



COSLA

CYP Board Item 02

Children and Young People Board Plan – November 2020

COSLA Leaders' Education and Children's Services priority:

“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.”

Proposed priority areas for COSLA Children and Young People Board 2019-22

Improving Children’s Educational Outcomes	Edges of Care/Looked After Children	Protecting and Supporting Children and Families
Early Learning and Childcare	Independent Care Review	Youth Justice
Additional Support Needs	Secure Care	Child Protection
Behaviour in Schools	Continuation of Care	Workforce – Social Work
Inclusive Education	Children’s Hearing System	Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry
Education Reform	Sibling Separation	Financial Redress
Learning Estate		Joint Investigative Interviewing
Workforce - Education		Equally Safe
		CYP Mental Health
		Child Poverty

Cross-cutting themes

As well as advancing the COSLA principles of *Strengthening local democracy, Working together locally, Delivering outcomes, Focusing on communities, and Defending local choices*, there are a number of cross-cutting themes the Board’s work will incorporate. These should include **tackling inequalities and poverty, wellbeing, inclusive growth and climate change**. Incorporation on UNCRC will effect all elements of policy development. The Board may wish to discuss how these cross-cutting themes should be articulated in the Board plan.

National Performance Framework

The work of the Board also contributes to achieving the outcomes set out in the [National Performance Framework](#). These outcomes reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland, are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and help to track progress in reducing inequality. The national outcomes are outlined in the table below and each area of activity in the board plan is aligned with the various outcomes the work contributes to achieving.

National Performance Framework (NPF) Key:

	We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.
	We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
	We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.
	We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
	We grow up safe, loved and respected so that we realise our full potential.
	We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
	We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
	We are healthy and active.
	We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.
	We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
	We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.

Improving Children's Educational Outcomes

Early Learning and Childcare				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
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>All 3- and 4-year olds and eligible 2-year olds can access high quality funded ELC.</p> 	Green	An update on the 1140 hours ELC Expansion is on the agenda of the Children and Young People Board in February.	August 2021 Delivery of 1140 Hours Expansion
Additional Support Needs				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Review and development of policies and procedures that enable children and young people with additional support needs to achieve their potential in education	<p>ASL is reviewed and best practice is identified and shared.</p> 	Amber	<p>The review of ASL Implementation was published on 19th June 2020. A joint COSLA/Scottish Government response and action plan has been developed which the Board considered and endorsed on 2nd October 2020.</p> <p>The Additional Support for Learning Implementation Group (ASLIG) of which COSLA are members is leading on the delivery of responses outlined in the Action Plan. Through the ASL Action Plan it has been agreed that ASLIG will report on progress of the actions to COSLA and the Scottish Ministers in October 2021.</p>	Ongoing

			Following publication of the ASL Review a short-life working group has been established to consider the use of Coordinated Support Plans and to identify any barriers to their implementation and subsequent effectiveness, COSLA Officers are members of the short life working group. The group held its initial meeting on 2 nd February and agreed to meet monthly.	
--	--	--	--	--

Behaviour in School				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Support and co-Chair the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools	Positive ethos in all schools ensuring safe and inclusive learning for all. 	Amber	Our Spokesperson Co-Chairs SAGRABIS with the Deputy First Minister. Membership also includes teaching unions, parents' representatives, and Education Scotland. SAGRABIS most recently met on 25 th November 2020 to discuss the national approach to monitoring incidents of bullying, behaviour in schools research and relationships and behaviour since schools returned. The next meeting of SAGRABIS has been arranged for 3 rd March 2021 and will discuss the groups terms of reference and membership, exclusion of looked after children, restraint, and seclusion, the ASL Review and the Behaviour in Scottish Schools research project.	Ongoing

Education Reform				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Influence the development of policy around the Education	Developing policy is workable, prioritises GIRFEC and does not harm local democratic accountability	Amber	The RIC Strategic Group met In February and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and planning cycles • RIC Review • The role of RICs and the Scottish Education Council 	Spring 2021 RIC Strategic Group

