



Integrated Children's Services Plan | 2012 - 2018

Getting it Right for West Lothian's Children & Families

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West Lothian
Council



West Lothian Community
Health and Care Partnership



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Foreword

The recent Christie Report on public sector reform has given a national direction to an approach which West Lothian has been taking for some time and emphasises the need for a preventative, collaborative and outcome-based approach.

Through the Life stages approach we have been in the vanguard of changing our focus from crisis management to prevention and changing the focus to what the outcomes should be for our children and their families in West Lothian and how we identify and achieve these.

This, alongside implementing the Getting it Right for Every Child approach will ensure that in West Lothian we are working together with and for our families to ensure that all children achieve their full potential and we make sure we get it right for all of them.

Professionals need to work together to support families, and where appropriate, take early action at the first signs of any difficulty.

We need to listen to the voices of children and ensure their views are valued and respected.

In West Lothian we already recognise the importance of the first 3 years of a child's life from pre birth,

and we will continue to build on the excellent multi agency work with parents and carers. Investing in the early years of a child's life also makes sound financial sense, but early intervention doesn't just apply to younger children – it means taking early action at any age when there are the first signs of a problem.

We want all children to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. Children and young people are the future of West Lothian.

This plan outlines the work of the Children and Families Management Group (CFMG) and is representative of the outcome based approach to budgets and planning as led by the Community Planning Partnership, and I commend it to you.

Jennifer Scott

Head of Social Policy, Chair of
Children and Families Management Group

Introduction

Vision for children and young people in West Lothian

In West Lothian we believe that every child should have the best start in life to enable them to realise their potential, raising their aspirations and equipping them for the future. This underpins the national change programmes of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right For Every Child with desired outcomes that all children become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens through being safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, achieving, respected and responsible

We are committed to providing services that are child-centred, developed in partnership with other organisations and with families themselves; that tackle inequalities, and focus on improved outcomes for children.

To ensure that children and young people in need have a head start in their lives we are now re-focusing on the importance of preventative work with families to help them cope with the pressures of parenting as well as providing the statutory early intervention and child protection services.

Principles

The underpinning principles of how we plan and deliver services for children revolves around how we target children and their families at an early enough point, as well as recognising that there will always be a need to provide services for the ongoing problems that families experience throughout their lives.

In order to achieve the best outcomes for our children, joint working continues to feature strongly, based on the underlying principles of focusing our combined resources on supporting children and families with additional needs, with the aim of reducing inequalities.

This Integrated Children's Services Plan has been developed to encompass the following principles:

- ➔ Getting the right balance between resourcing universal and targeted services
- ➔ Re-distributing resources towards targeted activities with individuals, groups and communities
- ➔ Improved integrated working
- ➔ Improving outcomes for the individual child and their family
- ➔ Focusing on early intervention – shifting resources upstream from managing crisis to building resilience and dealing with root causes of our current social issues.

The Integrated Children's Services plan:

- ➔ highlights partners' commitment to delivering outcomes for children and young people in West Lothian through active participation in joint planning and delivery structures.
- ➔ defines the approaches and mechanisms which partners use in West Lothian to plan and deliver those joint services, initiatives and activities geared towards the delivery of outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- ➔ defines the key outcomes which have been agreed by partners as priorities for multi-agency action.
- ➔ explains the way in which activity relating to each of these themes will be linked to key outcomes, will be monitored through the use of meaningful performance indicators and will be driven by challenging targets.

It confirms the commitment of partners to:

- ➔ actively participate in the well-established joint service planning and delivery structures in West Lothian, through the Children and Families Management Group.
- ➔ investigate best practice in early intervention and preventative approaches, and implement such approaches across West Lothian.
- ➔ build on previous successes and further demonstrate the added value from cooperative approaches to planning and delivering services and activity.

Strategic context

National overview

All services and activities identified within this Integrated Children's Services Plan have been planned and developed with regard to the following strategic policies, frameworks and legislation:

- ➔ The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- ➔ The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended.

