability or mental health. Although Loch View is an 18 bedded unit, it only functions with 15 beds. This is due to the highly complex needs of 2 service users who require additional space within the unit to be safely supported.

There are a number of people in Loch View whose discharge is delayed, primarily due to the challenge of identifying appropriate accommodation with appropriate care and support.

There is a need to consider the provision at Loch View. While occupancy rates are high, this is significantly impacted by people who are delayed in their discharge, suggesting that reviewing the bed numbers may be appropriate. However as it is a standalone site, any change to bed and subsequently staffing numbers brings with it issues of clinical safety.

It had previously been agreed that, within the limited resources available, the learning disability service changes should focus on day services, Coming Home and packages of care, with Loch View coming under Phase 2 of the work. However some initial consideration has begun around ideas such as income generation via providing beds to other areas, as there is a national shortage of beds for adults with learning disabilities, and liaising more closely with Housing colleagues to explore creative alternatives to hospital.

5.3.2 Alcohol and Drugs Services

Clackmannanshire and Stirling ADP (Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) have been supporting the development of our Social Work Substance Use team. The team operates within our HSCP localities structure and offers input on cases where problematic substance use is a factor. Significant benefit has been noticed from the team's work, including feedback from people they support, and their loved ones, that specialist social work input has remedied long-standing problems in their lives and coordinated a multidisciplinary response which has radically improved the quality of their lives.

To extend the team's work, the ADP has been undertaking further Commissioning Consortium activity to generate partnership recommendations on Harm Reduction Outreach activity. This will consist of mobile support capable of reaching people across localities on their terms. Social health support and harm reduction outreach activity will combine with the Substance Use Social Work team to offer longer term, lower-intensity support for people as they continue their recovery journeys.

5.3.3 Mental Health Officer (MHO) Service

The MHO team manages all Private and Local Authority guardianship applications within Clackmannanshire Council. A waiting list is maintained for allocation of MHOs to complete suitability reports, with priority given to hospital-based individuals, delayed discharges, and renewals. While demand is high, the current waiting list remains manageable.

The team continues to face significant demand due to a national rise in statutory workload. Despite these pressures, the MHO service consistently meets statutory obligations in relation to undertaking Guardianship Applications and remains committed to delivering high-quality, rights-based practice.

Key Statistics: Guardianship Applications:

Period	Private	Local Authority
2023–2024	28	13
2024–2025	59	17

Between 2023 and 2024, Scotland saw a 6.9% increase in guardianship orders. Clackmannanshire remains below the national average, with 76.7 guardianships per 100,000 population compared to the Scottish average of 85.3.

MHOs also fulfil statutory duties under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995. Clackmannanshire continues to report above-average rates for both Short Term Detention Certificates (STDCs) and Compulsory Treatment Orders (CTOs):

- Short Term Detention Certificates (STDCs): **106.4 per 100,000** (Scottish average: 89.8)
- Compulsory Treatment Orders (CTOs): **42.4 per 100,000** (Scottish average: 29.4)

Practice and Training

Procedures under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 have been implemented and are under continuous review. During 2024/25, targeted training on AWI legislation and Section 47 certificates has been delivered across the Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP.

Key Service Challenges

Capacity remains the principal challenge. Ongoing vacancies across Adult Social Work Services are impacting the ability to meet supervisory responsibilities. Expanding the MHO workforce is a strategic priority, with efforts underway to encourage applications for the MHO Award in 2026/27. The Mental Welfare Commission Monitoring Report acknowledges that the number of orders nationally has more than doubled in the last 10 years. This increase in demand has not been matched by equivalent workforce growth, with one part-time MHO and one social work post added to the MHO team in the past decade.

Service priorities for 2025/26

- Supervision of Guardianships: A working group is reviewing the supervision of CSWO and private guardianships, focusing on workforce knowledge and rights-based practice.
- Workforce Development: Raising awareness of the MHO Award across Adult Care, Justice, and Children & Families teams to support future workforce growth.

5.3.4 HSCP - Localities

Care Home Assessment and Review Team (CHART)

The Care Home Assessment and Review Team (CHART) was established to help care homes manage residents' health needs, prevent unnecessary hospital admissions, and provide vital support to residents, families, and staff throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, CHART has expanded its role, offering expert guidance during Large Scale Investigations (LSIs) and working closely with care home staff to uphold the highest standards of care. Recently, CHART hosted a development session with all care home managers, strengthening collaborative relationships and reaffirming its commitment to supporting care homes.

Care at Home Review Team

We are currently recruiting for three permanent positions within the Care at Home Review Team. This team reviews service users' care packages using the Self Directed Support (SDS) model, ensuring that choice and control remain central, and that care packages truly reflect the needs of service users and carers. By identifying and leveraging community and personal assets, this approach delivers more efficient, outcome-focused support. In Stirling, this model has already achieved significant projected cost savings, and we anticipate similar results in Clackmannanshire by 2025/26.

Respite Care provision

Ludgate House Resource Centre, a local authority service in Clackmannanshire, provides respite, short stays, and short-term assessments for up to 11 older people at a time. The Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP acknowledges inconsistencies in respite provision across the area, with limited focus on carers. A working group is reviewing current bed-based respite services and will consult on future options—including those at Ludgate House—between October and November 2025. A Short Breaks Services Statement was approved by the Clackmannanshire & Stirling IJB in March 2025 which provides information to carers to enable choice and control to be exercised when making a decision on the short break that is right for them.

Adult Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team

To streamline adult social work referrals and enhance service delivery, the Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP has introduced a pioneering multi-disciplinary model. Bi-weekly meetings bring together professionals from Social Work, District Nursing, Allied Health, and the Carers Centre to collaboratively assess and allocate referrals. This integrated approach leverages shared intelligence across multiple client record systems, ensuring individuals are matched with the most appropriate support from the outset. The model also facilitates joint review of complex and pending cases, promoting informed decision-making and timely interventions. Engagement with partners such as Housing further enriches discussions and strengthens community outcomes.

Key Benefits:

- Innovative, person-centred referral process
- Improved allocation through shared data and professional insight
- Reduced duplication and enhanced service user experience
- Strengthened multi-agency collaboration
- Proactive management of complex cases
- Broader community impact through strategic partnerships

Client Index Software (CCIS) Improvement Project

We have commissioned a project to enhance the functionality and stability of our client index software (CCIS). A key focus of this work is to revise the Self Directed Support (SDS) processes, making it easier for service users and carers to access and contribute to support plans directly within the system.

The project will also improve access to a comprehensive resource menu—including service options and associated costs—within the software. This will enable staff to offer a broader range of tailored choices to service users and their carers, supporting more personalised and outcome-focused care planning.

Planned Next Steps:

- The development phase is now underway, with a focus on redesigning SDS workflows.
- User testing will be scheduled to ensure the new features are intuitive and meet the needs of both staff and service users.
- Training and rollout plans will be developed to support smooth implementation across teams.
- Feedback loops will be established to continuously refine the system post-launch.

5.3.5 Inspection of registered adult care services

There were 4 registered service inspections across the Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP during the reporting period of 2024/2025 for Ludgate House (inspection completed 8th January 2025), Clackmannanshire Re-ablement and Technology Enabled Care Service (inspection completed 27th January 2025) and The Whins Resource Centre (inspection completed 17th October 2024 with follow-up inspection on 22nd January 2025). Copies of the individual service inspection reports are available from the Care Inspectorate website www.careinspectorate.com. Services mainly received grading's of Good and Very Good with one service receiving grading's of Weak, where remedial measures were put in place promptly and the grading was increased to Adequate within a 3 month period.

5.3.6 Joint Inspection of Adult Services

In April 2024, the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) was inspected under the Joint Inspection of Adult Services programme. The review assessed the effectiveness of strategic and operational collaboration in delivering integrated services that support adult health and wellbeing, with a focus on individuals living with mental illness and their unpaid carers. The inspection identified key areas for improvement, including:

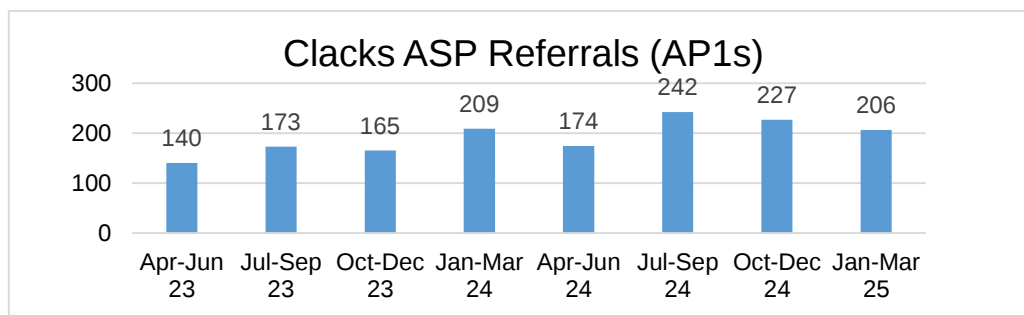
- Consistent integration of Self-Directed Support (SDS) in assessments
- Strengthening Social Work governance
- Enhancing outcome measurement through robust data collection
- Expanding training in core legislative areas, notably the Carers (Scotland) Act

An Improvement Plan was established in December 2024 to address these recommendations. Oversight is provided by an Inspection Steering Group, with participation from both Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council Chief Social Work Officers. Early progress includes improved governance structures, enhanced performance monitoring via an Integrated Performance Framework, and the appointment of a Housing and Health Policy Officer.

