

Children and Young People Board Plan - September 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**

Priority 1: Early Learning and Childcare				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<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>Funding £61million of funding in the 2017/18 draft budget, £30million capital funding and around £31million revenue funding. A finance working group, cochaired 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</p> <p>Provider Neutral/Funding Follows the Child Model COSLA officers sit on the Service Models working group which is 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>Living Wage 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</p>	<p>September 2017 Local authorities submit expansion plans</p> <p>October 2017 Quality Action Plan produced</p> <p>November 2017 Local authorities receive feedback on expansion plans</p> <p>December 2017 Publication of national learning report from ELC Expansion Plans</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>Authorities is being established to develop guidance on this.</p> <p>Expansion Plans Local authorities are required to submit expansion plans to Scottish Government by 29 September 2017. Feedback on these is expected in November. 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>Workforce Discussions with the COSLA Employers team are ongoing with regards to workforce development and the increase in workforce required by 2020. Skills Development Scotland are leading on the development of a Skills Investment Plan and Action Plan. Scottish Government have committed to providing ELC settings in the most deprived areas with an additional graduate. A guidance note has been sent to Local Authorities, developed with the ADES Early Years network, and each local authority is to include in their expansion plan how they intend to allocate their additional graduate places.</p>	<p>March 2018 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>Between now and 2020 Action plans on: workforce development and expansion, inclusion, infrastructure, family engagement and nurture</p> <p>August 2020 Delivery of the funded entitlement</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

Priority 2: Looked After Children				
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>Care Review 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. Officers have offered the Chair of the review the opportunity to speak to Board members about their role and experiences as corporate parents.</p>	<p>Care review 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>Secure Care Strategic Board 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 is 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>Secure Care Strategic Board 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>Contracts 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>Contracts Residential Childrens Services 2018-22 Secure – April 2017-19 (can extend to 2020) Fostering and</p>	<p>Local authorities have access to quality services for Looked After Children and Young</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Care Allowances 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. COSLA officers sit on this group.</p>	<p>continuing care service March 2017-19 (can extend to 2021)</p> <p>Allowances Foster, Kinship and Adoptive allowances report to Scottish Ministers and COSLA leaders by Autumn 2018.</p>	<p>People</p> <p>Allowances for carers of Looked After Children are adequately funded</p>	<p>First meeting November 2017</p>
Priority 3: Additional Support Needs				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<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>Experiential review 2017/18</p> <p>Outcomes framework 2017/18</p> <p>Finalised strategy published 2018</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>

Priority 4: Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW)				
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	The DYW National Advisory Group co-chaired by Cllr McCabe, COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson and the Deputy First Minister (DFM) held 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 early 2018.	Annual DYW Report in December 2017 DYW at mid point of 7 year Programme (2014-2021)	Reduction in unemployment for young people by 40% by 2021 and increase in work based learning provision.	40% reduction in youth unemployment already achieved. Expansion of work based learning e.g. foundation apprenticeships, modern apprenticeships.
	COSLA officer attendance along with ADES and SLAED at DYW Programme Board in November, 2017. DYW Programme Board oversees the implementation of DYW and serves as a scrutiny mechanism for the programme.	September – December 2017	Support DYW Programme implementation	Ongoing
	COSLA officer representation on short life DYW group relating to College-LA School Partnership Working in September.	June – December 2017	Facilitate better co-production between local authority	Ongoing

	<p>COSLA continues lobbying activities on Apprenticeship Levy to influence the Scottish Government's allocation of funding in the next financial year.</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.</p>	<p>January – December 2017</p> <p>September, 2017</p>	<p>schools and colleges.</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>
Priority 5: Child Poverty				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Child Poverty	<p>COSLA currently lobbying on the Child Poverty Bill that is making its passage through the Parliament to strengthen the role of local authorities in tackling this agenda.</p> <p>COSLA continues to lobby on Child Poverty Bill for local government and its CP Partners to have a dedicated resource to co-ordinate</p>	<p>Child Poverty Bill to be enacted into legislation by end of 2017.</p> <p>Stage 3 of the Child Poverty</p>	<p>Reduce child poverty with local government having a lead role as a major stakeholder.</p>	<p>Child Poverty Bill continues to make its passage through the Scottish Parliament.</p>