- ➔ Getting It Right for Every Child'
- ➔ Early Year's Framework
- ➔ Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures
- ➔ The Christie Report
- ➔ Welfare Reform

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 is the key legislation concerning the care and welfare of children. The Act brings together aspects of family and childcare law and amended adoption legislation and is centred on the needs of children and their families. Consideration will also be given to the implications of up coming legislation including the Children and Young People Bill that is expected to be introduced the Parliament in 2013.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended.

Whilst most of our children and young people respond well to the opportunities for learning provided by our schools, some will not benefit fully from education without extra help. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended, aims to create a stronger, better system for supporting children's learning. The Act aims to ensure that all children and young people receive additional support required to meet their individual needs and help them to become successful learners.

Partnership working among those involved in supporting learning is essential if we are to achieve our aspirations for our children and young people. This Act requires local authorities and NHS Boards to establish clear arrangements for joint working so that they can work together effectively in order to benefit from their shared knowledge to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Getting it Right for Every Child

The 'Getting It Right for Every Child' programme is founded on the principles of early intervention, that is, appropriate, proportionate and timely intervention and provides a framework for putting them into action for all children and young people at an individual level.

Key priority areas for 'Getting It Right for Every Child' are:

- ➔ Every child and young person will have a named person with universal services
- ➔ Every child and young person will have a lead professional if appropriate
- ➔ Ensuring the use of the Getting it Right National Practice Model for:
 - Identification of need
 - evidence of working in partnership with children and families
 - assessment and analysis
 - delivering of services on the basis of a child/young person centred approach
- ➔ Every child and young person has a single plan
- ➔ An agreed proportionate approach to managing concerns and risks and sharing information.

Getting it Right for Every Child underpins the new Early Years Framework, Curriculum for Excellence and the More Choices, More Chances (MCMC) agenda. It is central to the delivery of the activities detailed within the Integrated Children's Services Plan with the aim of improving outcomes for all children and young people.

Early Years Framework

The Early Years and Early Intervention Framework (2008) is a key framework aimed at giving all children the best start in life. The underlying principles of the framework are to:

- ➔ Reduce inequalities and promote positive outcomes for all
- ➔ Identify those at risk of not achieving outcomes and take preventative action
- ➔ Sustained and effective interventions

The key themes of the framework are:

- ➔ Building parenting and family capacity pre and post birth
- ➔ Creating communities that provide a supportive environment
- ➔ Integrated services that meet the holistic needs of children and families
- ➔ Workforce development

What happens to children in their earliest years is key to positive outcomes in adult life and the themes within the framework are reliant on realigning and prioritising resources to offer more effective support to all families and to enable help to be provided earlier to children and families requiring additional support.

Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures – Report compiled by the National Residential Child Care Initiative

The National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI) was established to deliver on the Government's commitment to work with partners to make residential care the first and best placement of choice for those children whose needs it serves.

Its purpose was to undertake a strategic review of residential childcare services and develop a blueprint for their development which would shape the future direction of services and ensure the needs of children and young people are met. The report highlights the overarching messages that emerged from the working groups which were set up to undertake this strategic review.

The most consistent message to emerge was the need for a change in the culture in which residential childcare is delivered. There is recognition that there is tremendous potential for residential child care to develop and provide flexible and responsive services to children and young people of all ages with a variety of needs, but there is still a widespread negative perception about residential care, which is all too often seen as being the last resort.

The report also recognises that there is, at this time a convergence of new legislation, guidance and policy (for example the Kerelaw Inquiry report, the Kinship and Fostering Strategy, Looked After Children Regulations and the NRCCI among others) which will impact on the experiences of looked after children and young people. This convergence offers an opportunity for the wider sector to focus critically on the whole journey of children and young people who are looked after and not just those in residential care.



Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services

The Commission was established to develop recommendations of the future delivery of public services in Scotland. The resulting report identified the need for public sector reform requiring a clear shift in service provision to a more preventative, collaborative and outcome-based approach, and demanded firmer strategies to tackle inequality.