5.3.7 Adult Support and Protection (ASP)

ASP Referrals

In 2024–25, Clackmannanshire's ASP service saw a significant rise in both the volume and complexity of referrals, reflecting national trends. Practitioners managed multiple high-risk cases involving co-occurring issues such as mental health, cognitive impairment, substance use, and financial or coercive harm. Many cases required intensive, multi-agency coordination and sustained intervention beyond statutory minimums. Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, ASP referrals in Clackmannanshire rose by 23.6%, reflecting national trends. In the previous year, the area ranked 10th highest in Scotland for referrals per 100,000 adults.



The current CCIS system cannot capture or report the full data required to meet the Scottish Government's National Minimum Dataset for Adult Support and Protection. This limits visibility of key activities—such as visits, interviews, and medical examinations—posing risks to statutory compliance, performance monitoring, and evidencing practice. Clackmannanshire Council has completed a requirements mapping exercise and approved procurement of a new Social Work IT system to address these gaps. In the interim, a specialist provider is exploring adaptations to the existing system to improve data capture.

No of ASP Referrals	Clackmannanshire
2022/2023	768
2023/2024	687
2024/2025	849

There has been a 3.33% increase in Initial Adult Protection Case Conferences (IAPCCs) between the reporting years 2023/24 and 2024/25, indicating that Clackmannanshire has maintained consistency in convening case conferences promptly to manage risk. This slight but steady increase reflects improved identification and response to complex adult protection concerns. It also evidences continued practitioner confidence in the adult protection procedures and an embedded multi-agency approach to supporting and protecting adults at risk of harm. The current figures reflect a conversion rate of 7.3% from ASP referral to case conference. This demonstrates that operational managers are applying thresholds with confidence and consistency and are appropriately identifying cases that require multi-agency planning through the case conference process.

Reporting Year	IAPCCs	Review CCs	Total of CCs
01.04.2021 - 31.3.2022	6	2	8
01.04.2022 - 31.03.2023	11	9	20
01.04.2023 - 31.03.2024	26	34	60
01.04.2024 - 31.03.2025	21	41	62

Despite ongoing operational pressures across all partners, the service continued to work closely with Police Scotland, NHS Forth Valley, care providers and third sector organisations to safeguard adults at risk of harm. Our approach remained rooted in multi-agency collaboration, timely intervention, and robust application of statutory duties under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

Clackmannanshire Hoarding Service

Clackmannanshire Council is leading the way in tackling the often-overlooked issue of hoarding and self-neglect. In response to the profound distress experienced by adults affected by these challenges, the Council's Housing service committed funding to a two-year test of change project. Spearheaded by the Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Lead Officer and delivered in partnership with Transform Forth Valley, the initiative introduced a dedicated Hoarding Officer role. This pioneering position offers tailored, person-centred support, empowering individuals to make meaningful changes at a pace that respects their circumstances and choices.

Beyond direct support, the Hoarding Officer plays a vital role in building lasting community connections, promoting mental wellbeing, and linking individuals with a network of partners to support long-term recovery. Launched as a part-time service in July 2024, the project has already demonstrated remarkable success. Due to its strong engagement, particularly among a group historically reluctant to access services, the role has now expanded to full-time provision for 2025–26. This success underscores the power of offering genuine choice, fostering trust, and meeting people where they are.

2024 - 2025	Clackmannanshire Hoarding Service
Number of New Referrals	25
Number of Service Users in active service	9 - represents 100% engagement
Waiting list at end of year	13
Number of Interventions completed	224
Number of Face-to-face appointments offered	159
Number of Face-to-face Appointments carried out	118
Attendance Rate	74%

ASP Learning Review

During this reporting year, the Adult Support & Protection Committee undertook its first Learning Review, overseen by the Learning Review Subgroup, following a case that demanded deeper examination. This milestone provided a crucial opportunity to rigorously test and enhance our review process—resulting in a more streamlined, collaborative, and trauma-informed approach.

A key priority was ensuring that the lessons learned reached all partner agencies and frontline practitioners. Remarkably, the relative of the adult at the centre of the case generously led four in-person learning sessions for staff and partners. His willingness to share his family’s experience brought a powerful, human perspective to the learning, enabling participants to connect on both professional and personal levels. The Clackmannanshire CSWO attended one of these sessions and met with the relative, an engagement that was warmly received. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Participants described the sessions as thought-provoking, emotional, and inspiring. The experience prompted deep reflection on the consequences when systems fall short, and reinforced the critical importance of proactive safeguarding for adults at risk of harm. Beyond shaping local practice, this review has fundamentally changed how we engage with adults and families, ensuring their voices are central to everything we do.

5.4 Forth Valley Emergency Social Work Service

The Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT) remains a vital service for Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk Councils, delivering urgent statutory social work interventions—including child protection, adult protection, and Mental Health Officer duties—whenever emergencies arise. Throughout 2024/25, this essential service continued to respond swiftly and effectively to those most in need.

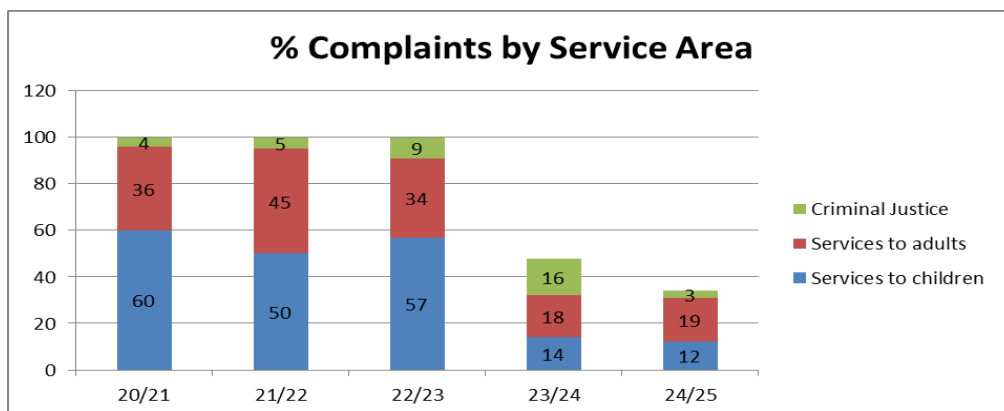
Staffing levels were maintained at 4.5 Senior Social Workers and one Manager, ensuring that two experienced social work professionals were always on duty per shift. The service’s resilience was further strengthened by an expanded pool of social work colleagues, including Mental Health Officers, from across all three councils—ready to step in whenever additional support was required. Hosted by Stirling Council, and based at Old Viewforth Stirling council headquarters, the EDT service has embraced a flexible blend of remote and office-based working. This approach has been especially valuable for training and inducting new backup colleagues, ensuring the team remains skilled, prepared, and responsive. Ongoing investment in staff development continues to be a cornerstone of the service’s success.

Clackmannanshire social work saw an overall increase in referrals compared to 2023/24, with a consistent rise across both adult and child care cases. This upward trend highlights growing demand for support and underscores the importance of responsive, coordinated services for individuals and families in need.

Clackmannanshire Referrals	2023/2024		2024/2025	
Children’s	617	45%	717	51%
Adults	741	54%	682	48%
Justice Services	22	1% (+.5)	10	1% (0.1)
Total	1380		1409	

5.5 Social Services Complaints

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, Social Work Services received 34 complaints—a reduction of 14 compared to the previous year. Of these, 25 were resolved at Stage 1 and 9 at Stage 2, demonstrating effective early resolution. Notably, no complaints were escalated to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO) during this period, reflecting strong local management and responsiveness to concerns.



A breakdown of complaints by service sector reveals important trends:

- Children's Services: Complaints decreased by 14% (2 fewer cases), reflecting improved satisfaction or resolution in this area.
- Adult Services: Complaints increased slightly by 5% (1 additional case), indicating a stable but closely monitored area.
- Justice Services: Complaints dropped significantly by 81% (13 fewer cases), marking a substantial improvement in service delivery.