	<p>Longer-term and strategic focus on improvement through collaboration.</p> 		<p>The Strategic Group meets quarterly and will next meet in the Spring.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

Inclusive Education

Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
<p>Working to ensure that children's services and education, including the curriculum, are accessible and inclusive</p>	<p>Education and children's services are accessible and inclusive</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>LGBTI Inclusive Education LGBTI Inclusive Education working group implementation group continues to meet and work through the recommendations. Update expected to CYP Board in coming months. The updates RSHSP online resource is available here. The consultation on the updated RHSP guidance expected shortly.</p> <p>Race Equality and Diversity in the Curriculum and within Schools The Scottish Government has held a series of scoping, engagement sessions on race equality and diversity in schools, which have been attended by COSLA officers and ADES. Discussions with officials on timescales are ongoing.</p>	<p>LGBTI Inclusive Education 2021</p>
<p>Developing policy and practice to support the Access to Period Products in</p>	<p>Free period products are available to young people</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>Access to Free Period Products in Schools Implementation of access to free period products in schools has taken place and most local authorities have now successfully extended this scheme to public buildings. COSLA continues to</p>	<p>The provisions of the act come into force in January 2023.</p>

school's commitment			<p>host a group for council officers to develop and share good practice around this initiative.</p> <p>The Period Products (Free) Scotland Bill passed in November inclusive of the Cabinet Secretaries amendments. The bill places a duty on local authorities to provide free period products for all those who need them but allows for local flexibility in models. Officers are currently seeking to agree indicators for reporting for the first 3 years and at year ten to ensure that local authorities are appropriately funded in the short and longer term.</p> <p>Local Authorities continue to deliver access to period products as they prepare for the Bill to come into force.</p>	
---------------------	---	--	--	--

Future Investment in the Learning Estate

Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
<p>To work in partnership with SG to develop the new strategy and investment programme of the Learning Estate across Scotland.</p>	<p>Learning Estate is fit for purpose</p> <p>Wider community benefits are shared across Scotland</p> 	Amber	<p>Having jointly agreed the Learning Estate Strategy during 2019, COSLA now co-chairs the Programme Board and has been involved in establishing criteria for future phases. The Board has agreed cost metrics and the financial model for the programme going forward. However, a core function of the board is to review the cost metric on a periodic basis to ensure it is still applicable in current market conditions, to be able to deliver what is required. This will be particularly important as we emerge from the current situation</p> <p>In September, DFM wrote to all LAs to request updates on local learning estate strategies and to invite priority project proposals for Phase 2. A joint workshop was held on 4th November to consider all proposals against the programme outcomes and criteria and advice will be prepared for Ministers for</p>	<p>March 2021 Next board meeting – updates on phase 1 project progress, and on market conditions, risks etc</p>

			consideration later this month. An announcement on Phase 2 projects were made before Christmas, with all councils notified	
Workforce Planning – Teachers				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Teacher workforce planning and the teacher vacancy survey	Scottish Councils have the workforce required relating to teaching and related professions	Amber	<p>The Teachers Workforce Planning Advisory Group (TWPAG) met on 11th November to discuss the results of the Teacher Vacancy survey (alongside the Scottish Government workforce planning model and the teacher census data) to allow them to advise Scottish Government on intakes into Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses.</p> <p>Intakes to ITE courses in 2021-22 has been published on the Scottish Government website: https://www.gov.scot/search/?q=teacher+workforce+planning</p>	Ongoing

Edges of Care/Looked After Children

Independent Care Review				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Working with The Promise team, Scottish Government and partners on next steps for the Care Review.	<p>Local Government is key in delivery of the conclusions of the Care Review and inform the steps taken to implement them.</p> 	Amber	<p>The report from the Independent Care Review was published on 5th February and is available here.</p> <p>Oversight Board has been established and membership can be viewed here</p> <p>Fiona Duncan who leads the Promise Oversight Board will update the CYP Board on 19th February</p>	Development and publication of the Plan due in March.