Welfare Reform

The next few years will see profound changes to the welfare system in the UK. To a large extent, the changes proposed are aimed at making expenditure savings, but the Government has also set in train quite radical reforms which will change the whole landscape of welfare provision.

The main changes are:

- ➔ Reassessment of Incapacity Benefit claimants
- ➔ Time-limiting of contributory Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- ➔ Change to Consumer Price Indexation of benefits
- ➔ Disability Living Allowance reform
- ➔ Child Benefit freeze for three years
- ➔ Child Benefit clawback from higher rate taxpayers
- ➔ Council Tax Benefit – 10% reduction and localisation
- ➔ Housing Benefit changes
- ➔ Tax credit changes
- ➔ Universal Credit
- ➔ Localisation of the Social Fund

Other changes in relation to these reforms include the abolition of the ESA youth rules, abolition of the Child Trust Fund, Health in Pregnancy Grant and Sure Start Maternity for second and subsequent children, the household benefit cap, and the extension of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) lone parents with a youngest child aged 5-6.

Families with children will undoubtedly be one of the key

groups significantly affected by the changes in welfare provision.

The West Lothian Council and Community Planning Partnership has developed a Strategy which has the overall purpose to help minimise the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian. Its object is to ensure that people are equipped to cope with the challenges they currently face; those of the current, deep, economic recession and the welfare reforms.

Change funds

The Scottish Spending Review 2011 announcement contained a key strategic objective to reform public services through a decisive shift towards supporting preventative spending at a Community Planning Partnership (CPP) level. This is supported by a growing body of evidence demonstrating that spending on prevention can deliver better solutions and outcomes for individuals and avert future costs to the public sector.

Following the Review two strategic change funds, Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund and Reducing Re-Offending Change Fund, will be developed to finance a shift towards a preventative spend model of service delivery and to make a direct contribution to key areas of Scottish Government policy.

Early Years Change Fund

The Scottish Government has placed the Early Years and Early Intervention agenda at the heart of its plans for its current administrative term, involving a fundamental shift in philosophy and approach: a shift from intervening only when a crisis happens, to prevention and early intervention; providing a supportive environment for children and the earliest possible identification of any help that may be required.

An Early Years Change Fund is to be established to finance a shift towards a preventative spend model of service delivery and to make a direct contribution to key areas of Scottish Government policy, such as parenting, childcare and family centres.

Key Themes

Although details of the Early Years/Early Intervention change fund have yet to be announced, analysis of the need in West Lothian is already advancing via the Community Planning Partnership's Children and Families Management Group and its life stage sub groups of Early Years, School Age and Young People. Four key themes have emerged:

- ➔ Early Years
- ➔ Breaking the Cycle (of generational deprivation)
- ➔ Capacity Building
- ➔ Additional Needs

These themes are being explored by the life stage groups, with further options emerging such as:

- ➔ ensuring that there is an effective portfolio of group and 1-1 interventions for the very early years (pre-birth to 3 yrs) designed to reach all vulnerable parents (including teenage parents, parents that are or have been looked-after, substance misusing parents, parents with additional support needs)
- ➔ extending early years capacity building to additional vulnerable communities
- ➔ small grant funding for local small-scale peer support/community initiatives
- ➔ building capacity in existing services to promote and support the mental and emotional wellbeing of parents, children and young people
- ➔ peer mentoring support and volunteering in secondary schools.
- ➔ refocusing support for care leavers around sustainability - recognising that identifying a positive destination is a challenge but not as great as sustaining that destination.
- ➔ specialist key worker approach for young mothers to reduce likelihood of a second unintended pregnancy has been identified as a gap
- ➔ moving services from being reactive to supporting children and young people at an earlier stage would reduce demand on both external foster placements and residential school's and improve outcomes for young people.
- ➔ a facility aimed at being flexible to meet respite and emergency need would make residential houses more positive as a means of meeting young peoples needs.