These shifts highlight areas of progress and ongoing focus, ensuring that feedback continues to drive positive change across all sectors.

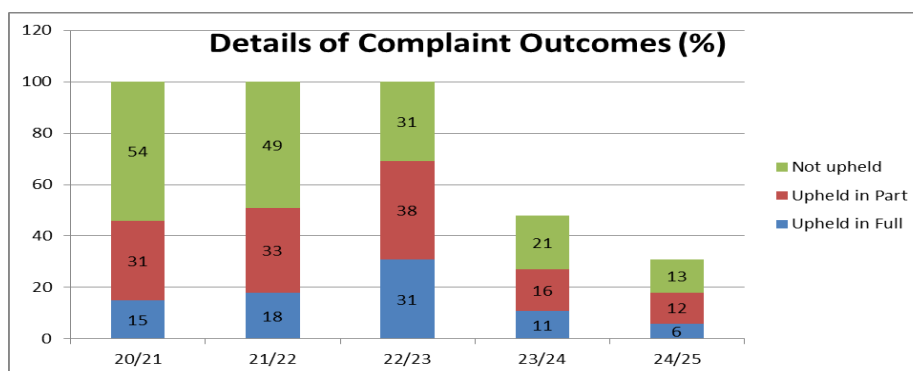
Service Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	% Change
Services to Children	60	50	57	14	12	14% decrease
Services to Adults	36	45	34	18	19	5% increase
Justice Services	4	5	9	16	3	81% decrease

Of the 34 complaints received, 17 (50%) were responded to within the target timescales—5 working days for Stage 1 and 20 working days for Stage 2. The remaining 17 (50%) exceeded these timescales, with delays affecting 13 Stage 1 and 4 Stage 2 complaints, primarily due to the complexity of the cases involved.

In terms of outcomes:

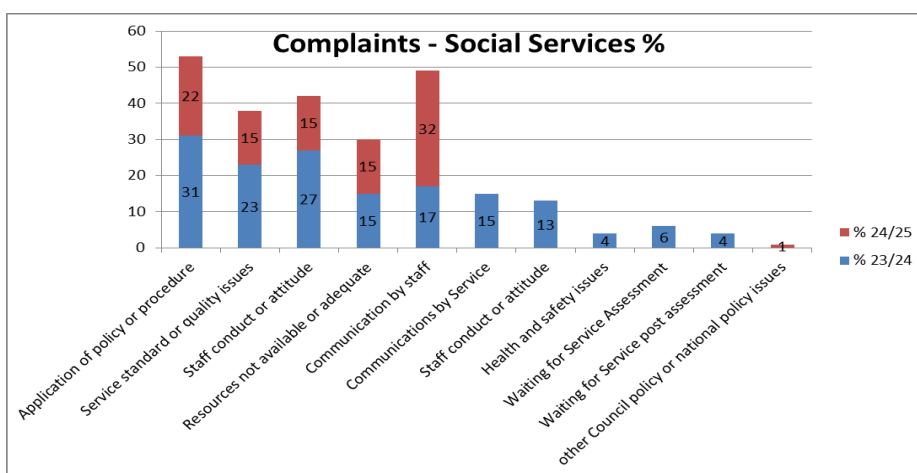
- 13 complaints were not upheld,
- 12 were partially upheld, and
- 6 were fully upheld.

This demonstrates a commitment to timely responses and transparent resolution, while also highlighting the ongoing challenge of managing complex cases within set timescales.



The reasons for complaints received across all social service areas are outlined in the table below.

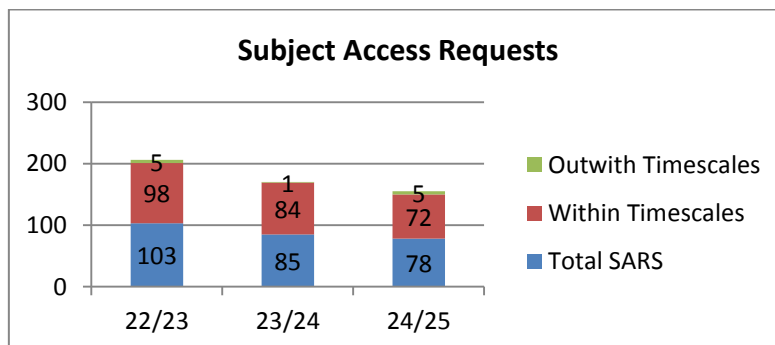
Complaints	% 23/24	% 24/25
Application of policy or procedure	31	22
Service standard or quality issues	23	15
Staff conduct or attitude	27	15
Resources not available or adequate	15	15
Communication by staff	17	32
Communications by Service	15	
Staff conduct or attitude	13	
Health and safety issues	4	
Waiting for Service Assessment	6	
Waiting for Service post assessment	4	
Other Council policy or national policy issues		1

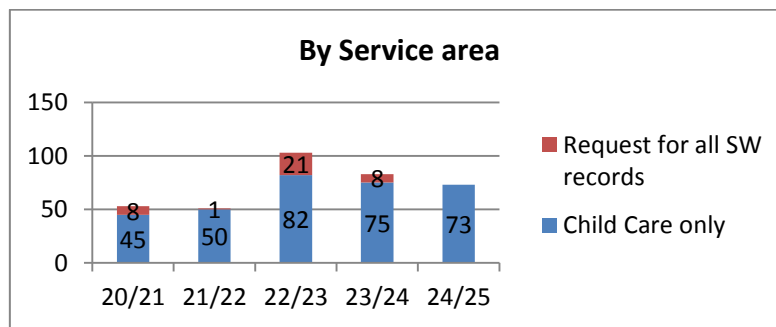


5.7 Subject Access Requests

During the 2024/25 period, Social Work Services received a total of 78 Subject Access Requests. Of these, 73 were related to Child Care and 5 to Justice Services. The majority were completed within the statutory timescales; however, 5 requests exceeded the deadline—3 from Justice Services and 2 from Child Care. These delays were primarily due to the complexity of the individual cases.

This work is carried out within existing service capacity, as no additional resources are allocated for processing Subject Access Requests.





5.8 Duty of Candour

All social work and social care services in Scotland are legally required to observe the Duty of Candour. This means that when an unintended or unexpected event results in death or significant harm—as defined by the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016—those affected must be informed, offered a sincere apology, and assured that the organisation will learn from the incident and implement improvements.

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, there were no incidents within Clackmannanshire social work services that triggered the Duty of Candour. This reflects a continued commitment to safe, accountable, and person-centred practice across social work services.

6.0 Resources

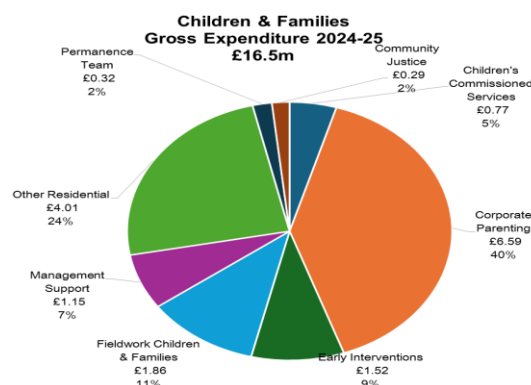
As Scotland’s smallest mainland local authority, Clackmannanshire faces unique challenges. Despite its modest population, the area experiences disproportionately high levels of poverty and complex social difficulties. This mismatch often results in significant shortfalls in budget allocations, making it harder to meet the needs of the community and address persistent inequalities.

6.1 Children’s Services

In 2024/25 the total budget allocated for Children’s and Justice Services was £18.819m.

Significant financial pressures continue to affect all areas of the service, driven by inflation, recruitment challenges, pay awards, and the rising costs of temporary and agency staff. Within Children’s Services, particular pressures relate to kinship payments, fostering, and residential care expenditure.

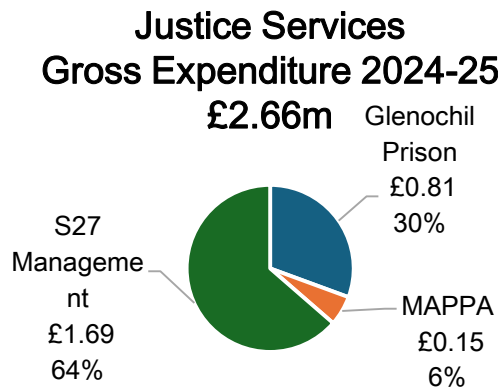
Despite these ongoing challenges, the service has made notable progress in reducing the number of external residential placements and developing more local support options. There is a sustained focus on expanding local care-based provision through Family Group Decision Making, Restorative Practices, targeted commissioning, and enhanced support for kinship and foster carers. These efforts are helping to build resilience within the community and ensure better outcomes for children and families, even in the face of financial constraints.



