



COSLA Children and Young People Board Plan 2022-2027

The COSLA Children and Young People Board Plan is underpinned by the ambition of tackling social inequality and the factors which mean children and young people do not have an equal starting point in life. We will do this by ensuring Local Government remains directly responsible and accountable for services and supporting the changes and improvements necessary.

The COSLA Plan 2022- 2027

The COSLA Plan was published in November 2022. It aims to ensure that Councils return to their rightful place at the heart of the governance of Scotland. It presents the high-level ambitions, priority themes and policy areas which will be the focus of COSLA’s work for the period of the Local Government administration up to 2027. COSLA’s five core principles: Strong Local Democracy, Delivering Outcomes, Community Focus, Local Choices and Local Partnership Working underpin our six priorities: secure sustainable funding, improve the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, support the most vulnerable in our communities, strengthen local democracy, enhance education and support for our children and young people, and deliver a just transition to a net zero economy.

The Children and Young People Board workplan is set out under the three themes set out in the COSLA Plan under the “Enhance Education & Support for our Children & Young People” priority, though much of the work is cross cutting.

Learning opportunities - Supporting children and young people to achieve the best possible educational outcomes, including working to close the poverty-related attainment gap, and improving the overall standards of attainment which have been impacted by the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Intended outcomes:

- Local Government ensure children and young people receive a high-quality education which support them to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- Local Government ensure children and young people receive the support they need to overcome barriers to their learning and development.

- Local Government is able to provide high-quality and flexible funded early learning and childcare that meets the needs of children and families.
- Local Government consistently influence the development of education and childcare policy in Scotland.
- There is a longer-term and strategic focus on improvement through collaboration for education in Scotland.
- Local Authorities have access to resources, both in terms of funding and workforce, to provide a high-quality education and childcare services.

Care and wellbeing - Keeping the Promise Scotland made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults, and their families, and supporting all children and young people’s mental and physical health.

Intended outcomes:

- Scotland’s children grow up loved, safe and respected.
- Local Government directly supports the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people and their families, and their role in this is recognised and appropriately funded.
- Local Government influences the socio-economic determinants of mental health, to take a long-term preventative approach to improving the mental health of children and young people and their families.
- The Local Government Workforce is appropriately trained, supported, and enabled to support CYP mental health.
- Local Government provides strategic leadership and influence across the children and young people’s mental health policy landscape.
- We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age (Active Scotland Delivery Plan [Outcome 3](#))

Rights and protection - Making sure that children’s rights are protected, supporting incorporation of UNCRC into Scots law, and keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm.

Intended outcomes:

- Local Government provides strategic leadership and influence across the children and young people’s child protection and youth justice policy landscape.
- Local Government supports the continued improvement of child protection and youth justice services by taking an evidence-led approach which incorporates lived experience.

- Local Government directly promotes, supports and safeguards children’s wellbeing and protection, and their role in this is recognised and appropriately funded.
- Local Government supports the implementation of legislation designed to contribute to improved outcomes for children
- The Local Government Workforce is appropriately trained, supported and enabled to support and protect children, young people and their families.



Learning opportunities

Supporting children and young people to achieve the best possible educational outcomes, including working to close the poverty-related attainment gap, and improving the overall standards of attainment which have been impacted by the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
<p>Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)</p> <p>(Lead: Rebekah Cameron-Berry)</p>	<p><u>Joint review of sustainable rate-setting</u> COSLA and Scottish Government have undertaken a joint review of sustainable rate-setting in ELC. In August 2023 the Board agreed the publication of the sustainable rates review report. This was published in December 2023.</p> <p><u>Review of Funding Follows the Child guidance</u> In December 2023, the Children and Young People Board approved the updated Funding Follows the Child guidance documentation. This was published in December 2023.</p> <p><u>£12 per hour pay commitment</u> In January 2024, COSLA Leaders agreed the approach to delivering the £12 per hour pay commitment for childcare workers delivering funded hours within PVI sector settings. Leaders also agreed the distribution of the £16m additional funding for this.</p>	<p>The Update Paper on the agenda for the April 2024 meeting of the Children and Young People Board includes an update on work to take forward the actions contained within the joint review of sustainable rate-setting, and an update on school age childcare.</p> <p><u>£12 p/h pay uplift</u></p> <p>At the end of January 2024, in line with the advice of Local Government professional advisors, COSLA Leaders approved the high-level approach to the delivery of the £12p/h pay uplift for PVI sector ELC staff delivering funded ELC, in 2024-25. Subsequently it was agreed that this would entail a fixed 7.6% uplift to be applied to 2023-24 rates. Leaders also agreed the distribution of the additional £16m funding Scottish Government have made available for this commitment.</p> <p>In March 2024, following agreed between Scottish Government and COSLA, supplementary guidance was published, to</p>	Green