Regarding the portfolio of interventions, there is potential to extend the volume of existing programmes offering support for young mums and dads, parenting support for parents of looked after children, Parents as Early Education Partners (PEEP), and playgroup development, to explore new ways of working such as the Family Nurse Partnership, and to develop further support for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

In advancing this work, there is an existing commitment to work ever more effectively in partnership, to promote an asset-based approach to working with vulnerable families and to ensure that life stage transitions are well supported. The Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) framework will provide the delivery mechanism for this work.

The Early Years/Early Intervention change fund will be used to complement existing services, the council's own change fund, which will provide additional nurture support in primary and secondary schools and the Families Included programme, and the use of additional funding such as European Social Fund, Health Improvement Fund and LEADER funding.



Reducing Re-offending Change Fund

Reducing Re-offending forms a key part of the Scottish Governments, Justice Change portfolio alongside other areas such as:

- ➔ Police reform through the creation of a national police force
- ➔ reassuring the public by creating greater confidence in the justice system
- ➔ reducing crime through the development of preventative approaches with young people and families
- ➔ making justice work through making systems work more effectively and in a more cost effective way.

The focus on reducing re-offending is driven by Scotland imprisoning more people than nearly any other European country, 57 per cent of the prison population serving sentences of three months or less, 62 per cent of those released re-offend within two years and that figure rises to 74 per cent for short sentences. In comparison only 42 per cent of those serving sentences in the community are reconvicted over the same period.

The change portfolio is focussed on the following areas:

- ➔ The introduction of a revised system of community penalties,
- ➔ Community Payback Orders, as a strong alternative to short sentences of imprisonment
- ➔ Introduce a new risk and needs assessment, the Level of Service and Case Management Inventory (LSCMI)
- ➔ Improve the quality of flow of information about offenders
- ➔ Strengthen the links between rehabilitation programmes in prison and in the community
- ➔ Encourage wider use of diversion and early intervention programmes to keep young people out of the justice system

Details of the he Reducing Re-offending Change Fund have still to be formally confirmed however an allocation of £7.5 million over the years 2012-13 to 2014-15 has been announced. This fund is made up of £4.5 million Community Justice funding and £3 million from third sector funding.

The government has indicated that it would like to see the fund facilitating a more effective funding system where programmes that successfully reduce

re-offending amongst prolific repeat offenders receive sustainable funding.

A Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2012-2015 is being developed and will work alongside this Integrated Children's Services Plan.

Fixed term funding to meet the early intervention and preventative agenda

Alongside the change funds announced by the Scottish Government West Lothian has made available fixed term funding to meet the early intervention and preventative agenda.

➔ Families Included

One such fund has been allocated to a project called Families Included. Through the life stage approach and the community safety strategy, West Lothian Council and its partners have built up a systematic and extensive shared understanding of the complexity of the needs of individuals, families and communities in West Lothian. There is a shared drive to work together collectively to improve outcomes and support public services within constrained budgets. More importantly, through increased experience of working in partnership using innovative approaches, agencies are progressively gathering evidence of what works and has the potential to work for the most vulnerable. Children and families services are being systematically reviewed and redesigned within existing budgets with the aim of:

- ➔ Targeting services to reduce inequalities
- ➔ Shifting resources upstream to deliver preventative services and intervene earlier
- ➔ Ensuring that we get maximum impact from expenditure



The evidence base for investing in early years and early intervention is wide and robust. Additionally, the evidence base for investing in preventative, even spending to save, is similarly extensive and valid. For example, if we ensure through changes to service delivery that our most vulnerable young people, children and their families receive joined up and appropriate services at the right time, they are much less likely to engage in offending behaviour and more likely to engage in learning. This will be evidenced through improvements in youth offending rates and positive employment figures and decreased spend in these areas.

Such approaches engage with whole families with very complex needs and with the most entrenched social issues by engaging in asset-based, co-production models with families. This has the benefit of working with families on their own terms, addressing issues that are live and important for the family by building strong and persistent relationships between professionals and families, supporting them to navigate and negotiate services and release the strengths already present within the family. These types of models work across boundaries and barriers and are entirely family focussed. Whilst they are very intensive and can be challenging to existing services, this is consistent with the transformative change agenda promoted by Getting It Right For Every Child.