Secure Care				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
The future of secure care in Scotland	<p>Care and support is provided for children and young people to keep themselves or others safe in a high quality and timely manner.</p> 	Amber	<p>Secure Care Leaders agreed the national standards for Secure Care at their meeting in January. The standards were due to be published in April 2020 and implementation and monitoring via the Secure Care Group jointly chaired by COSLA and SG officials.</p> <p>COSLA continues to have conversations with Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and Social Work Scotland regarding all children’s residential services and other supports.</p> <p>Secure Care Standards were launched at a virtual event on 5th October 2020</p> <p>Discussions on resourcing in relation to the standards are ongoing.</p> <p>Proposals for changing the way secure care services are provided have been discussed with the Scottish Government. The Board will consider these proposals at their 19th February meeting.</p>	Meetings of the Secure Care Group are quarterly.
Continuation of Care				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Ensuring local authorities are adequately resourced to so	<p>Local authorities are able to support young people who are care experienced.</p> 	Amber	Officers met with CELCIS and Scottish Government officials in February to agree an approach to the CELCIS’ research on continuing care.	Ongoing

they can support those who have been looked after into adulthood.			This has not progressed in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic.	
---	---	--	--	--

Children's Hearings

Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Engaging with partners in the Children's Hearing System	Good relations are maintained with stakeholders in the Children's Hearings system 	Amber	COSLA Officers participate in the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership with stakeholders in the Children's Hearings system. Officers also attend a weekly meeting with key CHIP members to discuss how the Children's Hearing system is operating with less physical hearings taking place. The Board endorsed a Recovery Plan at our Board Meeting in November 2020, the Recovery Plan was based on assumptions at that time around movement and restrictions. However, many of the intended actions to address a backlog in hearings have been impacted by the further lockdown in early January. The Recovery Plan is being reviewed and may be revised to take account of current assumptions.	Ongoing

Sibling Separation

Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Engaging with The Promise, Scottish Government and partners.	Local authorities can support children and young people to maintain contact with siblings and promote sibling relationships where it is in their best interests.	Amber	The Children (Scotland) Bill includes provision for the promotion of sibling contact. The Bill has completed Stage 2, where it reaffirms a duty on local authorities to promote sibling contact. COSLA will engage with Scottish Government to examine the resource requirements and what flexibility is available for local authorities.	The Bill became an Act on 1 October 2020

			<p>The Children (Scotland) Bill also introduced the Family Justice Modernisation Strategy. Section 10.9 looks to place a duty on local authorities to place siblings together. COSLA will work with Local Government professional advisors (SWS, DoFs etc) to understand the resource and wider implications and will make appropriate representations to Scottish Government on this.</p> <p>Work is under way to engage with the Promise team and Children and Families Division</p>	
--	---	--	--	--

Protecting and Supporting Children and Families

Youth Justice				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Supporting Implementation of the National Justice Strategy and WSA	Reducing offending by young people.	Amber	COSLA officers attended the Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB) on 8 th September along with local government professional officers from SOLACE and Social Work Scotland.	Winter 2020 Next meeting of the Youth Justice Improvement Board
Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act	Raising the ACR in Scotland from 8 years to 12 years old. 		COSLA officers are members of the Scottish Government's Age of Criminal Responsibility Advisory Group, tasked with reviewing how the provisions in the Act are operating for children under 12, as well as to consider a future age of criminal responsibility.	TBC