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
		<p>support councils to deliver the £12 per hour commitment through the sustainable rate setting process in 2024-25 (i.e. guidance on how to apply the agreed 7.6% uplift).</p> <p><u>Infant food insecurity resource</u> Following consideration and sign-off from the Board in February 2024, the Scottish Government published the new guide to preventing and responding to infant food insecurity.</p>	
<p>Education Reform (Lead: Matthew Sweeney)</p>	<p><u>National Discussion</u> COSLA co-convened the National Discussion on the future of Scottish Education with the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The Children and Young People Board considered the report from the national discussion at their June meeting and agreed a coordinated response from both the Scottish Government and COSLA would sought.</p> <p><u>National education bodies</u> The Children and Young People Board agreed the basis for COSLA's response to the Education Reform (Scotland) Bill in December 2023.</p>	<p>COSLA officers are members of the reestablished Education Reform Programme Board. The Board met for the first time on 29th February 2024, where there was discussion about the broader governance landscape, planned milestones and broader project specifications (e.g. benefits model).</p> <p><u>Centre of Teaching Excellence</u> Officers have joined the Scottish Government's Centre of Teaching Excellence co-production group, alongside ADES, Education Scotland, SQA, Deans of Education and trade union representatives. The group is meeting on a month basis with the aim of producing a specification for the centre. Discussion to date have focused on defining users and the</p>	<p>Green</p>

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	<p><u>Centre of Teaching Excellence</u> In November 2023, COSLA Leaders mandated officers to engage in discussions without commitment on the Scottish Government's proposed Centre of Teaching Excellence.</p>	<p>relationship between academic research and schools.</p>	
<p>Regional Improvement Collaboratives (Lead: Matthew Sweeney)</p>	<p>COSLA and the Scottish Government jointly agreed to form the Regional Improvement Collaboratives in 2017.</p> <p>COSLA and the Scottish Government co-commissioned reviews into the RICs in 2019 and in 2021.</p> <p>COSLA Leaders, and the Children and Young People, agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to set out concerns on the approach to the tapering of RIC funding and the Centre of Teaching Excellence.</p>	<p>The Review of the Impact of Regional Improvement Collaboratives on pupils and practitioners was published in January 2024. And RICs were informed that they would receive 50% of their 23/24 funding in 24/25.</p> <p>No further updates.</p>	<p>Red</p>
<p>Scottish Attainment Challenge (Lead: Matthew Sweeney)</p>	<p>COSLA agreed a new approach to distribution of Scottish Attainment Challenge funding in 2021.</p> <p>COSLA officers sit as members of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme Board which meets regularly to discuss progress in tackling the attainment gap.</p> <p>In June 2023, the Children and Young People considered revised guidance for setting stretch</p>	<p>The Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme Board last met on 28th March 2024.</p> <p>The Scottish Government and the ADES Performance and Improvement/Curriculum and Qualifications Network recently took part in a workshop to consider Stretch Aims, including consideration of the range of 'plus' aims.</p> <p>The Scottish Government is planning to undertake a 'sampling' approach on how</p>	<p>Green</p>

