Aberdeenshire

Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026

getting it right for every child in Aberdeenshire

Annual Report Year 1 2023-26

aberdeenshire voluntary action

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership

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Our Children and Young People's Services Plan

Welcome to our first annual report for our Children and Young People's Services Plan focussing on progress made during 2023-24.

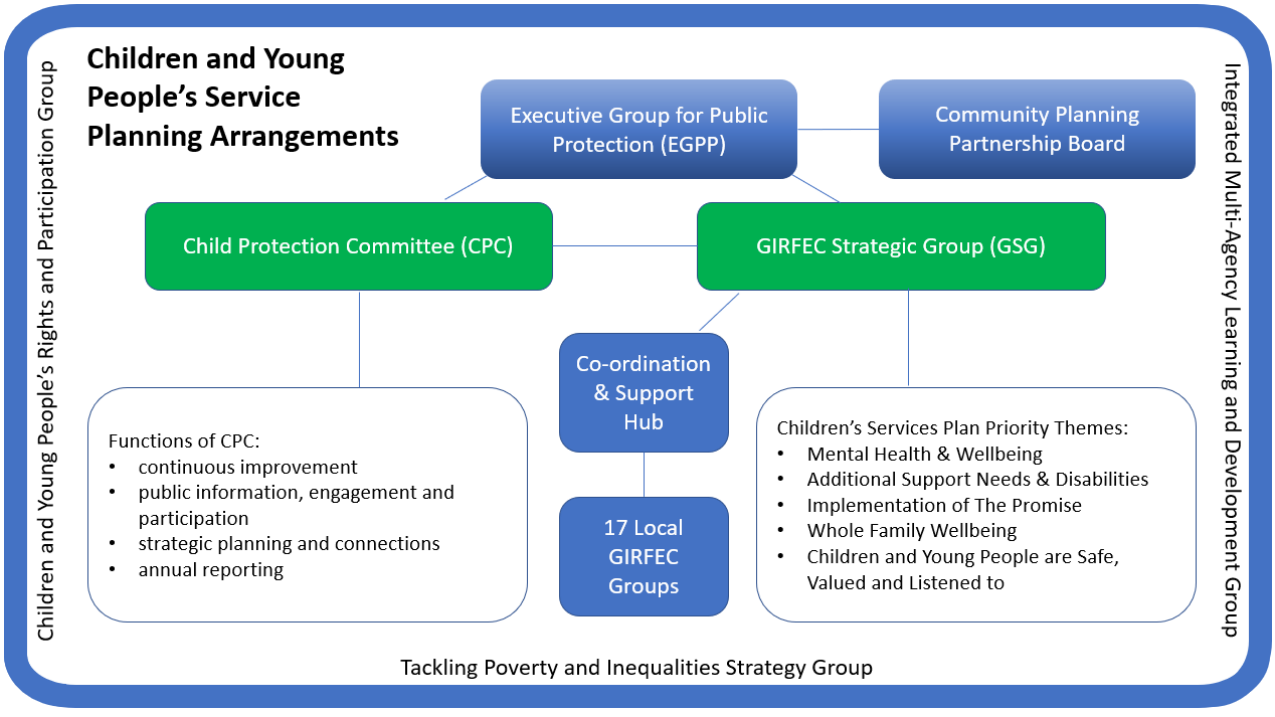
In Aberdeenshire our ambition for and commitment to our children, young people and families is to:

"provide them with the right support, in the right place at the right time. In helping them reach individual potential and goals, we will work together to make Aberdeenshire the best place in Scotland to grow up."

This vision reflects a shared commitment to Getting it Right for Every Child at the highest level across the Community Planning Partnership. Our determined approach to children and young people's services planning, supports continued provision of high quality, inclusive services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage.

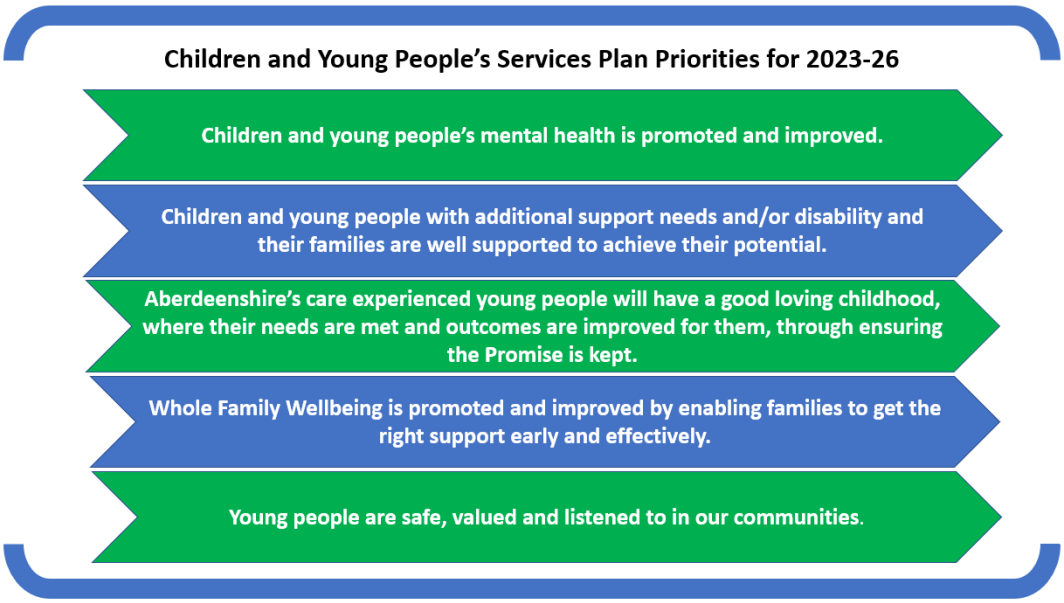
Our Local Children and Young People's Services Planning arrangements act to provide robust mechanisms of governance, quality assurance and scrutiny, with services delivered by a dedicated and motivated workforce. United in pursuit of our common goal.