There is some early compelling evidence that this type of intervention improves outcomes for the whole family and reduces costs over the medium to long term, including reduction in domestic violence, improved mental health, increased engagement with addictions services, improved parenting skills, reduction in eviction orders, avoidance of children going into care, increased health benefits, positive health behaviour change.

Development of an asset-based, co-production family intervention approach in West Lothian has the potential to improve outcomes across the first three life stages for families identified by West Lothian Community Safety Strategy Group as those who utilise the greatest resources. By supporting whole families through their current crises and, crucially, continuing to engage with them to support behaviour change and strengthen a positive family identity, further crises can be averted and trends reversed.

Enhanced Early Intervention (Primary/Secondary)

Fixed term funding has also been allocated to support enhanced early intervention in 8 secondary schools and 16 primary schools across West Lothian. The purpose of this intervention is to ensure children and young people at the upper stages of primary and the early stages of secondary are effectively supported to make a successful transition into secondary education.

Nurture groups have proven to be very successful in supporting children and young people experiencing challenge or deprivation in their lives. The groups focus on ensuring that children and young people are ready to learn, remain engaged with school and develop greater confidence in accessing their learning.

This development will be supported and evaluated through Educational Psychology Service



Supporting Mental Well Being of Children, Young People and their Families

Under the themes of Early Intervention/Prevention and Employability fixed term funding has been invested to support the mental wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

Research indicates that failure to form secure attachments early in life has a negative impact on behaviour in later childhood and throughout life.

This investment will enable be the recruitment of additional staff to:

- ➔ engage with a wider range and larger number of families around positive parenting programmes,
- ➔ allow for intense programmes to be developed for families experiencing more challenging circumstances
- ➔ support young people to move into positive destinations.

Improving the mental health of children and young people has a proven impact on their ability to form positive relationships with peers and adults, their success at school and a whole range of outcomes as adults.

This work will be linked to Sure Start programmes already well established in West Lothian and will be reflected in the Early Years / Early Intervention Change Fund as well as linking to the Families Included project.

Development of West Lothian CEDAR model
The CEDAR Project provides a therapeutic 12 week group-work programme for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. This runs alongside a concurrent group work programme for their mothers. The programmes are designed to encourage both mothers and children to work together towards recovery from their experiences.

West Lothian Violence against Women Strategic Partnership has been successful in attracting funding from the Scottish Government to develop a model based on the CEDAR principles but mainstreamed and delivered by West Lothian's Children and Young People Teams and supported and quality-assured by the Domestic and Sexual Assault Team. (DASAT).

The project will be developed in a collaboration between Education and the Domestic and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT).

Future legislative developments

Partners in West Lothian acknowledge the Scottish Government's intention to introduce legislation in this parliamentary session which will impact positively on services for children and children's rights. Appropriate partners have already been involved in Scottish Government led seminars designed to generate debate around aspirations and options for the legislation.

It is expected that future legislative developments will enshrine in law a duty for councils and other agencies to work together to place the children at the centre of how they deliver services.

Ministers have given an early indication that future developments may also be used to:

- ➔ Place all or some aspects of the Early Years
- ➔ Framework on a statutory basis;
- ➔ Embed the Getting It Right For Every Child approach consistently across Scotland;
- ➔ Review and update the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
- ➔ Support a stronger focus on achieving outcomes and improving life chances; and
- ➔ Remove barriers to child-centred service delivery.

West Lothian Overview

Each Local Authority has developed a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government. The purpose of the Single Outcome Agreement is to identify priority outcomes for the people of West Lothian and set out targets to maintain and improve those outcomes directed by West Lothian's Community Planning Partners.

There is a general recognition that those agencies involved in the delivery of Children's Services have a role to play in the delivery of many of the National Outcomes. Within the Integrated Children's Services Plan the relevant outcomes are:

➔ Outcome 3 – We are better educated, more successful, renowned for our research and innovation

Good educational qualifications are essential for improving young people's employment prospects and life chances and for the economy in general. In 1996 West Lothian was below the national average for educational attainment and was the lowest performer among the former Lothian councils. In recent years, West Lothian has consistently outperformed or equalled the attainment or comparator authorities. The challenge remains to maintain high performance where it exists and to continue to raise performance in areas where deprivation is a major factor.

