As part of our work to support a good childhood and improve the planning for care experienced young people we are using our learning with care teaching team to support the plans for young people returning to live in fife who will struggle with mainstream school. The Attainment Scotland Fund pays for a team of 3.6 teachers led by a PT who can provide intensive support to young people who are struggling to attend mainstream school and pupil support services. The team are currently supporting 12 young people directly but also providing outreach support to build capacity with staff in three primary schools.

One young person “Billy” has been working with the team since May 2021. After a period of time out of Authority Billy returned to Fife in 2020 and lived in one of our own homes. He was enrolled into a mainstream High school as well as receiving support from Pupil Support Services at an off-campus site. Billy began to engage 3 mornings a week but over time there was an increase in distressed behaviour and disengagement, when lockdown hit Billy refused to attend at all. Billy moved home to live with his mum in December.

After 6 months of no attendance Billy was referred to the Learning with Care team and they initially engaged him via a programme of outreach to his house and then a gradual and child led planning. Now in S3, Billy has increased his time with LwC from one hour of games-based learning to three morning sessions, focused on literacy, numeracy, and wellbeing. He is currently transported to and from school by the Learning with Care team. The initial focus has been on building trusting relationships, and attendance and engagement with increasing focus now beginning to be being placed on teaching and learning. Progress continues to be targeted, gradual and phased. This has been matched with ongoing family support for mum. The plan has met with multiagency support throughout. Mum’s feedback is that she is happy that Billy is back in school, and happy. Billy’s most recent feedback was ‘I’ve attended 100% I haven’t missed a day. When you think back to the start …" said with a smile and laugh.