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	aims for attainment and agreed concerns around the annual trajectory updates.	Schools are utilising Pupil Equity funding, and have written to Director of Education on this. Officers will engage with Scottish Government officials on this work.	
<p>Independent Review of Qualifications</p> <p>(Lead: Matthew Sweeney)</p>	<p>In November 2022, the Children and Young People Board agreed COSLA’s response to the independent review of qualifications calling for reforms to qualifications that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow greater continuity between the delivery of the curriculum during the BGE and in the Senior Phase. • reflect the breadth of knowledge and skills that young people have. • learn lessons from the alternative delivery during the pandemic, and in FE/HE • understanding the capacity of the education system to meet reforms. <p>In August 2023, the CYP Board agree an initial, broadly supportive response to the final report of the Hayward Review.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Secretary led a debate in the Scottish Parliament on the recommendations of the Hayward Review on the 28th February 2024. Between the opening statement and motion the context that schools are operating within and the links with broader work on the curriculum improvement cycle and review of national bodies were highlighted.</p> <p>The Scottish Government also published views from school and college teachers, which showed mixed views on a number of the recommendations.</p> <p>We understand that the Scottish Government plan to publish their formal response to Professor Hayward’s recommendations in the coming weeks.</p>	Amber
<p>Additional Support for Learning (ASL)</p> <p>(Lead: John Urquhart)</p>	<p>In early 2019 the Deputy First Minister set up an independently chaired review of Additional Support for Learning, Chaired by Angela Morgan.</p> <p>The work of the review started in September 2019 and involved wide engagement with stakeholders. The Chair presented her Report to COSLA and Scottish Government in February</p>	<p>The ASL Project Board is co-chaired by COSLA and Scottish Government Officers and is next due to meet on 27 March 2024.</p> <p>Activity on progressing the actions in the ASL Action Plan will be discussed, including updates on the work of three sub groups which were established.</p>	Amber

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	<p>2020. The Children and Young People Board considered the Report in May 2020 and agreed that COSLA officers and Scottish Government officials should develop an Action Plan for implementation of the Report. A report on progressing the Action Plan was published in November 2022, a further update is scheduled to be published in May 2024.</p>	<p>Sub Group 1 has been working on developing a draft communication strategy to promote knowledge of ASL and services and resources which are available.</p> <p>Separately the Education, Children and Young People Committee has undertaken an Inquiry into Additional Support for Learning, and a COSLA Officer gave evidence to the Inquiry on 13 March 2024, we can anticipate that the Committee will produce a Report following their Inquiry and any recommendations will be brought to the Board.</p>	
<p>Behaviour in Schools (Lead: John Urquhart)</p>	<p>The Spokesperson co-Chairs the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS) with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. SAGRABIS met most recently on 20 March 2024 and considered actions to be progressed following the publication of the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research.</p>	<p>Following the publication of the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research and Behaviour Summits a Board Paper seeking agreement on publication of Guidance on the use of Mobile Phones in Schools is included in Board papers, as is a paper asking for delegated signoff to the Spokesperson of an Action Plan to address the wider issues highlighted in BISSR around declines in Behaviour.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Transitions Planning for Disabled Children and Young People (Lead: John Urquhart)</p>	<p>Work on progressing the Scottish Governments non statutory Transitions Strategy continues.</p>	<p>COSLA Officers continue to engage with Scottish Government Officers and are members of the National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy External Strategic Working Group who's Minutes are published on a dedicated Scottish Government website. Timelines are a public</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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		<p>consultation in the spring of 2024 and publication of the strategy by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Reports will be brought to the Board as the process of developing the Strategy progresses.</p>	
<p>Inclusive education (Lead: Matthew Sweeney/Rebekah Cameron Berry)</p>	<p><u>Antiracism in education programme</u> In September 2022, the Children and Young People Board considered and endorsed the work of the Scottish Government’s anti-racism in education programme, mandating officers to continue to work with the Scottish Government, the Local Government family and wider stakeholders to consider next steps. In August 2023, the CYP Board endorsed the principles for an anti-racist curriculum</p> <p><u>LGBT Inclusive Education</u> In September 2018, the Children and Young People Board considered the recommendations of the LGBTI Inclusive Education Working Group, and agreed COSLA officers would form an implementation group alongside the Scottish Government and other stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Gender Equality in Schools</u> In October 2023, the CYP Board agreed in principle the National Framework for preventing and responding to gender based violence in schools, and delegated sign-off of the final document to Cllr Buchanan prior to publication.</p>	<p><u>Antiracism in education programme</u> No update</p> <p><u>LGBT Inclusive Education</u> No update</p> <p><u>Gender Equality in Schools</u> Following sign-off by Cllr Buchanan as delegated by the Board, in March 2024 the Scottish Government published “Preventing and responding to gender based violence: a whole school framework”.</p>	<p>Green</p>