	<p>efforts across council services and other CP partners to address child poverty through forward looking plans, rather than reporting on child poverty retrospectively. COSLA seeks also to influence the development of proposed local plans for child poverty.</p> <p>COSLA officer attendance at the final Child Poverty Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) meeting in 20 September 2017. COSLA seeks to secure local government representation on Poverty and Inequality Commission.</p> <p>COSLA officer representation on Child Poverty Reference Group to develop local guidance for proposed local child poverty plans.</p> <p>COSLA political meeting with Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities in October.</p>	<p>Bill in October 2017</p> <p>20 September 2017</p> <p>25 October 2017</p> <p>24 October 2017</p>		
Priority 6: Youth Justice				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Supporting Implementation of the National Justice Strategy and WSA	<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 (WSA).</p> <p>COSLA officer representation on National Youth Justice Advisory Group (NYJAG) multi-agency group.</p>	<p>Youth Justice Implementation Board Meeting on 26 September 2017.</p> <p>NYJAG meeting on 6 September 2017.</p>	Reducing offending by young people.	Ongoing
Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility	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	Establishment of Reference Grp on Age of	Raising the age of criminal	Ongoing. Advisory Group meets

	People Executive Group. This group will consider the development of legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years old.	Criminal Responsibility on 3 Oct 2017.	responsibility in Scotland.	in October.
Priority 7: Education Delivery Plan (including Governance Review and Fair Funding)				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Influence the development of policy around the Education Governance Review and Fair Funding	<p>Education Governance The Scottish Government consulted on Education Governance over winter 16/17 and announced <i>Next Steps</i> in June which did not take the vast majority of responses into account. COSLA continue to work closely with the wider local government family to influence policy at a strategic level as it continues to develop.</p> <p>Fair Funding The <i>Fair Funding</i> consultation was launched alongside the publication of <i>Next Steps</i>. A report on the proposed COSLA response is before the Board for consideration.</p>	<p>8th September Report of joint Strategic Working Group between LG and SG issued, focused on Regional Collaboration</p> <p>13th October Closing date for <i>Fair Funding</i> consultation</p>	Developing policy is workable, prioritises GIRFEC and does not harm local democratic accountability	There are reports on both Education Governance and Fair Funding before the Board
Priority 8: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Strategy				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Influence the Scottish Government Science Technology Engineering and Maths Strategy	The Scottish Government held a consultation on a new Strategy for STEM learning and COSLA Officers submitted a response which was broadly supportive of the original strategy priorities but which queried the impact on non STEM subjects and on teacher workloads. Following the consultation Scottish Government established a STEM Strategy Reference Group to develop proposals for Ministers on what the Strategy should contain. Despite requests to be members of this group COSLA Officers were not invited to participate, we are not sure what the selection criteria for membership was. We have continued to engage with Scottish Government Officers and understand that the strategy will be published at the end of September. We have not seen a draft of the strategy and are	The STEM strategy is due to be published at the end of September 2017.	Increase the number of child and adult learners studying STEM subjects.	Disappointingly the STEM strategy has not been co-produced and Officers have not had the opportunity to properly scrutinise or provide challenge.

	concerned that the lack of input from COSLA and ADES who were also not represented on the STEM Strategy Group demonstrates a top down approach from Scottish Government to this Strategy.			
Priority 9: Educational Psychologists Training				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Work with all members of NSSGEP to ensure the correct number of Educational Psychologists are trained</p> <p>Lead: John</p>	<p>COSLA are members of the National Scottish Steering Group for Educational Psychologists (NSSGEP) which is Chaired by Scottish Government officers. Membership also includes Education Scotland, Strathclyde and Dundee Universities, the EIS and representatives of the EP profession. Following a decision by the Scottish Government in 2012 to remove the student bursary students have had to self fund their training. Since the removal of the student bursary the number of applicants and more recently the number of students has reduced. Work is underway to reverse this trend and options under consideration include the Scottish Government paying student university fees, converting the 3rd year probationer EP salary to a three year living expense bursary and developing part-time and distance learning.</p> <p>Board Paper no 9 provides the opportunity for Board members to discuss these options further and to consider the returns from a survey we have conducted with HR, Finance and Education Staff.</p>	<p>NSSGEP next meets on 5 September and we will provide Board members with an oral update.</p>	<p>To reverse a fall in the number of EP students and ensure we train adequate numbers to fulfil the EP role.</p>	<p>Board members will have an opportunity to discuss the results of our survey and provide guidance on how to proceed.</p>
Priority 10: Children's Hearings				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Develop a template agreement for the level of support to be provided by local authorities to CHS Area Support Teams</p> <p>Lead: John</p>	<p>The Childrens Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 saw the establishment of Childrens Hearings Scotland. The Act also saw the establishment of Area Support Team who provide support to panel members. Both panel members and AST members are unpaid volunteers. Local Authorities provide a level of support to ASTs and this support includes the provision of AST Clerks and facilities for AST meetings. 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</p>	<p>AST agreements should be renewed every three years and current agreements are due for renewal. However, existing agreements will</p>	<p>A template agreement will set a minimum support level to be provided.</p>	<p>The template agreement is being reviewed by CHS legal advisors and is expected to be available shortly.</p>