6.2 Justice Services

In 2024/25, total expenditure on Justice Services was £2.660 million. This included £0.796 million for the provision of a social work service at Glenochil Prison, which was recharged to the Scottish Prison Service. Core funding from the Scottish Government amounted to £1.672 million, leaving a shortfall of £192,000 against core expenditure of £1.864 million.

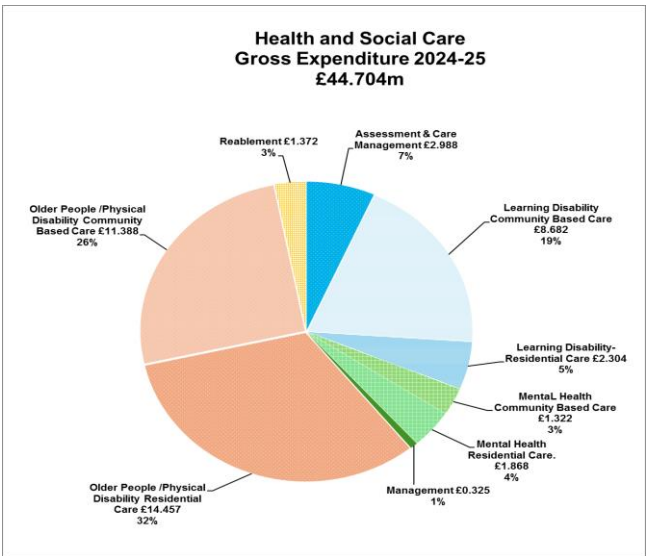
Justice Services continue to face significant financial challenges, with no funding uplift for the third consecutive year. These pressures are compounded by inflation, pay awards, and rising demand—particularly due to national policy shifts promoting community-based disposals. As a result, the Justice team is under increasing strain to meet its statutory responsibilities within a constrained financial environment.



6.3 Health and Social Care Partnership Services

In line with the Integration Scheme, Clackmannanshire Council allocated £28.853 million to the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integration Joint Board (IJB), which in turn directed the same amount back to the Council to support Adult Social Care services. Combined with income from service users and other sources, this funding supported gross expenditure of £44.704 million on Adult Social Care in 2024/25.

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025, the IJB reported an overspend of £2.425 million on the Integrated Budget. Addressing this deficit will require a combination of reserve utilisation by the IJB and supplementary funding contributions from each of the three partner organisations. At the time of reporting, a dispute resolution process was underway to determine the final allocation of these additional payments. This situation underscores the ongoing financial pressures within Adult Social Care and reinforces the importance of collaborative approaches to ensure the sustainability of service delivery.



7.0 Workforce

Clackmannanshire Council continues to manage and develop its workforce amid ongoing operational and financial pressures, which present significant challenges to service delivery. National benchmarking from the Scotland's Local Government Workforce Report 2024 highlights widespread recruitment and retention issues across social work and social care—challenges Clackmannanshire shares. To address this, the Council is progressing workforce planning efforts, including the introduction of new planning dashboards across all directorates. These developments mark a positive step toward building a more resilient and future-ready workforce.

7.1 Workforce Planning

In addition to recruitment and retention challenges, supporting and developing the existing workforce remains a key priority—especially in the current climate of operational and financial pressure. The Council has introduced a range of corporate supports for staff and managers, including:

- A revised leadership development programme (market testing underway)
- A full calendar of Senior and Team Leadership Forums
- A focus on the CIPFA Local Code of Governance to drive upskilling, collaboration, and cross-service networking

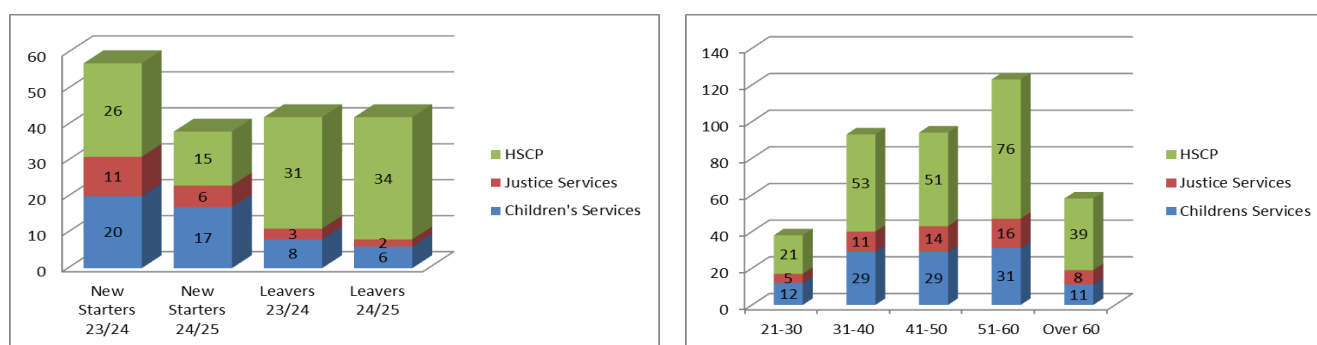
These initiatives reflect a shift toward more innovative, partnership-based workforce planning—essential for delivering sustainable services in the years ahead.

7.2 Workforce Capacity

National shortages of qualified social workers, as evidenced by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) annual census, continue to impact recruitment and retention across local authorities. In Clackmannanshire, all social work teams face persistent recruitment challenges, with the highest vacancy rates in adults' and children's services. While agency staff have been used to fill gaps, this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

Currently, 60% of qualified social workers in children's services are newly qualified, while the adult services workforce is predominantly older, with a significant proportion aged 51 and above.

Workforce Data 2024/25



7.3 Staff Recruitment and Retention

Newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) in Clackmannanshire receive a comprehensive induction from their supervisors, aligned with the Scottish Social Services Council's (SSSC) supported first year and mandatory learning requirements. Within Children's Services, three NQSWs have recently completed this programme and submitted their Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) portfolios to the SSSC. Notably, one portfolio received exemplary feedback and will be used as a model for other local authorities. Staff report that this structured support has enhanced their confidence and competence in their early careers. Additionally,

clear career pathways have enabled progression to Senior Practitioner and Team Leader roles through service redesign.

Recruitment and retention remain significant challenges within the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), particularly at senior levels. Several leadership roles are currently filled on an interim basis, affecting stability, continuity in decision-making and long-term strategic planning. This reliance on temporary appointments limits the Partnership's capacity for sustained improvement and places additional strain on staff adapting to evolving leadership dynamics.

These issues reflect broader workforce pressures across the HSCP, where competition for skilled professionals is intense and demand for experienced leaders exceeds supply. In response, the Partnership's three employing organisations are working collaboratively to streamline recruitment processes while respecting individual organisational policies. This coordinated approach aims to reduce duplication, accelerate hiring timelines, and offer greater clarity to candidates. Strengthening cross-organisational alignment is key to enhancing recruitment efficiency and improving the Partnership's ability to attract and retain talent. Continued collaboration will be essential to building a resilient and sustainable workforce.

The challenges posed by an ageing workforce, particularly in care roles, persist. To complement our delivery and support of Foundation Apprenticeships and SCQF qualifications, we have introduced Modern Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care. We continue to collaborate with schools and higher education institutions, including Forth Valley College and the University of Stirling, to engage and support young people in pursuing careers in health and social care from an early stage.

Accredited Learning and Student Placements

During 2024/2025, Clackmannanshire Social Services supported the following accredited learning achievements:

SVQ Qualifications:

- 2 staff completed SVQ Level 2 (SCQF Level 6)
- 1 staff member completed SVQ Level 3 (SCQF Level 7)

Postgraduate Study:

- 1 staff member in Adult Services completed the Mental Health Officer (MHO) Award
- 3 staff in Children's Services completed qualifications in Leadership and Management, Practice Education, and Child Welfare and Protection

Student Placements (2024/2025)

- 7 student placements were provided:
- 4 students from the University of Stirling
- 3 internally employed staff completing their Social Work degrees via the Open University

Placement distribution included:

- 5 students in Children's Services
- 1 in Adult Services
- 1 in PBSW team, Glenochil Prison

Open University placements began in January 2025 and will conclude in July, with one staff member expected to qualify by October 2025.

7.4 Training and Development

7.4.1 Public Protection Training and Development

Throughout the year, we delivered a range of single and multi-agency training focused on child protection, adult support and protection, and violence against women and girls.

Core Training Initiatives:

- The *Public Protection Is Everyone's Responsibility* e-module remained mandatory for all Council staff, covering key areas including child and adult protection, VAWG, substance use, and offender management.
- Trauma-Informed and Trauma-Skilled training continued to be promoted via NHS Turas.
- Additional multi-agency training titled *When Services Fail to Engage* was made available.