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<p>Expansion of Universal Free School Meals</p> <p>(Lead: Rebekah Cameron-Berry)</p>	<p>In June 2023, COSLA agreed to assist with Scottish Government’s budgetary pressures by agreeing to their proposed delay of universal free school meals to P6-7 pupils (whereby Local Government would make use of £70m of the budgeted £80m capital funding for the free school meal expansion as revenue funding in 2023/24, as a substitute for revenue funding already in the settlement and not additional funding).</p> <p>Leaders also agreed that a new timescale and the total resources to meet the implementation of the interim expansion to the Scottish Child Payment and the universal rollout must be set with COSLA and based on information collected from councils.</p> <p>In February 2024 Leaders agreed a strong position with regards to what local authorities will require to deliver the SCP expansion, as outlined in the progress and timescales column.</p>	<p>In February 2024, COSLA Leaders agreed the distribution of the £10m capital funding for expansion (made available in 2023-24, with carry over available).</p> <p>Leaders agreed a clear position that a flexible, phased approach to implementation of the SCP expansion will be required. Leaders also agreed the key commitments that Local Government will require from Scottish Government to enable delivery of the Scottish Child Payment phase of the expansion, namely confirmation of full capital and revenue funding, clear joint communications to explain the phasing approach (which may require short-term differential offers), and assurances that data-sharing will be in place.</p> <p>Further discussions with Scottish Government officials on the remainder of the capital funding for the SCP expansion, as well as the approach to phasing, are due to take place in the coming weeks through the joint programme governance arrangements. Agreement on these matters will be sought from COSLA Leaders in due course.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Future Investment in the Learning Estate</p>	<p>COSLA is co-signatory to the Learning Estate Strategy and Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP), which now comprised 3 phases (47 projects). COSLA’s Director of Membership & resources co-chairs the LEIP Board.</p>	<p>Of the 47 projects across all three phases, 5 are now complete, 15 are in construction and 27 are in the development phase.</p> <p>Overall, progress in terms of projects starting construction remains gradual with most projects</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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(Lead: COSLA Local Government Finance Team)	<p>After delays, Phase 3 was announced in November 2023 - full list of projects can be found on Scottish Gvt website</p> <p>In 2023, a 'market volatility adjustment' was approved for all projects reaching financial closure (i.e. tenders submitted and agreed) between August 2022 and December 2023, recognising the ongoing economic and market conditions impacting on project costs. In January 2024, Leaders and Ministers agreed an extension of the adjustment to <i>all</i> Phase 1 and 2 projects that have not reach financial closure yet, given ongoing economic and market conditions. Market conditions will be kept under review by the LEIP Board and Leaders updated accordingly as any adjustment impact the funding available for projects (including contingency).</p>	<p>facing some form of delay in the latter stages as tenders and prices are negotiated. SFT's programme team continue to engage with councils and support the projects through deep dive design and cost review sessions.</p> <p>As well as review of individual projects, the LEIP Board reviews strategic risks at every meeting – affordability, as well as the ongoing changes in relation to capital accounting being consulted on by SG are two such risks.</p> <p>In response to an independent assessment 'Gateway Review' of LEIP, an Efficiency Working Group has been set up to look into how we address the current challenges of affordability and deliverability of the learning estate. First meeting was held at VH in January, with around 90 people in attendance, including LAs, main contractors and consultants.</p>	
<p>Digital Devices/Digital Education Strategy</p> <p>(Lead: Matthew Sweeney)</p>	<p>In February 2024 the Board agree to mandate the COSLA CYP Spokesperson to engage with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to set out concerns on the decision to provide devices for children and young people through Connecting Scotland, as opposed to Local Government.</p> <p>The Board also mandated officers to engage in initial discussions with the Scottish Government on a joint Digital Education Strategy.</p>	<p>Cllr Buchanan wrote to the Cabinet Secretary in line with the views of the Board.</p> <p>Earlier this month, the Cabinet Secretary responded setting out that the Scottish Government would proceed with distribution of devices through Connecting Scotland, however she made a commitment for further engagement the aim of resolving the issues raised by the Board to mutual satisfaction and benefit.</p>	Amber