	<p>used to locally agree the level of support to be provided.</p> <p>The 2011 ACT also requires the National Convenor of CHS to produce an annual report for all panel members and for the Scottish Parliament on the implementation of compulsory supervision orders, the 2015/16 Feedback Loop report was published 28 July 2017: http://www.chscotland.gov.uk/media/131236/Foreword-and-Analysis-v03.pdf</p>	<p>remain in place until the template is finalised between CHS and SOLAR.</p>		
Priority 11: Behaviour in School				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
<p>Support and co-Chair the Scottish Advisory Group on Respect and Behaviour in Schools</p> <p>Lead: John</p>	<p>Our Spokesperson Co-Chairs SAGRABIS with John Swinney the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. Membership also includes Education Scotland, ADES, parents, unions and respectme (Scotland's national anti-bullying service). SAGRABIS supervises the three years Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research (BISSR) project and refreshed guidance on anti-bullying and school exclusions.</p> <p>The refresh of the anti-bullying guidance "A National Approach", which gives greater priority to the protected characteristics, has been delayed for 18 months due to both the need to clarify the role of the Named Person and while an Enquiry by the Equalities and Human Rights Committee of the Scottish Parliament into prejudice based bullying took place. Their report "Its not Cool to be Cruel" makes a number of recommendations to Mr Swinney, a number of these recommendations relate to Local Authorities and schools and we have included a link for members to see the content. The Cabinet Secretary is expected to respond to the Committee by 4 September 2017. http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/EHRiC_5th_Report_2017_SP_Paper_185.pdf</p>	<p>SAGRABIS next meets on 7th November 2017. BISSR is likely to be published in September. Revisions to the bullying guidance will be agreed with the original authors of the guidance. The finalised guidance is likely to be published (subject to endorsement by SAGRABIS) in November 2017.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Both the BISSR and the anti-bullying guidance are due to be published soon.</p>
Priority 12: British Sign Language				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status

Contribute to the content of the first National BSL Plan 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. Public bodies plans should take account of the National BSL Plan. COSLA Officers have been members of a National Advisory Group (the NAG) which has developed recommendations for Scottish Ministers on the content of the first National BSL Plan. The majority of NAG members are BSL users. The NAG recommendations for the National Plan are based around making services more inclusive and accessible for Deaf and Deaf/Blind children and adults and increasing the BSL skills levels of staff employed by public bodies.	The 6 th and final NAG is due to take place in late August where the Governments views on the content of the first National BSL Plan will be shared. The National plan will be published on 24 th October.	Services should be more accessible and inclusive for BSL users.	The final NAG in late August will received details of the proposed content of the Scottish Governments first National BSL Plan.
Priority 13: Accessible and inclusive services and education				
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	LGBTI Inclusive Education 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.	LGBTI Inclusive Education Publication of advice and recommendations expected 2018	Education and children's services are accessible and inclusive	Ongoing
Priority 14: GIRFEC/Named Person				
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	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.	Autumn Consideration of the Bill needed to bring Named Person into force	Named Person policy can be fully operationalised and GIRFEC is reinvigorated	Ongoing

Priority 15: Child Protection				
Activity	Current Update	Key Milestones	Outcome Description	Status
Co-Chair the Child Protection Leadership Group	<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 met once in June, and the next meeting with Councillor McCabe as co-Chair on the 21st September.</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

Children and Young People Team		
Jane O'Donnell	Chief Officer	jane@cosla.gov.uk
Lauren Bruce	Policy Manager	lauren@cosla.gov.uk
Mike Callaghan	Policy Manager (50%)	mike@cosla.gov.uk
Laura Caven	Policy Officer	laura.caven@cosla.gov.uk
John Urquhart	Policy Officer (50%)	Johnu@cosla.gov.uk