Child Protection Training:

- Monthly *Child Protection for the General Workforce* sessions were delivered via MS Teams and offered as an e-module on the Council's platform.
- On behalf of Forth Valley, we facilitated *Initial Referral Discussion (IRD)* training and core thematic sessions three times annually, covering:
 - *Neglect (Neglect Toolkit)*
 - *Parental Substance Use (IPSU Framework)*
 - *Domestic Abuse (Safe & Together)*
 - *Risk Identification and Outcomes (National Risk Framework & Practice Model)*
 - *Vulnerable Baby Training*

These priorities align with the 2024–2027 Multi-Agency Public Protection Learning and Practice Development Workforce Strategy.

Specialist E-Learning Modules:

We continued to promote modules on:

- *Child Sexual Exploitation*
- *Criminal Exploitation Across the Lifespan*
- *Professional Curiosity and Challenge in Child Protection*

Multi-Agency Adult Support & Protection (ASP) Training

Training priorities identified by the Clackmannanshire and Stirling ASP Committee continue to focus on monthly *ASP for the General Workforce* sessions via MS Teams, also available as e-modules on the Council and NHS Forth Valley platforms.

On behalf of Forth Valley, we deliver quarterly *ASP Key Processes, Roles and Responsibilities* training, featuring inputs from Health, Police, Fire & Rescue, Trading Standards, and the ASP Lead Officer. Additional specialist training includes:

- *Carer Stress*
- *ASP Court Skills* (in partnership with COPFS)
- *Protection Orders*
- *51 Shades of Capacity*
- *Council Officer Refresher Training*
- *Council Officer and 3 Acts Training* (facilitated by Falkirk Council)

E-Learning Modules

We continue to promote key modules via our eLearning platform:

- *Making Protection Personal*
- *Person-Centred Recording*
- *Introduction to AWI*
- *Financial Harm Awareness*
- *Power of Attorney*
- *Defensible Decision-Making*

- *Professional Curiosity in ASP*
- *Criminal Exploitation Across the Lifespan*

IRISS Modules

Promoted through our multi-agency training calendar:

- *Working Together in ASP*
- *ASP Case Conferences*
- *Large-Scale Investigations*
- *Analysis in Social Care*

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Training

Multi-agency VAWG training priorities, as identified by the Child Protection Committee, Adult Support & Protection Committee and Clackmannanshire VAWG Partnership, have focused on:

- *Coercive Control & Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2019*
- *MARAC*
- *Under Pressure*
- *Safe & Together briefings and 4-day Core Practice Training*
- *Responding to Disclosures of Rape & Sexual Assault*

We continue to promote the *Gender-Based Violence* e-module to Clackmannanshire practitioners via our eLearning platform. To support consistent delivery of public protection training in 2024/25, a multi-agency training calendar has been developed and is disseminated by the Clackmannanshire Learning & Practice Development Sub-group. A companion learning outcomes booklet outlines target audiences and objectives for each training session.

Single Agency training priorities

Children and Families practitioners participated in:

- *Child's Adoption and Permanence Report (CAPR) Training* (April 2024)
- *Safe and Meaningful Contact Training* (September 2024)

Additionally, four *Viewpoint* refresher sessions were delivered throughout 2024/25, supporting continued use of the online tool for capturing children and young people's views.

Challenges: Operational pressures have limited practitioners' ability to attend multi-agency public protection training.

Achievements: Despite these constraints, we maintained a high volume and frequency of multi-agency public protection training. We also successfully embedded the revised *National Child Protection Learning and Development Framework 2024* into our Multi-Agency Public Protection Learning and Practice Development Workforce Strategy (2024–2027).

7.5 Staff Wellbeing

Our employees are recognised as our most valuable asset, and their health and wellbeing are a top priority. The Council's Wellbeing Strategy provides comprehensive support to all our staff, including:

Clacks Academy (e-learning wellbeing resources)	Wellbeing Champions
Healthy eating guidance	Feeling Good Positive Mindset App
Cancer at Work Toolkits	Healthy Working Lives (HWL) Group
Occupational health services and PAM Assist	Mediation Service
Stress management classes	Flu vaccination programme
Online resources: Burnout Hub, SHOUT, Money Helper, Mental Health Check-Ins	Keep Well Health Assessment

8.0 Conclusion and Looking Ahead 2025-2026

Clackmannanshire's social work and social care services continue to operate in a rapidly evolving landscape shaped by rising demand, legislative change, financial constraints and workforce pressures. Over the past year, we have responded with determination—driving forward transformation, strengthening partnerships, and prioritising the wellbeing of our communities.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering high-quality, responsive social work and social care services—shaped by the voices of Clackmannanshire's people and communities, and designed to meet their evolving needs with compassion, integrity, and purpose.

In the year ahead, we will:

- Drive social work and social care service transformation through a new Target Operating Model, supported by a major investment in a modern Social Work IT system.
- Embed rights-based practice, advancing the UNCRC (Scotland) Act 2024 and delivering on our commitment to *The Promise* to drive meaningful change.
- Strengthen preventative support, expanding family-based care, supported housing and advance our redesign of youth justice services.
- Strengthen our multi-disciplinary, co-located justice hub that integrates recovery support and promotes early intervention.
- Improve adult services, with enhanced care models and streamlined referral pathways.
- Embed the successful hoarding and self-neglect initiative to scale person-centred support, build trust, and enable lasting recovery.
- Invest in our workforce, recognising that a skilled, supported team is essential to sustaining quality care.

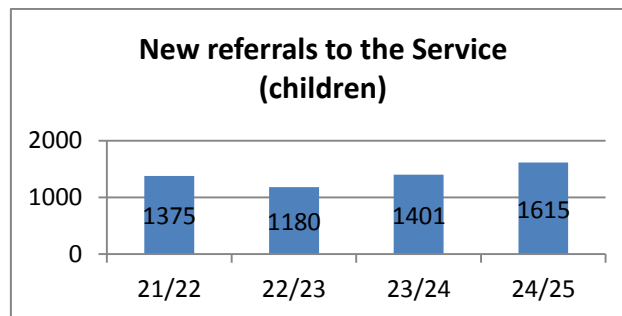
Delivering change, protecting communities, and investing in people remain our priorities and continue to guide everything we do. These commitments are at the heart of our shared vision in [Clackmannanshire's Wellbeing Economy LOIP 2024–2034](#): working together to reduce inequality, tackle the root causes and impacts of poverty and health disparities, and empower people of all ages to lead healthy, fulfilling, and thriving lives.

Sharon Robertson
Chief Social Work Officer

Appendix 1: Children's Services performance data 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

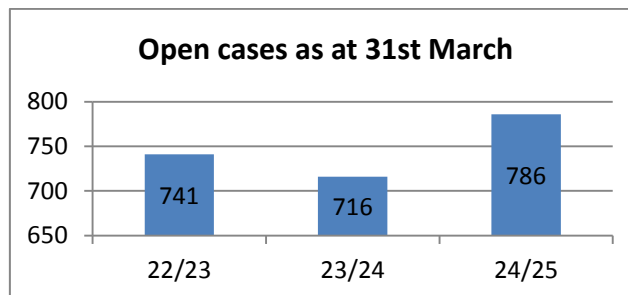
New Referrals/Requests for Assistance

There were **1615** requests for assistance in 24/25. This was a **13% increase** from 23/24 where there were **1401** requests for assistance (new referrals) in 2023/24. This was a **16%** increase from 2022/2023 where there were **1180** new requests for assistance.



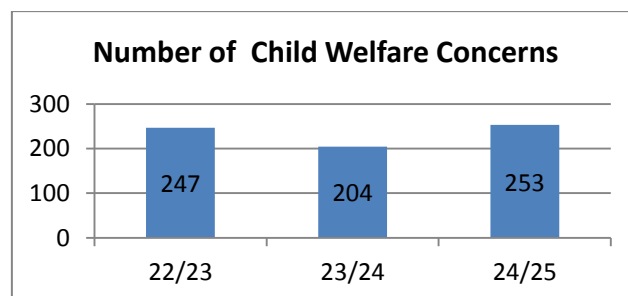
Children open to Children's Social Work Services

There were **786** open cases as at 31st March 2025. This was a **9% increase** from last year where there were **716** open cases as at 31st March 2024. This was a slight reduction to 22/23 where there were 741 open cases as at 31st March 2023 (3% reduction). There continues to be regular scrutiny of caseloads with no unallocated cases as at 31st March 2025.



Child Welfare Concerns

There were **253** child welfare concern referrals in 2024/25. This is an **increase** of **19%** from 23/24 where there were **204** child welfare concerns. This was a **17%** reduction from 2022/23 where there were **247**.