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
		Officers continue to engage with Scottish Government officials and ADES on the approach to developing a Joint Digital Strategy.	
Workforce Planning – Teachers	Scottish Councils have the workforce required relating to teaching and related professions.	A paper on the Education Workforce is included on the agenda for the April meeting of the Children and Young People Board	Amber

Care and wellbeing

Keeping the Promise Scotland made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults, and their families, and supporting all children and young people’s mental and physical health.

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
National Care Service (Lead: Jillian Gibson)	<p>Leaders have expressed extreme disappointment in the decision of the Scottish Government to continue to seek a legislative provision to mandate the delegation of children and justice social work services.</p> <p>Leaders have agreed that should a power be given to Ministers, COSLA officers should continue to engage with the Scottish Government on the NCS National Care Service on the following basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All efforts are made to develop a mechanism where non delegated services may have a reporting relationship with the National 	<p>COSLA and Scottish Government officials continue to negotiate on the future structure of children’s and justice services. Scottish Ministers have indicated a preference for both children’s and justice to be included in a future national care service; while COSLA Leaders remain clear that any decisions regarding delegation of services should be made locally.</p> <p>An update will be provided at the May Board meeting.</p>	Red

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	Care Service Board and with the proposed support and improvement framework.	Whilst negotiations continue on structures and delegation; following the December meeting of the CYP Board, COSLA and Scottish Government officers, alongside the Children and Families National Leadership Group are developing an improvement programme for children's services, including the workforce, in line with the recommendations from the CELCIS Children's Services Reform Research.	Green
The Promise (Lead: Jillian Gibson)	To monitor and drive the delivery and implementation of the actions required of LG to Keep The Promise	Work continues, led by The Promise Scotland and Fiona Duncan to develop Plan 24 – 30 which is due to be published in June 2024. A paper regarding a Local Government Annual Report for The Promise is included in the April meeting agenda.	Green
Family Support (Lead: Jillian Gibson)	Play a key role in alignment and cohesion across the complex landscape of policies, programmes, data and investment related to The Promise.	No update	Green
Children and Families Workforce (Lead: Simon Cameron / Jillian Gibson)	Strategic oversight and advice to facilitate greater collaboration across the following areas of transformational change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping The Promise including Whole Family Wellbeing Funding ○ UNCRC Implementation Embedding of GIRFEC/GIRFE	Aligned to the progress update on the National Care Service; COSLA and Scottish Government officials are working to re-develop the Children and Families National Leadership Group Children's Services Workforce Subgroup. This will continue to be chaired by officers from COSLA and Scottish Government. As this work progress papers and updates will be added to the Board agenda.	Green

