

**Children and Young People Board Plan - December 2017**

The Board Plan contains the COSLA Priority:

- **Education and Children’s Services - Working with councils to put children at the centre of our approach, by delivering positive outcomes based on the principles of GIRFEC, and ensuring local accountability for all Children’s Services including Education**

<b>Priority 1: Early Learning and Childcare</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Current Update</b>	<b>Key Milestones</b>	<b>Outcome Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>Policy development to support the commitment to delivery of 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds</p> <p>Lead: Laura</p>	<p><b>Funding</b> A finance working group, co-chaired between Scottish Government and COSLA has been established to ensure local authorities have input to and clarity over the amount and purpose of funding over the development of the expansion programme On 10 October 2017, the First Minister announced a doubling of current ELC funding – an additional £420m. Further discussions with civil servants have clarified that this includes around £10m for in-house at Scottish Government. This means a commitment of £410 million for Councils for the first full year of delivery- 2021-22, and includes funding to cover the living wage commitment, but not capital funding (already stated as £400m over 2017-20). COSLA have reported to Leaders that the amounts announced are short of the requirements set out by local authorities in their expansion plans and work in ongoing with SG officials to identify the correct amount of funding for the expansion.</p> <p><b>Provider Neutral/Funding Follows the Child Model</b> COSLA officers sit on the Service Models working group which is</p>	<p><b>September 2017</b> Local authorities submit expansion plans</p> <p><b>October 2017</b> Announcement of multiyear funding Quality Action Plan produced</p> <p><b>November 2017</b> Local authorities receive feedback on expansion plans</p> <p><b>December 2017</b> Publication of</p>	<p>All 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds can access high quality funded ELC by 2020</p>	<p>Policy development ongoing. Delivery plans currently being developed by Local Authorities.</p>