Child Protection				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Participation in the Child Protection Leadership Group	Robust guidance to prevent need for further legislation.	Amber	COSLA continues to participate in the Child Protection Leadership Group. The Children and Young People Spokesperson has now signed off the COSLA response to the updated Child Protection Guidance as agreed at the Board in November 2020	2021 Updated Child Protection Guidance to be published following extended consultation.
Equal Protection from Assault Act	All forms of physical punishment against children against the law 		The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act came into force on Saturday 7 November 2020	
Workforce – Social Work				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Ensuring workforce support to maintain capacity	Scottish Councils have the workforce required relating to Children's services	Amber	COVID-19 update: Difficult to allocate work across staff working from home. No remote system. Significant impact on social workers. Social worker potentially unable to help know families. Wellbeing of the workforce is an issue Ensure appropriate links into SSSC Recruitment Hub and access to the National Wellbeing Hub. Work with Children and Families Collective Leadership Group to consider workforce resilience.	ongoing

Historical Child Abuse Inquiry / Financial Redress scheme				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Working with Scottish Government around introduction of Statutory Redress Scheme for survivors of Historical Child Abuse	Local Authorities will have the resources to manage and progress Redress claims and risk for this will be agreed and shared with Scottish Government 	Amber	<p>COSLA and our Local Government partners, including SOLACE, Directors of Finance, SOLAR, ADES, ALARM and Social Work Scotland have worked together to engage constructively with Scottish Government to understand the details of the Historical Child Abuse Statutory Redress Scheme and the significant implications it will have for local authorities.</p> <p>Work is being undertaken to develop and agree a proposal regarding Local Government's contribution to the Scheme in a way that mitigates the financial risk to local authorities as much as possible.</p> <p>The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse) (Scotland) Bill is now being considered by the Education and Skills Committee at Stage 2. Amendments will be debated at their meetings on the 10th and 17th February.</p>	<p>COSLA Leaders agreed in Sept 2020 to contribute and participate in the Redress Scheme.</p> <p>In Feb 2021 Leaders will consider a draft proposal on behalf of Local Government for its contribution to the Scheme.</p>

Joint Investigative Interviewing				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Supporting implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model across all councils (and police divisions) in Scotland	A new model of joint investigative interviewing – the Scottish Child Interview Model – is piloted and then rolled out to all councils in Scotland in partnership with Police Scotland. 	Green	<p>The aims of the National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Project are to improve the quality of experience of child victims and witnesses, to minimise re-traumatisation, and improve the quality of evidence gathered during joint investigative interviews to prevent the need for these children to experience the stress of giving evidence in person as part of court or children's hearing process.</p> <p>The National (JII) Project Team have developed a new model of practice for JIIs in Scotland and a pilot phase began in 2019, involving six local authorities and three</p>	<p>Arrangements for funding for the project over the next three years are currently being discussed. A paper will be going to COSLA Leaders at the end of February with an updated position.</p>

			<p>police divisions. Two further pilot sites commenced in 2020/2021. The first pilots are now live in practice with the two final pilot sites expected to go live later this year.</p> <p>A new national governance group, jointly chaired by COSLA and Police Scotland, has been established and the group first met on 18th August 2020. The group has endorsed the Scottish Child Interview Model as the national approach to joint investigative interviewing, agreed a National JII Team should retain responsibility for training and practice development and that implementation support should be provided, agreed that a three year national rollout plan be explored and agreed that a new funding arrangement to reflect the next phase beyond piloting into rollout be negotiated with Scottish Government.</p> <p>At COSLA Leaders in December 2020, these recommendations were endorsed, and a funding negotiation position agreed.</p> <p>A survey was issued to the Directors of Finance and Chief Social Work Officers for the six local authorities implementing the new model. The survey is designed to increase our understanding of the resource implications of implementing the new model and findings will be used to inform ongoing funding discussions.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

Equally Safe Strategy				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Activity	Gender Based Violence is prevented, women, children	Amber	COSLA and the Scottish Government continue to co-Chair the Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board overseeing	The Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board – co