➔ Outcome 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

West Lothian continues to have a major challenge to meet in continuing to reduce the level of negative destinations and supporting young people to sustain, once in a positive destination. Considerable progress has been made in putting additional schools based resources in to all schools. Vocational training provision is now available across all schools and additional opportunities have been created through ESF Priority 5 funds. All schools have established an 'internal hub' to review and support young people with additional challenges to move on to a positive destination. Ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in post school provision for school staff through the Transition to Work Co-ordinator's network and external hub has enabled schools to make contact with a greater range of opportunities.

➔ Outcome 5 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

The fundamental importance of parenting and early intervention is primary to achieving this outcome. National policies include Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) a programme founded on the principles of early intervention, that is, appropriate, proportionate and timely intervention of services and it provides a framework for putting them into action for all children and young people at the individual level. The Early Years framework (2008) follows this policy setting out the requirements for transformational change with regards to early intervention and early years. In West Lothian, through the Early Years Children's Services Management Group, the importance of multi agency working, parenting and early intervention has contributed significantly to the development of universal, evidence based and accessible parenting programmes and targeted individual work.

➔ Outcome 8 - We have improved the life chances for people at risk

This outcome is focusing on those in our society who are most at risk e.g. looked after young people, vulnerable adults, children, and women and children experiencing domestic violence. Various partnership arrangements are in place to ensure that we protect these vulnerable groups through child protection, adult protection and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

➔ Outcome 9 – We live our lives free from crime disorder and danger

Partners have come together to address crime, disorder and danger using the Joint Tasking and Co-ordination model utilised by the Police. This new way of working has led to greater co-ordination and better use of scarce resources.

Life Stages

The Community Planning Partners have also agreed to work within a life stage approach which aims to:

- Reduce inequalities by targeting services at those most at risk
- Shift resources 'upstream'

- Reinforce a prevention approach
- Ensure maximum impact from expenditure

These principles are easily aligned with those detailed within the Integrated Children Services Plan (ICSP) and are compatible with its overarching objective, which is to work in partnership to improve services and outcomes for West Lothian's children and young people.



The overall aim of the West Lothian Life Stage

approach is to enable the Community Planning Partnership to plan and deliver more effective interventions to tackle social inequalities and build successful communities across West Lothian. This process provides a significant opportunity to do things differently, demonstrating a new, innovative way of developing Community Planning Outcomes, achieving more flexibility in target setting and resource allocation to help us better achieve the outcomes we have set.

Strategic Commissioning

A Strategic Commissioning Plan is being developed to ensure that partners plan services which meet the needs of and strives to improve the quality of life for children and families in West Lothian by:

- having the vision and commitment to improve services
- connecting with the needs and aspirations of users and carers
- making the best use of all available resources
- understanding demand and supply

- linking financial planning and service planning
- making relationships and working in partnership
- ensuring Best Value
- Placing the equalities agenda at the centre of our service planning and delivery

Our aim is to deliver quality, appropriate and accessible services to meet current demand but also to anticipate and identify future needs and expectations.

Demographics

In planning for the development and delivery of services for children, young people and their families the demographic profile of West Lothian has been considered. Of particular significance is the projected increase in West Lothian's population, by 2033 it is projected to be 208,364, an increase of 22.9% compared to 2008. A high percentage of the population is aged under 16 (20.3%), which is expected to increase by 16.2% by 2033.