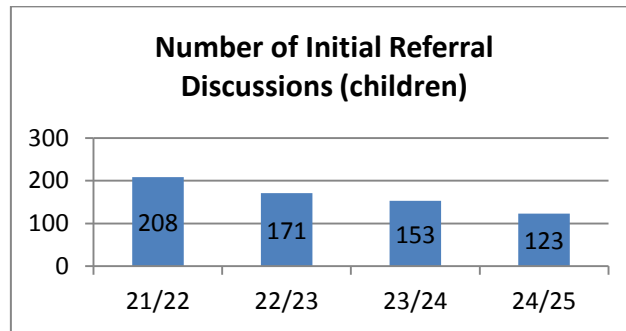


Number of child protection concerns

In 24/25 there were **120** child protection concern reports (number of children). This is a rate of 13.7 per 1000 0-15 year olds. This is an **8% increase** from 23/24 where there were **110** child protection concern reports which was a 23% reduction from 143 in 2022/23. This is a rate of 12.6 per 1000 0-15 years population which is a reduction from last year where the rate was 16.1 in 2022/23.

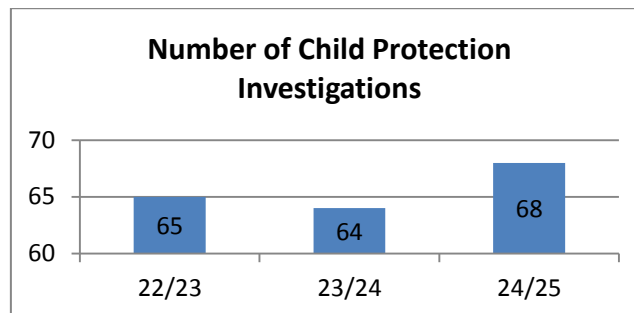
Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs)

There were **123** Initial Referral Discussions in 24/25 (rate of 14.1 per 1000 0-15). This is a **20% decrease** from 23/24 where there were **153** initial referral discussions. (rate of 17.6 per 1000 0-15 years) a decrease from 22/23 where it was 19.2 per 1000. There were 171 initial referral discussions in 2022/23 (rate of 19.2 per 1,000 0-15 years). This is a decrease of 18% from 21/22 where there were 208.



Child Protection Investigations (this count is investigations and not children)

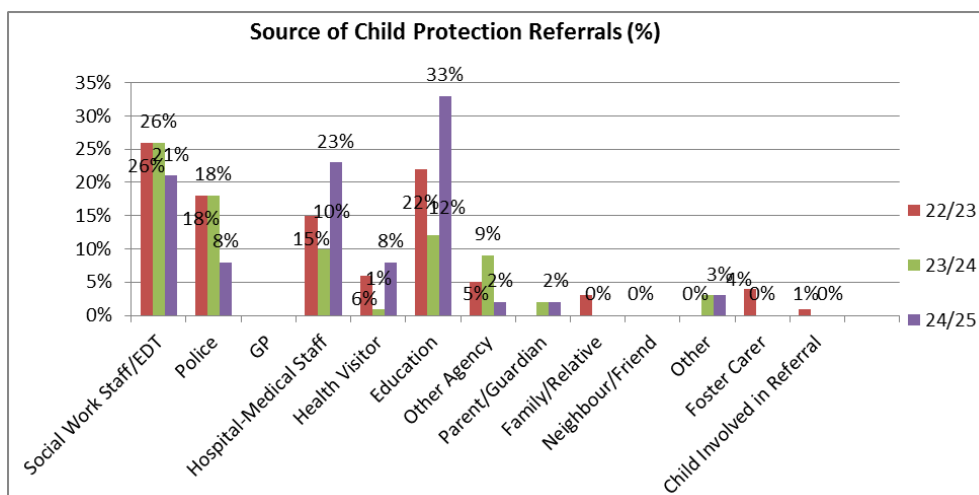
There were **68 child protection investigations** in 24/25 which is a **5%** increase from 23/24 where there were **64** child protection investigations. This is a decrease of one from 22/23 where there were 65. (28% decrease from 21/22 where there were 90).



24/25 The highest number of child protection concerns were from Education (33%) followed by Hospital Medical staff (23%) then Social Work/EDT (21%). Referrals from Police had been previously 18% for 23/24 and 22/23 whereas for 24/25 it was 8%.

23/24 Social Work/EDT (26%), followed by Police (18%) then Education (12%)

22/23 The highest number of child protection concerns were from EDT (26%), followed by Education (22%) then Police (18%). In 2021/22 Education (28%) were the highest referrers for child protection followed by EDT (23%) then Hospital/medical staff (20%).



Child Protection Investigations to Initial Child Protection Planning Meeting to Registration (April to March)

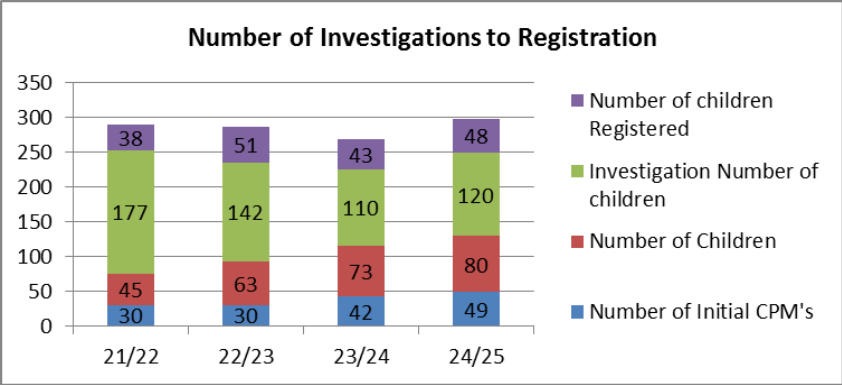
In 24/25 there were **49 ICPPM** relating to **80** children. This was **increase** from 23/24 where there were 42 Initial CPPM's (relating to 73 children). This is an increase from 22/23 where there were 30 Initial CPPM's (relating to 63 children).

In 24/25 there were **120 children subject to a child protection investigation**. 67% of children were subject to an Initial CPPM (80) and of those 60% were registered (48).

In 23/24 there were 110 children subject to a child protection investigation. 66% of children (73) were subject to an Initial CPPM and of those 59% were registered (43 children).

In 22/23 there were 142 children subject to a child protection investigation. The same year there were 30 Initial CPPM's (relating to 63 children). 44% of children subject to an investigation went to an Initial CPPM and of those 81% were registered (51 children).

In 21/22 there were 177 children subject to a child protection investigation. The same year there were 30 Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (relating to 45 children). 25% of children subject to an investigation went to an Initial Child Protection Case Conference and of those 84% were registered (38 children).



Child Protection Registrations (CPR)

The number of children and young persons on the Child Protection Register as at 31st March 2025 was **19 (rate of 2.18 per 1000 -15 years)**. Compared to the Scottish **rate of 2.38** per 1,000 of the 0-15 population **(source: annual Scottish Government return published 31st July 2024)**.

The number of children and young persons on the Child Protection Register as at 31 March 2024 was 22 (rate of 2.52 per 1000 of the 0-15 population in Clackmannanshire). This is a reduction from 22/23 where there were 30 on the register (3.37 per 1,000 of the 0-15 population).

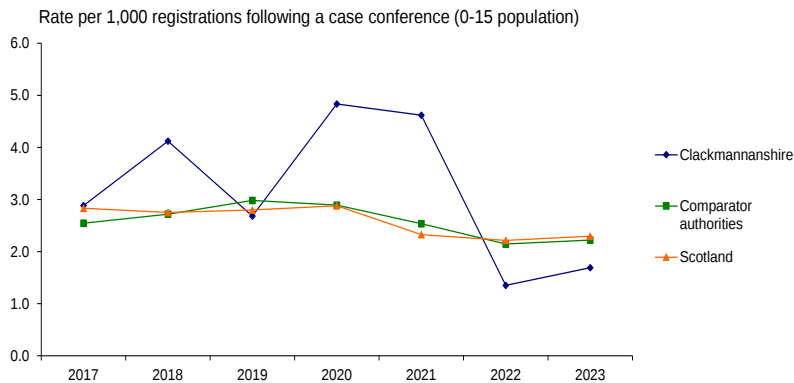
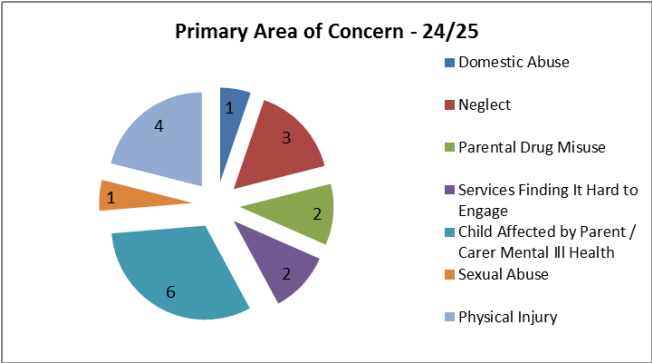
Outlined in the table below are the number of children on the register and the number of sibling groups that are registered.