"To improve wellbeing and get it right for every child and young person in Aberdeenshire."



Strategic Priorities

In order to collectively develop and progress the priorities of our Children and Young People's Services Plan each priority has its own multi agency GIRFEC Thematic Group. Through these Thematic Groups, a wide range of partners regularly come together to focus on their priority, developing and implementing a work plan based on the aims of their Action Plan (p.49-58 of the CYP Services Plan 2023-26)



Each Thematic Group is unique in operation and membership is appropriate and relevant to the priority they focus on. There is a core membership within each group which includes all GIRFEC partner organisations and services.

Thematic Groups create sub groups to give greater focus on particular elements of their priorities and accelerate progress. Sub groups often involve a wider membership of staff teams, enhancing awareness of the work of the group and enabling practitioners to better inform direction of travel in relation to the issues they face within their area of work.

All Thematic Groups meet regularly and there are significant outputs and outcomes from their work. This is detailed in each of the Thematic Group Annual Reports linked below:

Mental health annual report

Additional support needs and disabilities annual report

Corporate parenting annual report

Whole family wellbeing annual report

Youth services annual report

Children and Young People's Services Planning Arrangements

These groups operate similarly to that of the Thematic Groups and have core membership of GIRFEC partner organisations and services. The work of these groups over the past year are detailed in the Annual Report links below:

Children and young people's rights and participation annual report

Integrated workforce learning and development annual report

GIRFEC co-ordination and support hub annual report

Child protection committee (CPC): Both GIRFEC and child protection work together to prioritise children and young people's wellbeing, involving families, and responding effectively to risks and concerns. As such, in Aberdeenshire GIRFEC and child protection are seen as a continuum. The Child Protection Committee and its work sits within our children and young people's services planning arrangements and alongside our GIRFEC groups. The CPC have their Development Day planned for May 2024 and a report from this will be made available shortly.

Working together and planning ahead

The individual action plans within year one demonstrates our ongoing commitment in furthering the work of the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26. Through collaboration we have made significant progress in improving wellbeing outcomes for our children and young people in Aberdeenshire. As previously mentioned, this is only the first year of our Children and Young People's Services Plan and our work is still ongoing.

Within each of our individual group reports good examples of practice and achievements are given to demonstrate the impact of our work and help us to measure progress within this first year. Measures are also included, and these continue to inform and refresh our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Our Children and Young People's Services Plan Communication Strategy, created in June 2023 details how we create opportunities to promote and continue dialogue on the 2023-26 Plan with children, young people, families and workforce. This ensures their views are heard on progress and developments and allows us to make necessary adjustments as a result. This ongoing engagement with children, young people, families and workforce ensures that our priorities continue to align with their needs. Examples of this work include:

- Creation of a child and young person friendly version of the Plan. This work has been led by a group of children and young people and has included wider engagement with primary school pupil leadership groups and our Aberdeenshire Pupil Participation Forum.

- Multi-agency planning of an Aberdeenshire GIRFEC Event to be held on 1st May 2024. The aim of this event is to enhance communication through all of our children and young people's services planning groups. The event will increase awareness of developments across our workforce and increase representation from services, organisations and in particular with our localised 3rd sector groups.

Governance and leadership of our plans priorities continues within our children and young people's services planning arrangement groups. Our GIRFEC Strategic Group plays a pivotal role in ensuring positive and efficient progress across the partnership and within individual services and organisations. During specific deep dive sessions, our service and organisation leaders gain a better understanding, analyse, and support our priorities whilst engaging in horizon scanning to anticipate future challenges and opportunities. This in turn influences financial and personnel resources ensuring they are utilised to their fullest in delivering our priorities.

This coming year the GIRFEC Strategic Group will focus on children and young people's human rights by preparing for the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and will further build on our rights based approach. This involves individual service and organisation self-assessment, as well as collective action planning to enhance the integration of children and young people's human rights.

Another key focus for our children and young people's services planning groups will involve conducting self-evaluation using the "How Good is Our Third Sector in Children's Planning" framework. We acknowledge that collaborating and engaging with our 3rd Sector organisations is essential in planning, developing and delivering our priorities. This process will enable us to assess our performance in Aberdeenshire effectively and plan to address any improvements needed.

In our successful first year, we have laid a strong foundation and moving into year two, we will build upon this work to enhance wellbeing outcomes for Aberdeenshire's children and young people. We remain committed to actively listening to and acting upon the views of children, young people, families, and our workforce as we continue this journey.