Key Facts about West Lothian's Population

- ➔ It is estimated that 11% of children in West Lothian are living in severe poverty
- ➔ Youth unemployment in West Lothian is higher than the Scottish Average
- ➔ There were 2070 domestic abuse incidents reported in 2010 which is an increase of 4% compared to the average for the previous 3 years.
- ➔ 46% of homeless applicants are under 25 years of age, higher than the Scottish average of 39%.
- ➔ 25% of young care leavers, who left West Lothian schools in 2011, did not go onto positive destinations

The following factors were also taken into account in identifying future need:

There are also challenges around the provision of services for children and families at particular stages of their lives:

- ➔ **Early Years.** Estimated no. of children aged 0-4 living in families misusing drugs or alcohol - 2,708 (24% of those aged 0-4years)
- ➔ **School Age.** Estimated no. of children and young people at risk of failing to achieve their potential owing to serious adverse circumstances - 1,111 (3.65% of the school population)
- ➔ **Young People in Transition.** 9.4% of school leavers are unemployed and seeking employment (School Leaver Destination Results 2010/11)

The demographic profile of West Lothian coupled with the life-stage specific challenges indicates that it is realistic to expect that there will be an increase in the demand for services for children and families with additional needs. These factors underline the need to ensure that services are appropriately targeted, delivered and planned in partnership and focused on improved outcomes for children and their families.