	<p>developing details of this model which prioritises quality of provision, offers parents choice of settings in local authority, private or third sectors and prioritises settings that are best placed to deliver quality outcomes for children.</p> <p><b>Living Wage</b> Local authorities will continue to negotiate funding rates at local level which deliver national policy priorities including payment of the Living Wage. A subgroup of the Service Models and Finance working groups consisting of members from Scottish Government and Local Authorities is being established to develop guidance on this.</p> <p><b>Expansion Plans</b> Local authorities were required to submit expansion plans to Scottish Government by 29 September 2017. Feedback on these plans will be shortly provided to each individual Local Authority and COSLA officers took part in the review process. The plans will be used to develop a national implementation framework including financial estimates and commitments, inform future Spending Reviews and discussions on funding allocations and inform the monitoring and evaluation of the expansion.</p> <p><b>Workforce</b> The current figure quoted by Scottish Government on increase in workforce required is 20,000. A recruitment campaign begins in October targeting S3,4 and 5 pupils.</p>	<p>national learning report from ELC Expansion Plans</p> <p><b>March 2018</b> Statement of operation for the new Funding Follows the Child model National Standard for becoming a funded provider Guidance note on delivery of the Living Wage commitment for private and third sectors funded providers</p> <p><b>Between now and 2020</b> Action plans on: workforce development and expansion, inclusion, infrastructure, family engagement and nurture</p> <p><b>August 2020</b> Delivery of the</p>		
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		funded entitlement		
<b>Priority 2: Looked After Children</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Ongoing review and development of policy that ensures Local Authorities can fulfil their duties as corporate parents</p> <p>Lead: Laura</p>	<p><b>Care Review</b> Officers are engaging with the Root and Brance review of Care which is looking at the legislation, practices, culture and ethos of the care system. The review is undertaking a “Discovery Phase” and local authority colleagues are sitting on the Discovery Group guiding and supporting this phase, which will inform future stages of the review. The Chair of the Review will be presenting to the Board at the meeting on 8 December 2017.</p>	<p><b>Care review</b> April 2017–19</p>	<p>The Care Review findings will inform future policy relating to Looked After Children and Young People</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p><b>Secure Care Strategic Board</b> Established as a result of a year long programme of work b the National Secure Care Advisor based at Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice. The first meeting was in October 2017. COSLA Officers sit on this group. This group will develop a strategic approach to responses to children and young people in and on the edges of secure care in Scotland.</p>	<p><b>Secure Care Strategic Board</b> Report end 2018</p>	<p>Local Government has an informed, sustainable long term approach to children in and on the edges of secure care</p>	<p>First meeting October 2017</p>
	<p><b>Contracts</b> Scotland Excel manage the contracts for residential children services, fostering and continuing care services and secure care. Updates on these services are brought to the board as required.</p>	<p><b>Contracts</b> Residential Childrens Services 2018-22 Secure – April 2017-19 (can extend to 2020)</p>	<p>Local authorities have access to quality services for Looked After Children and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p><b>Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Care Allowances</b></p> <p>In 2015/16 kinship care allowances were brought in to line with foster care allowances, with Scottish Government and local authorities sharing the cost equally, pending a wider review. Funding was rolled forward as was delayed. A National Review of Care Allowances has now been established which will consider a national approach to care allowances for children living in foster care, kinship care and adoptive placements, within the current level of overall funding. This group met for the first time in November and COSLA officers are part of this group.</p>	<p>Fostering and continuing care service March 2017-19 (can extend to 2021)</p> <p><b>Allowances</b> Foster, Kinship and Adoptive allowances report to Scottish Ministers and COSLA leaders by Autumn 2018.</p>	<p>Young People</p> <p>Allowances for carers of Looked After Children are adequately funded</p>	<p>First meeting November 2017</p>
<b>Priority 3: Additional Support Needs</b>				
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Current Update</b>	<b>Key Milestones</b>	<b>Outcome Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>Review and development of policies and procedures that enable children and young people with additional support needs to achieve their potential in education</p> <p>Lead: Laura</p>	<p>COSLA Officers sit on the Scottish Government Advisory Group for Additional Support for Learning (AGASL) which is tasked with advising and supporting policy development and implementation in relation to Additional Support for Learning. Currently working on updated guidance on the presumption of mainstreaming, supporting the development of an experiential review in the response to the Education and Skills Committee request and contributing to the development of an outcomes framework aiming to move from input measures to outcomes.</p> <p>Officers sit on the National Commissioning Group to support the development and delivery of the Ten Year Strategy for the Learning Provision for Children and Young People with Complex Additional Support Needs 2017-2026.</p>	<p><b>Experiential review 2017/18</b></p> <p><b>Outcomes framework 2017/18</b></p> <p><b>Finalised strategy published 2018</b></p>	<p>Additional Support for Learning is sufficiently resourced and children and young people with additional support needs are able to fulfil their potential in education</p>	<p>Ongoing. AGASL meet quarterly.</p>