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
Children's 3rd Sector (Lead: Laura Caven / Jillian Gibson / Rebekah Cameron – Berry)	Ensure positive and productive relationships between LG and the children's 3 rd Sector	The Local Government and Children's 3 rd Sector group is scheduled to meet in April 2024.	Green
Secure Care (Lead: Jillian Gibson)	<p>Scotland takes responsibility for its most distressed and at-risk children by fundamentally rethinking the purpose, delivery and infrastructure of Secure Care. This includes accommodating and supporting 16 and 17 year olds in alternatives to the Young Offenders Institutes and the prison estate.</p> <p>Solutions to the multiple issues around secure transport are identified and the experience for CYP is significantly improved and based on their rights.</p>	The Children's Care and Justice Bill is currently at Stage 3. There is not yet a timeline for Stage 3. Further updates will be provided to the Board in due course.	Green
Continuation of Care	Local authorities are able to support young people who are care experienced.	Scottish Government are currently consulting with stakeholders on a refresh to the Continuing Care Guidance. This will not include any legislative or statutory change. The refresh Guidance will be shared with the Board once complete.	Green
Children's Hearings	COSLA Officers regularly engage with Scottish Government, SCRA, CHS and SWS on issues relating to Children's Hearings	The COSLA Chief Officer for Children and Young People co-Chairs with a Senior Scottish Government Officer the Children's Hearings Redesign Board which has met on two	Green

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
(Lead: John Urquhart / Jillian Gibson)		occasions, the Redesign Board is concerned with the development of a programme of work based on Sheriff Mackie's Hearing's for Children Report, Scottish Government's Response and the response of local government, including COSLA and Social Work Scotland.	
<p>Brothers and Sisters</p> <p>(Lead: Jillian Gibson)</p>	<p>Scotland will stop the practice of separating brothers and sisters, unless for reasons of safety.</p> <p>Relationships between brothers and sisters will be cherished and protected across decision making and through the culture and values of the people who care for them.</p>	<p>Four data collection lines have been added to the CLAS survey return for 23/24. This data is causing concern amongst local authority officers regarding the efficacy of the information collected.</p> <p>COSLA officers continue to work with Scottish Government officials on this matter.</p>	Amber
<p>Foster and Kinship Care Allowances</p> <p>(Lead: Laura Caven / Joanna Anderson / Jillian Gibson)</p>	Foster and Kinship Care Allowances are paid in such a way that families are supported and that local approaches are recognised and sustainable.	No update	Green
GIRFEC	Refreshed GIRFEC guidance was published in 2023.	No update	Green
<p>Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>(Lead: Hannah Axon)</p>	In August 2023 the CYP Board agreed COSLA officers progress arrangements for a new joint governance structure that combines the previous Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Programme Board and the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board, taking forward their respective work, priorities and recommendations.	The new Joint Strategic Board for Children and Family Mental Health (JSB) is now formally meeting. A full paper on the approach being taken by the JSB is provided for the Boards consideration.	Green

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	<p>Local Government agreed to deliver mental health supports including community- based supports and services for children and young people and School Counselling initiatives.</p>	<p>Distribution of funding for community- based supports and services for 24/25 was agreed by Leaders in November. This funding was delayed, and the issues created by late funding were highlighted to the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport. Grant letters have now been issued.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing (Lead: Hannah Axon)</p>	<p>A Joint COSLA/ Scottish Government Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy was agreed and published in June 23.</p>	<p>The Strategy’s supporting Delivery Plan and Workforce Action Plan were published in November 23. COSLA officers continue to work with Scottish Government to put in place joint Governance for the Strategy. This is anticipated in Spring 2024. How the strategy and associated plans will be funded is also under discussion.</p> <p>Whilst it should be noted decisions on the strategy and delivery plan will primarily sit with HSC Board/ Leaders the Board will be kept updated/ asked for views to ensure connections with CYP policy.</p>	<p>Green</p>