<p>supporting implementation of the Equally Safe Strategy and the Delivery Actions relevant to children and young people</p>	<p>and young people access relevant, effective and integrated services and perpetrators are held accountable</p> 		<p>work ongoing to prevent and eradicate violence against women and children. COSLA continues to work closely with Public Health Scotland, the Violence Against Women Multi Agency Partnership (VAWP) Network and with a broad range of delivery stakeholders to oversee implementation of the Equally Safe Delivery Plan (2018-2021) Work is now beginning to refresh the strategy and attending Delivery Plan for continuation over 2021 – 2024.</p> <p>In light of the impact of the pandemic on the reversal of gender equality including the heightened risks of violence against women and girls and associated impacts on the wellbeing and safety of children and young people, the Community Wellbeing Board has instructed that ES Joint Strategic Board be appraised that Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are concerned about the limitations/ challenges with the current DES Fund and • have raised the need to identify additional funding that can more effectively support VAWPs to adopt a strategic, cross-policy approach to implementing ES and responding to the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic at a local strategic level. • Propose a review of the membership of the JSB, ensuring that the involvement of LG strategic expertise is better informing its work going forward and taking robust account of local implementation 	<p>Chaired by COSLA CWB Board Spokesperson and the Minister for Older People and Equalities, meets on 25th February to beginning refreshing the ES Strategy, considering priorities for the next phase of the Delivery Plan (October 2021 – end September 2024)</p> <p>The SG’s £13M ‘Delivering Equally Safe’ competitive fund (2021 – 2024) is now open to third section specialist services and public bodies and has been extended until end April 2021.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

			requirements, opportunities and challenges.	
Children and Young People Mental Health				
Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Development of the wider preventative mental health and support for children and young people's mental health agendas	To increase the priority and visibility given to children and young people's mental health. 	Amber	<p>The Children and Young People Mental Health and wellbeing Board came to a close in December. Scottish Government and COSLA have reviewed how this workstream will be progressed and a new oversight and delivery structure is being discussed by Leaders at the end of February. Suggested deliverables for this board have been put forward based on the current context and the feedback of previous programme board members.</p> <p>Mental health resources for teachers and schools are being developed by the Mental Health in Schools Working Group and will be published in the spring.</p> <p>In June 2020 the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group wrote to the Minister for Mental Health and COSLA HSC Spokesperson with immediate recommendations for suicide prevention priorities for action, and a longer- term recommendation on a collaborative strategy for suicide prevention. COSLA Leaders, and the Minister, agreed these recommendations. A future paper to the CYP, HSC and CWB Boards will seek input as to the content of the strategy. The guidance for local suicide prevention plans was presented to the NSPLG in December where it was agreed and to COSLA leaders and SOLACE in January where the approach to implementation was also approved. The documents are currently with graphic design and expected to be published over the coming weeks.</p>	<p>Next meeting planned for March 2021 subject to Leaders Agreement.</p> <p>Spring 2021</p>

			<p>Work is also underway to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to reviewing deaths by suicide which will link to existing child death review processes as appropriate. Learning from these reviews will help to support the evidence for action at both local and national levels.</p> <p>An officer has been recruited to take forward the NSPLG action to support CYP who have tried to die by suicide or who have suicidal ideation. Following discussions with Scottish Government this officer will be based within COSLA.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

Child Poverty

Area of activity	Outcome sought	RAG score	Status update	Key Milestones ahead
Child Poverty	<p>Reduce child poverty with local government having a lead role as a major stakeholder.</p> 	Amber	<p>The Social Renewal Advisory Board published its report 'If Not Now, When?' in January 2021, it contains a number of recommendations relating to child poverty. A response from COSLA will be agreed at the Leaders meeting in February.</p> <p>A further letter to Local Authorities on expectations for Year 3 of Local Child Poverty Action Reports is currently being explored with the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The Scottish Government has held initial discussion with officers around the planned review of the school clothing grant.</p>	<p>Summer 2021</p> <p>Next phase of Local Child Poverty Action Reports.</p>