<b>Priority 4: Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW)</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Support the implementation of the seven year DYW Programme that is jointly led by local government and the Scottish Government  Lead: Mike	<p>The DYW National Advisory Group co-chaired by Cllr McCabe, COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson and the Deputy First Minister (DFM) met on 30 August. This group oversees the collective vision for DYW and acts to promote the programme. The next meeting of the National Advisory Group will be in February 2018.</p> <p>COSLA to contribute to the DYW Annual Report on behalf of local government prior to its publication in late December, 2017. A copy of the DYW Annual Report will be circulated to members of the Children and Young People Board.</p>	<p><b>Annual DYW Report in late December 2017</b></p> <p><b>DYW at mid point of 7 year Programme (2014-2021)</b></p>	<p>Reduction in unemployment for young people by 40% by 2021 and increase in work based learning provision.</p>	<p>40% reduction in youth unemployment already achieved.</p> <p>Expansion of work based learning e.g. foundation apprenticeships, modern apprenticeships.</p>
	<p>COSLA officer attendance along with ADES and SLAED at DYW Programme Board on 1 November, 2017. The meeting discussed the outputs from the COSLA DYW Event in June, 2017. Members of the DYW Programme Board have been specifically asked to support the recommendations that were agreed by the COSLA Children and Young People Board.</p>	<p><b>February 2018</b></p>	<p>Support DYW Programme implementation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>COSLA officer representation on DYW Mid-Point Review meeting at Glasgow College. The outputs from the meeting are available on request from the Scottish Government's DYW Programme Team. The meeting reflected on the progress and the challenges ahead for the programme.</p>	<p><b>October 2017</b></p>	<p>Facilitate better co-production between local authorities and other</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>COSLA continues lobbying activities on Apprenticeship Levy to influence the Scottish Government's allocation of funding in the next financial year. COSLA to engage with the Minister for Employability and Training on the issue by correspondence and a meeting to be confirmed in December/January.</p> <p>COSLA representation on the Scottish Apprenticeship Advisory Board (SAAB) along with SPDS and SLAED to influence the development of apprenticeship programme by Skills Development Scotland. Presentations and the report from the COSLA DYW Event in June, 2017 were circulated to members of the SAAB employer engagement group.</p>	<p><b>January – December 2017</b></p> <p><b>October, 2017</b></p>	<p>agencies.</p> <p>Secure the return of Apprenticeship Levy funding back to local authorities.</p> <p>Influence policy direction of SDS and Scottish Govt</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<b>Priority 5: Child Poverty</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Lead: Mike</p>	<p>COSLA lobbied on the Child Poverty Bill to strengthen the role of local authorities in tackling this agenda. As a result, of lobbying it has been agreed that local plans will be forward looking, rather than reporting retrospectively.</p> <p>COSLA also secured funding for a national resource to establish a post to champion child poverty across local government. This is currently being discussed with the Scottish Government in terms of its potential role and remit.</p> <p>The Scottish Government announced funding to support the</p>	<p><b>Child Poverty Bill to be enacted into legislation by end of 2017.</b></p>	<p>Reduce child poverty with local government having a lead role as a major stakeholder.</p>	<p>Child Poverty Bill passed in Parliament.</p>

	<p>implementation of the Child Poverty Bill as part of the Programme for Government. As such, COSLA will seek to influence the Scottish Government and the Poverty and Inequality Commission in order that these resources are provided towards local authority initiatives.</p> <p>COSLA officer representation on Child Poverty Reference Group to develop local guidance for proposed local child poverty plans. Presently, COSLA is working to develop a response to the current draft guidance from the Scottish Government.</p>	<b>January 2017</b>		
<b>Priority 6: Youth Justice</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Supporting Implementation of the National Justice Strategy and WSA</p> <p>Lead: Mike</p> <p>Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility</p> <p>Lead: Mike</p>	<p>Following agreement at the October meeting of the Children and Young People Board, COSLA is to meet the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 5 December to discuss the challenges to maintaining and sustaining youth justice initiatives, particularly where they are based on early intervention and preventative approaches in a tight financial context.</p> <p>Given the significant resource savings and better outcomes of preventative approaches for young people over the last decade, COSLA seeks opportunities for a shift in public resources from the Scottish Government to maintain these important activities.</p> <p>To reinvigorate our local government position on funding and policy COSLA has pro-actively gathered examples of good practice that support an effective early intervention and prevention approach from local authorities to support our representations to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>COSLA representation on Youth Justice Improvement Board to support the implementation of the Preventing Offending: Getting it Right for Children and Young People and whole system approach</p>	<p><b>Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 5 December</b></p> <p><b>Youth Justice Implementation Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>Reducing offending by young people.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>(WSA).</p> <p>COSLA officer representation on National Youth Justice Advisory Group (NYJAG) multi-agency group to obtain local government officer intelligence and promote good practice from local authorities.</p> <p>COSLA participation on the Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility Reference Group in October 2017 based on previous political support for the change by COSLA's Children and Young People Executive Group. The group considered the development of legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years old. COSLA is broadly supportive of the Bill. However, it will be important that local authorities are adequately funded for any cost implications that arise. As such, we are working with finance team colleagues to establish potential cost implications of the Bill for Local Government.</p>	<p><b>on 13 December 2017.</b></p> <p><b>NYJAG meeting on 18 December 2017.</b></p> <p><b>Establishment of Reference Grp on Age of Criminal Responsibility.</b></p>	<p>Raising the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Advisory Group. Next meeting to be confirmed by Scottish Govt.</p>
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**Priority 7: Education Delivery Plan (including Governance Review and Fair Funding)**

Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Influence the development of polcy around the Education Governance Review and Fair Funding</p> <p>Lead: Lauren</p>	<p><b>Education Bill</b></p> <p>A Scottish Government consultation on potential items to include in the Education Bill is currently out and closes on the 30<sup>th</sup> January. There is a paper before the Board today to discuss COSLA's response.</p>	<p><b>Late January</b> The Fair Funding Reference Group will meet to discuss progressing DSM</p> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> January</b> Education Bill Consultation Closes</p>	<p>Developing policy is workable, prioritises GIRFEC and does not harm local democratic accountability</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>



		<b>June</b> Education Bill introduced to Parliament		
<b>Priority 8: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Strategy</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Influence the Scottish Government Science Technology Engineering and Maths Strategy  Leads: Lauren and John	The Strategy has now been published. COSLA Officers have been invited to the Implementation Group which will meet for the first time on the 14 <sup>th</sup> December.	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b> STEM Strategy Implementation Group	Increase the number of child and adult learners studying STEM subjects.	Initial meeting of Implementation Group due in December
<b>Priority 9: Educational Psychologists Training</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Work with all members of NSSGEP to ensure the correct number of Educational Psychologists are trained  Lead: John	New models of funding for student EPs are being considered to reverse a decline in student numbers since the removal of a bursary in 2012 and the options under consideration include the conversion of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year probationer EP salary into a three year living expense bursary.  There is a paper before the board today to seek views on whether we should endorse the proposed Partnership Funding Model with a view to seeking agreement from COSLA Leaders on whether to commit to this approach	NSSGEP next meets on 7 December 2017.	To reverse a fall in the number of EP students and ensure we train adequate numbers to fulfil the EP role.	Officers are developing more details on the proposed changes to how EP training is funded and operated.

<b>Priority 10: Children's Hearings</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Develop a template agreement for the level of support to be provided by local authorities to CHS Area Support Teams  Lead: John	SOLACE have been working with CHS on the drafting of a template AST agreement which will suggest the minimum levels of support to be provided to ASTs by local authorities. This template can then be used to locally agree the level of support to be provided. The template agreement is still with CHS legal advisors and has not yet been circulated.	Agreements should be renewed every 3 years and current agreements are due for renewal. However, existing agreements will remain in place until the template is finalised between CHS and SOLAR.	A template agreement will set a minimum support level to be provided.	The template agreement is being reviewed by CHS legal advisors and is expected to be available in January 2018.
<b>Priority 11: Behaviour in School</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Support and co-Chair the Scottish Advisory Group on Respect and Behaviour in Schools  Lead: John	<p>Our Spokesperson Co-Chairs SAGRABIS with John Swinney the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.</p> <p>The refreshed anti-bullying guidance "Respect for All" <a href="http://www.gov.scot/RespectforAll">http://www.gov.scot/RespectforAll</a> was published on 15 November 2017 followed by debate on bullying in the Scottish Parliament. During the debate the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills announced the establishment of a group to develop processes for the consistent and uniform recording and monitoring of bullying. Membership of this group will include COSLA, Education Scotland, ADES, parents, Unions and LGBTI+ groups. This approach had been agreed at SAGRABIS on 7 November 2017.</p> <p>The BISSR report is due to be published on 7<sup>th</sup> December and its findings are confidential at this time.</p>	The BISSR Report is scheduled for publication on the Scottish Government Website on 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017.	SAGRABIS provides COSLA with a forum with key stakeholders and an opportunity to provide a united message on creating a positive ethos in all schools.	Ongoing.