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
<p>Suicide Prevention (Lead: Haylis Smith-H&SC Team/ Jenny Ferguson CYP Team)</p>	<p>A Joint COSLA/ Scottish Government Suicide Prevention Strategy was agreed and published in Sept 22</p>	<p>One of the 10 priorities identified for this year is to ‘... <i>build more understanding of suicide risk and behaviour amongst children and young people and use that to improve responses</i>’.</p> <p>To achieve this, a data and engagement approach has been developed which will see academic evidence (through the Academic Advisory Group imbedded within the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group), the lived experience, practitioner experience and subject expert experience in this area be collated.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age (Active Scotland Delivery Plan Outcome 3)</p>	<p>In January 2022, COSLA Leaders and the four Policy Boards agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the importance and contribution that physical activity makes across the policies and services of Local Government; ii. that physical activity is a priority of COSLA’s four policy boards and as an organisation and mandate officers to develop a corporate position on physical activity, to be agreed by Leaders; iii. that officers continue to work with Active Scotland and Public Health 	<p>Officers represent COSLA on the National Development Group for Physical Activity and Sport; and the National Leadership Group for Physical Activity and Sport.</p> <p>Both groups are leading the development of a new framework for action to improve levels of physical activity at national and local level.</p> <p>All Board and Leaders will be kept updated on the development of the framework.</p> <p>COSLA officers have received a Ministerial Invited to the Daily Mile Advisory Board. The first meeting will take place on 30th April.</p>	<p>Green</p>

Activity	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	Scotland to identify resources to support COSLA to prioritise physical activity policies		

Rights and protection

Making sure that children’s rights are protected, supporting incorporation of UNCRC into Scots law, and keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm.

Activity - aligned with COSLA plan	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
UNCRC (Lead: Rebekah Cameron-Berry)	Local Government remains committed to the principles of UNCRC incorporation, sharing the vision of a Scotland where children’s human rights are embedded in all aspects of society and public services. At the August meeting of the Children and Young People Board, it was requested that Cllr Buchanan engage with the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, to inform them of Local Government’s concerns around practical implications of the proposed approach to amending the Bill, and request that they take these into consideration during the Reconsideration process.	Following the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act receiving royal assent in January 2024, the main provisions, including the compatibility duty on public authorities, will come into force on 16 July 2024. A paper seeking the Board’s views on a draft response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on the statutory guidance for the Act is included on the agenda for the April meeting of the Board.	Green
Child Poverty	Tackling child poverty is a key, long-term commitment and priority of Scottish Local Government. Tackling poverty, particularly child	The Update Paper on the agenda at this meeting of the Children and Young People Board includes an overview of key messages	Green

Activity - aligned with COSLA plan	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
(Lead: Rebekah Cameron-Berry)	<p>poverty, is one of the 3 key priorities identified in the Verity House Agreement.</p> <p>In June 2022, Leaders agreed COSLA's position on the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, including the need for further discussion on practical implementation of actions and that tackling child poverty should form part of a broader, coordinated response designed to address poverty in its entirety in the context of the costs crisis.</p>	from the analysis of the year 5 Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs).	
Bairns' Hoose (Lead: Laura Caven/Jillian Ingram)	The CYP Board meeting in April 2022 agreed that COSLA must be represented on the new Bairns' Hoose Governance Group, that Scottish Government must fully fund any new policy commitment, including Bairns' Hoose, and that local variation must be built into the Scottish model. This position was agreed again at the CYP Board meeting in June 2023 when an update on the approach to funding was discussed.	<p>Scottish Government are continuing to work with partners in respect of a revised remit for the National Bairns' Hoose Governance Group. This is likely to be renamed as the National Bairns' Hoose Strategic Implementation Group, with the key purpose being to provide advice to Ministers.</p> <p>The Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Programme of work continues. There is a proposal under consideration by Ministers currently, to extend the timeline of the pathfinder programme following feedback from pathfinder partnerships.</p>	Amber
National Joint Investigative Interviewing Project (Lead: Jillian Ingram)	At their meeting in December 2020, COSLA Leaders agreed to endorse the views of the JII Governance Group that the Scottish Child Interview Model is the new approach for JII across Scotland and that national roll out over 3 years be progressed.	The project is continuing as planned. A further partnership is now live in practice, bringing the total number of local authorities who have introduced the Scottish Child Interview Model so far to 24.	Green