As at	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON REGISTER	TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES	NUMBER OF SIBLING GROUPS	Number that are unborn babies/babies
March 2023	30	13	7	8
March 2024	22	13	5	8
March 2025	19	12	4	7

In 24/25 63% of the children on the CP Register as at 31st March were part of a sibling group. In 23/24 64% of the children registered were part of a sibling group. Previous years in 2023 80% were part of a sibling group, 2022 79% of the children registered were part of a sibling group and in 2021 77% were part of a sibling group. The percentage of sibling groups registered has remained fairly static over these years compared to the number of children registered, which further demonstrates the size of the sibling groups registered.

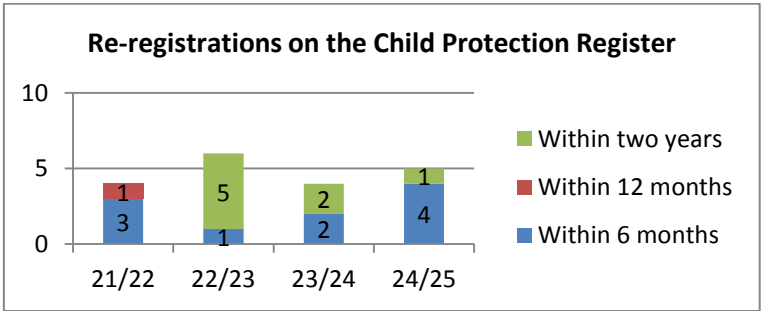
Child Affected by Parent Carer Mental Ill Health and then **Physical Injury** were the highest registered concerns for children on the register as at 31st March 2025. Domestic abuse and neglect were the highest

registered concerns for children on the register as at 31st March 2024 (this was the same for previous years 2021 2022 and 2023). In 2022/23 it was Neglect and then Domestic abuse.

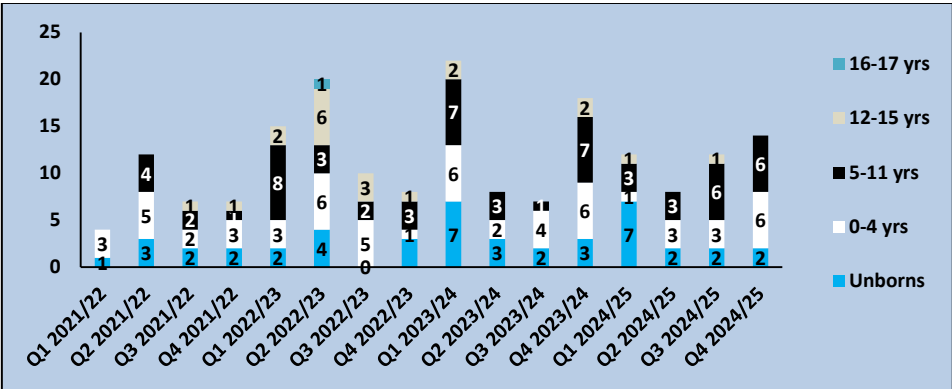


Source: The chart above is taken from the Scottish Government website and is a snapshot of children on the register as at 31st July. This is the same one as last year so no updated published data for this.

During 24/25 there were 4 children re-registered within 6 months and 1 child within 2 years. During 23/24 there were 2 children re-registered within 6 months and 2 children within 2 years. The previous year in 22/23 there was 1 child re-registered within 6 months and 5 children within 2 years. In 21/22 3 children were re-registered within 6 months and 1 within 12 months.



Age of Children at the point of Registration



The last 12 months on the chart (academic quarters August 24 – July 25) present **46** new registrations, 28% were unborn babies, 28% were 0-4 years, 39% were 5-11 years and 4% were 12-15 years.

The previous year 23/24 present a total of 55 new registrations, 33% are aged 0-4 and aged 5-11 years, 27% are unborn babies and 7% are 12 – 15 years. The previous year 22/23 there were 52 new registrations, 33% aged 0-4, 27% aged 5-11 years with 12 – 15 years accounting for 23% and unborn babies 15% of new registrations. The previous year there were 35 new registrations, 40% unborn babies, 31% 0-4 years and 26% 5-11 years and 2.85% age 12-15 years. *(Source: CPC Minimum Dataset academic quarters)*

Children Looked After

The total number of care experienced children and young people as of 31st July 2025 is **222*** a 5% increase from 31st July 2024 which was 210. (210 was a 6% reduction from July 23 where there were 225). **(*These figures have not been submitted to SG yet so could be subject to change).**

This is a **rate of 22.4** per 1000 of the 0-17 population. Scotland rate per 1000 is 11.7 taken from the SG website as at July 2024. *(Source: CLAS database and SG data from 2024).*

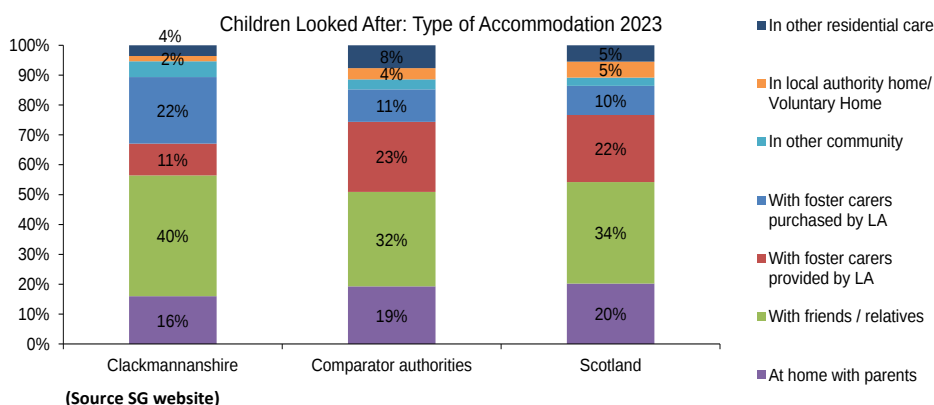
Of those care experienced children and young people “starting to be looked after” during 1st August and 31st July 2024, 22% were under 5 years of age, which is a slight increase from 23/24 where 19% were under 5 years of age. This was an increase of 3% from 21/22. *(Source: SG submission)*

The largest proportion of care experienced children and young people in 2024 continue to be looked after by **friends/relatives 39%**, 22/23 it was 40% (43% 2021/22), this is **higher** than the Scotland percentage of 35%. *(Source: SG website)*

In 2025 (data not yet published) **38%** are looked after by friends/relatives a slight decrease from 2024. *(Source: CLAS database)*

Clackmannanshire has a much higher use of external foster care provision for care experienced children and young people at 20% for 2024 a decrease from 2023 where it was 22% (21/22 24%) compared to the Scottish average of 10%. *(Source: SG website)*

In 2025 (data not yet published) the figure is higher at 22%. *(Source: CLAS database)*



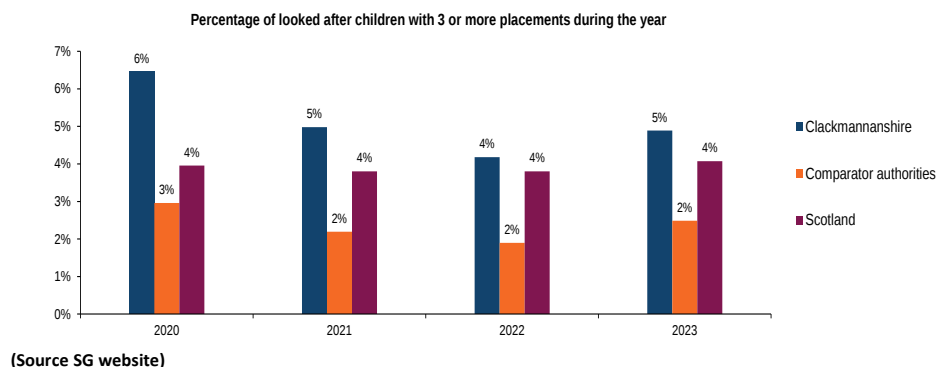
As at 31st March 2025 there were 217 looked after children. Children being accommodated with family/friends continued to be the highest with 77 (35%) of looked after children being in Kinship care.