<b>Priority 12: British Sign Language</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Provide support to members in developing local BSL Plans  Lead: John	The British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Scottish Government to produce a National BSL Plan by October 2017 and for all public bodies, including local authorities, to produce their own plans by October 2018. The National BSL Plan was launched on 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/3540">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/3540</a> We plan to work with the Scottish Councils Equality Network (SCEN) and Scottish Government, to develop a template local plan which can be used by Local Authorities. COSLA officers are also talking with Scottish Government about the cost of producing and interpreting local plans, with the aim of having these costs funded.	All public bodies, including local authorities are required to publish their own BLS Plans by October 2018.	Services should be more accessible and inclusive for BSL users.	Ongoing.
<b>Priority 13: Accessible and inclusive services and education</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Working to ensure that children's services and education, including the curriculum, are accessible and inclusive  Lead: Laura	<b>LGBTI Inclusive Education</b> Officers sit on the Scottish Government LGBTI Inclusive Education working group established in early 2017. This group will provide advice and recommendations to Ministers on how to improve the inclusive education experience for LGBTI young people through identifying improvements that could be made to existing guidance, practice and conduct in the teaching of LGBTI issues.	<b>LGBTI Inclusive Education</b> Publication of advice and recommendations expected 2018	Education and children's services are accessible and inclusive	Ongoing
<b>Priority 14: GIRFEC/Named Person</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Continue to champion GIRFEC and to engage with policy at both a strategic and implementation level around Named Person  Lead: Lauren	Legislative changes to the information sharing provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act are currently before Parliament as the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill. The Education and Skills Committee will consider these changes over Autumn. Following information sharing changes, the Scottish Government are likely to renew their commitment to GIRFEC and COSLA will seek to be a key strategic partner in this.	<b>Autumn</b> Consideration of the Bill needed to bring Named Person into force	Named Person policy can be fully operationalised and GIRFEC is reinvigorated	Ongoing

<b>Priority 15: Child Protection</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Co-Chair the Child Protection Leadership Group  Lead: Lauren	<p>Late last year, a review of child protection was undertaken with several recommendations made towards the system becoming more consistent and cohesive. The Minister was keen to legislate but has agreed a period of time for the Child Protection Leadership to be established and to make a difference without the need for legislation.</p> <p>The CPLG has now met twice, with the next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> December..</p>	Milestones of the CPLG still to be set.	Sufficient change can be observed in the child protection landscape to subvert the need for further legislation	Ongoing

<b>Priority 16: Workforce Planning - Teachers</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Teacher workforce planning and the teacher vacancy survey	<p>In view of the growing concerns about the availability of teachers in Scotland's schools, in 2016 COSLA worked with the SG Learning Directorate to run an teacher vacancy survey to assist in the improved analysis of council needs related to teacher training. The outcome of that exercise confirmed the issues of geographic problems re teacher recruitment, as well as problems with teacher recruitment in a number of subject areas.</p> <p>The survey for 2017 has not demonstrated any real change in the number of vacancies. While this is a snapshot it is a concern that progress is not being made in teacher recruitment and retention, especially in pressurised areas.</p>	A meeting of the Teacher Workforce Planning Advisory is due mid December following publication of teacher census 2017.	To alleviate the current shortages, influenced by previous SG decisions on teacher workforce planning to avoid a teacher surplus.	Awaiting outcome of decisions taken at the end of October and mid December

<b>Priority 17: Workforce Planning - Other Professionals</b>				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
For services focusing on children and young people, currently the only main area of consideration is the workforce requirement to meet the 2020 Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare.	Covered under Priority 1.			

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