Activity - aligned with COSLA plan	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	<p>Leaders also agreed that officers work to seek agreement from the Scottish Government to fund the National JII Project costs which are estimated at £2.2 million from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024 and request that they meet a proportion of local implementation costs.</p> <p>At their meeting in February 2021, COSLA Leaders agreed that the offer of £2.2m from Scottish Government to cover core project costs be accepted only with the assurance that there is a commitment to local funding for implementation.</p> <p>In April 2021 COSLA Leaders agreed that the £2.2 million for national roll-out is accepted and distributed as soon as possible and that COSLA officers continue to work with the Scottish Government and Local Government partners to ensure that Ministers receive a more detailed costed proposal in respect of local implementation costs.</p>		
<p>Statutory Redress Scheme for Survivors</p> <p>(Lead: Rebekah Cameron-Berry/ COSLA Local</p>	<p>Leaders have agreed that LAs will make a £100m contribution to the scheme, which will be incrementally top-sliced from the Local Government settlement over a period of 10 years, starting at £5m in financial year 2022/23 and £6m in 2023/24.</p>	<p>No update.</p>	<p>Green</p>

Activity - aligned with COSLA plan	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
Government Finance Team)	In January 2023, Leaders agreed Local Government's statutory annual report which set out the wider, non-financial redress activities undertaken, as well as issues around lack of adequate resource to support non-financial redress support.		
Implementation of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 (Lead: Jillian Ingram)	In 2018, in response to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's initial call for views, COSLA's submission highlighted support for the intentions of the bill as it would rectify Scotland's current position, where we currently have the lowest age of criminal responsibility in Western Europe, and bring us closer towards the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The consensus of the CYP Board was to support a change to the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years, with a longer-term strategy that adopts an incremental approach resulting in a move to an older age such as 14 or 16 years.	The second annual Age of Criminal Responsibility Learning event took place on 30 January 2024 to discuss the learning from year 2 since of full commencement of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019.	Green
Youth Justice (Lead: Jillian Gibson)	Support implementation of the National Justice Strategy and Whole System Approach to better meet the needs of children and young people in conflict with the law.	The Children's Care and Justice Bill is currently at Stage 3.	Green
Equally Safe	Since 2014, COSLA and the Scottish Government have jointly owned the Equally Safe Strategy, dedicated to eradicating violence against women and girls in Scotland (VAWG).	COSLA and the SG will publish and launch the refreshed Equally Safe Strategy on the 7 th December. While maintaining the analysis and aims of the original strategy the refreshment has been informed by a broad programme of	Green

Activity - aligned with COSLA plan	COSLA position	Progress and Timescales	RAG outcomes
	<p>COSLA drives implementation across local authorities and sectors, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing gender equality • Early and effective violence prevention for women, children, and young people • Addressing perpetrators and ensuring accountability. <p>COSLA and Public Health Scotland have established a joint programme (Collaborative Framework on gender Equality and Gender-based Violence) to address VAWG/Gender-based Violence through a public health approach within the context of ES.</p>	<p>engagement with national and local governments, and public sector and third sector stakeholders. As a result, the strategy has defined our public health approach to preventing and tackling VAWG; sharpened focus on the intersectionality of gender with factors like race, socioeconomic status, and geography, and better explained the relationship between and across women's and children's rights and experiences in respect to gendered inequalities and subjection to VAWG.</p> <p>Work to develop a linked Delivery Plan will begin in the New Year and will be published in April 2024.</p>	
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	COSLA supports the work of the multi-agency sub-group of the National Child Protection Leadership Group that oversees the implementation of the 19 proposals of the Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People (2020)	No update	
Supporting children and young people who have experienced rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse	At the April 2022 CYP Board meeting, members agreed that Local Government must be represented in the refreshed governance arrangements for implementation of the Forensic Medical Services Act, as local systems planning and coordination of potentially lifelong services responses to child and adult victims/ survivors will be required. These require to be defined and fully funded.	No update.	Green

Red, Amber, Green (RAG) Status

The areas of activity detailed in the workplan are rated as red, amber or green, dependent on the status of the work. This does not reflect the importance, or the priority given to the work, but whether the work is progressing as anticipated and previously agreed by the Board.

Green: on track and progressing as planned

Amber: slight delay to the work or progressing in a slightly different way than expected

Red: delayed and or not progressing as agreed and expected.