Fostering and Adoption Services

As at 31st March 2025 there were **23** children placed in locally provided foster placements. A **4% decrease** from 31st March 2024 where there were 24. This was an 8% decrease from 2023 where there were 26 children in locally provided foster placements.

Kinship

As at 31 March 2025, 169 children were in Kinship placements (82 of which were residence orders) 77 were identified as looked after and accommodated through compulsory or voluntary measures. This was a 6% decrease from 185 children (75 of which were residence orders).



This calculation is based on any children with a new placement in that reporting period only.

For 2022-2023 4 children had 3 or more placements (total of 87 children who had a placement start date in the same period) = **5%**

For 2023-2024 5 children had 3 or more placements (total of 95 children who had a placement start date in the same period) = **5%**

For 2024-2025 3 children had 3 or more placements (total of 68 children who had a placement start date in the same period) = **4%**

(The number for 2021-2022 is 4 children from 82 that had a placement start date)= **4%**

Outwith Authority Placements

There were **73** looked after children outside of the Clackmannanshire area as at March 25 which is an **8% reduction** from 2024. There were 79 children as at 31st March 2024 which was a decrease of 10% from March 2023 where there were 88.

Aftercare

As at April 2025 there were **22** young people receiving **compulsory aftercare support** in Clackmannanshire which is a decrease of 8% from 2024 (24) (12.6 per 1000 population of 16-18 year olds)

As at April 2025 there were **20** young people receiving **discretionary aftercare support**. This is a 26% decrease from 2024 where there were 27 (5.67 per 1000 population 19-25 year olds).

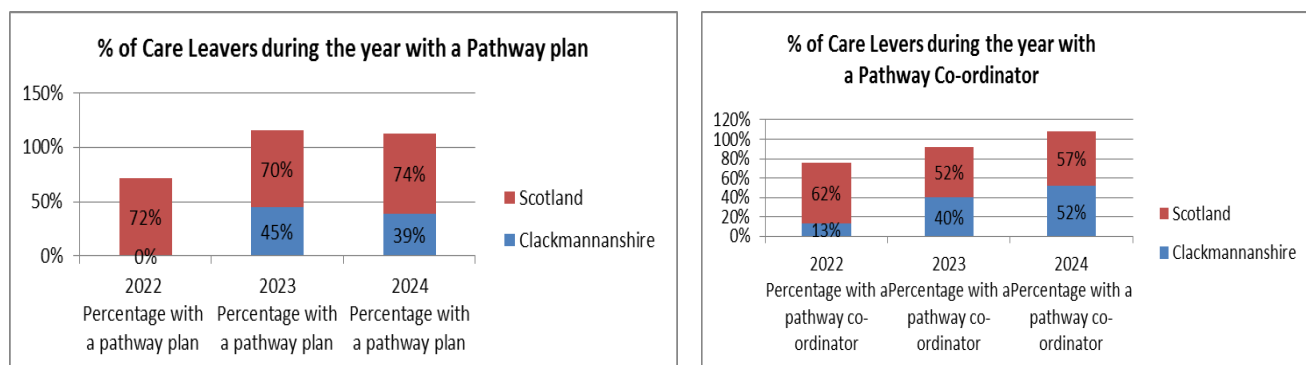
Therefore within Clackmannanshire there are a total of **42** young people receiving **aftercare services as at 31st March 2025** which is a rate of 7.98 per 1000 of 16-25 year olds.

Compared to Scotland where 4,454 were receiving aftercare services on 31 July 2024 – up 7% on 31 July 2023 (4,151). This is a rate of 5.77 per 1000 of 16-25 year olds. (Source – SG Annual Return July 2024)

Pathway Reviews - From 1st April – 31st March 2025 64 Pathways Reviews scheduled for Young People. **58%** (37) took place. This was a **13% reduction** from last year where there were 68 Pathway reviews scheduled for Young People. 71% of those reviews took place.

Care leavers (over the age of 16 years) during the year with a Pathway Plan and Pathway Co-ordinator

(Source SG website)



Continuing Care

There were **7** young people in continuing care placements as at 31st July 2025. This was a 14% increase from last year.

There were 3 young people in continuing care placements as at July 2023 a reduction by one from 2022 where there were 4. As at 31st July 2024 there were 6 young people in continuing care placements, an increase of 50%.

SCRA

In 2024/25, **123** children were referred to the Children's Reporter, 2% more than the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals came from Social Work (48%) and then 33% from Police. The highest referral was in relation to lack of parental care (48%) followed by committed an offence (23%).

In 2023/24, 121 children were referred to the Children's reporter, 2% more than the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals again came from Police (61%). The highest referral was in relation to lack of parental care (44%) followed by committed an offence (26%).

In 2022/23, 118 children were referred to the Children's reporter, 27% less than the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals came from Police (65%). The highest referral was in relation to parental care/neglect which accounts for 25% of the referrals followed by committed an offence (20%) and experienced domestic abuse (10%). This mirrors the National picture for Scotland where 80% of referrals were received from Police and the highest referrals were in relation to parental care/neglect (30%), committed an offence (24%) and then experienced domestic abuse (19%).

Across Scotland the highest number of referrals was from Police - 76.1% and the highest referral was in relation to lack of parental care (29%) and then committed an offence (25%). Nationally, the number of children referred decreased by 4% compared to 2023/24.

The number of children referred to the Reporter has decreased for the second year. This is only the second year where the number of children referred to the Reporter has been below 10,000. The other year was 2020/21 which was heavily influenced by the pandemic. (Source: SCRA website)

Appendix 2: Adult Support and Protection performance data 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Total number of referrals between **1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025** was **849** compared to **687** in 2023-24 which represents a **23.5%** increase in comparative years.

Source of referrals	Number of referrals 2022/23	Number of referrals 2023/24	Number of referrals 2024/25
NHS	65	141	170
GPs	8	17	18
Scottish Ambulance Service	17	12	28
Police	52	55	70
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	11	20	17
Office of Public Guardian	1	0	2
Mental Welfare Commission	0	0	0
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	0	0	0
Care Inspectorate	13	1	4
Other organisation	471	339	400
Social Work	27	30	35
Council	61	29	20
Self (Adult at risk of harm)	0	9	5
Family/Friend/Neighbour	17	2	27
Unpaid carer	0	2	0
Other member of public	1	1	0
Anonymous	4	0	0
Others	20	29	53
Total	768	687	849

Total number of investigations commenced under the ASP Act between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 was **18**.

Number of investigations commenced for the following age and gender.									
Age Group	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Number of investigations by age and gender					
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
16-18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
19-24	2	3	2	0	2	3	0	1	1
25-39	4	4	3	1	3	2	2	1	2
40-64	11	6	3	4	7	3	3	1	2
65-69	0	4	2	0	0	3	1	1	1
70-74	5	1	3	2	3	0	1	2	1
75-79	4	2	1	3	1	2	0	0	1
80-84	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0
85+	5	8	2	2	3	6	2	1	1
Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	34	30	18	14	20	20	10	9	9

Number of investigations commenced for clients in the following primary main client group			
Client groups	Number of investigations by client groups 2022/23	Number of investigations by client groups 2023/24	Number of investigations by client groups 2024/25
Dementia	5	3	2
Mental health problem	2	5	2
Learning disability	5	6	2
Physical disability	15	12	9
Infirmary due to Age	3	1	0
Substance misuse	3	2	0
Other	1	1	3
Total	34	30	18

Type of principal harm which resulted in an investigation (as defined under the ASP Act)			
Type of principal harm which resulted in an investigation	Number of investigations 2022/23	Number of investigations 2023/24	Number of investigations 2024/25
Financial Harm	7	9	4
Psychological harm	7	1	7
Physical harm	9	11	0
Sexual harm	2	0	1
Neglect	9	3	5
Self-harm	0	5	1
Other	0	1	0
Total	34	30	18

Location the principal harm take place which resulted in an investigation (as defined under the ASP Act)			
Location of principal harm which resulted in an investigation	Number of investigations under the ASP Act 2022/23	Number of investigations under the ASP Act 2023/24	Number of investigations under the ASP Act 2024/25
Own home	19	18	11
Other private address	1	0	0
Care home	6	3	1
Sheltered housing or other supported accommodation	0	1	0
Independent Hospital	0	0	0
NHS	3	2	2
Day centre	0	0	1
Public place	0	0	0
Online	0	1	0
Other	0	1	3
Not known	5	4	0
Total	34	30	18

Number of cases were subject to an ASP Case Conference			
Type of ASP Case Conferences	Number of ASP Case Conferences 2022/23	Number of ASP Case Conferences 2023/24	Number of ASP Case Conferences 2024/25
Initial ASP case conference	11	26	21
Review ASP case conference	9	34	41
ASP case conference	0	0	0
Total	20	60	62