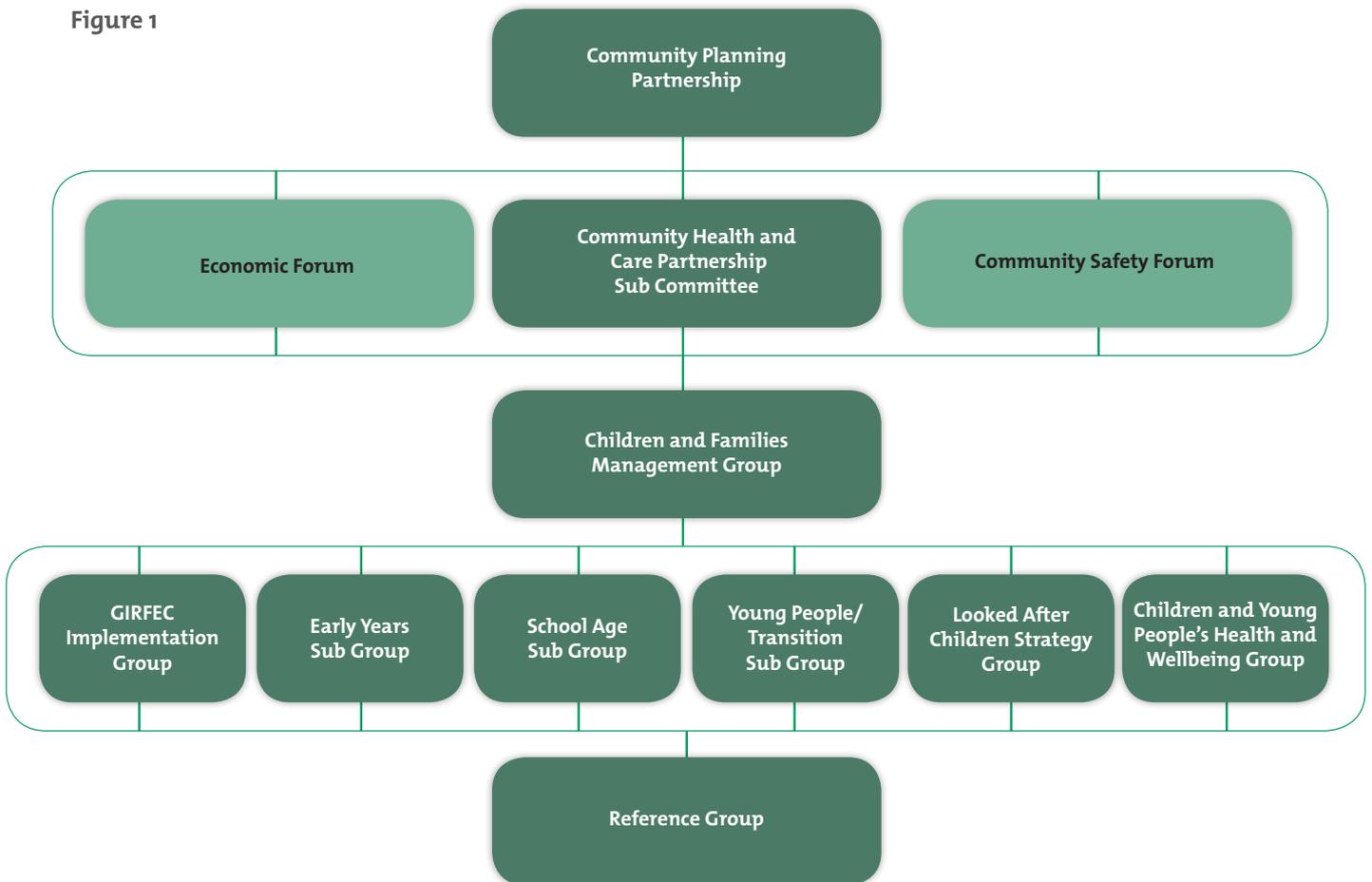
Structure

Services for children, young people and families are planned and monitored at a West Lothian wide level by senior managers from all relevant agencies.

The Children and Families Management Group (CFMG) is responsible for integrated children's service planning and reports to the Community Health and Care Partnership Sub-Committee which is part of the Community Planning Partnership Structure as detailed in figure 1.

The CFMG planning structure ensures that agencies work together in achieving the Scottish Government's well-being indicators for children and young people. That is, children and young people in Scotland are safe, nurtured, active, responsible and respected, healthy, achieving and included.

Figure 1



Role of the Children and Families Management Group

This is a representative group of senior officers from each of the key community planning partners, who have collective responsibility for discharging the functions of the CFMG, including:

- ➔ Developing a co-ordinated approach and vision for the delivery and planning of services for children and families in West Lothian.
- ➔ Monitoring the plans developed by each of the sub-groups to take forward the vision of the CFMG.
- ➔ Ensuring that progress towards achieving key outcomes is monitored and reported through the Community Planning Process.
- ➔ Acting as a conduit between community planning partnership and operational activity
- ➔ Identifying cross cutting issues across the three sub-groups and develop integrated multi-agency solutions
- ➔ Acting as a key consultative group for major policy development;
- ➔ Developing processes which maintain a regular and effective means of communication between partnerships.
- ➔ Supporting and develop shared information and intelligence systems;
- ➔ Promoting joint staff training and development.

The CFMG is underpinned by six sub-groups:

- ➔ Early Years,
- ➔ School Age
- ➔ Young People/Transition
- ➔ Getting it Right for Every Child Implementation Group
- ➔ Looked After Children Strategic Group
- ➔ Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Group.

Role of Children and Families Management Group's Sub-Groups

The membership of each of the sub-groups has representatives from all of the agencies with a responsibility to participate in the planning and delivery of children and family services.

Each sub-group will:

- ➔ develop and ensure plans are in place to deliver the visions within the CFMG
- ➔ continue to develop the solutions to the challenges within the Single Outcome Agreement and monitor progress towards the targets set.
- ➔ identify and implement creative solutions for improving policy development and service delivery;
- ➔ oversee the work of sub groups and partnerships delivering aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement;
- ➔ ensure that the underpinning principles of the Community Plan, sustainability, equality and value for money are incorporated into the implementation of the action plan.

Role of Reference Group

Across all six subgroups of CFMG, the ability to plan for and support better outcomes for children and their families is greatly affected by substance misuse, mental illness and health, and domestic and sexual violence. How these phenomena affect children and families is often mediated by race, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation and faith and belief—the protected characteristics we are statutorily obliged to consider in all policy making.

This group brings together an expert for each area, an equalities officer, the chair or other member from each of the subgroups, and the CFMG chair; the group's remit is to:

- ➔ Scrutinise plans and outcomes for evidence that the cross-cutting issues have been considered and integrated into decision making and reporting
- ➔ Support improvement and supply expertise to enable subgroups to address gaps and improve integration of evidence into planning and monitoring.

Next Steps

The key tasks for each of the Sub-Groups over the period of the plan are:

Key Tasks	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Agree the high level outcomes and indicators for each of the themed priority areas, through consultation with partners						
Develop and agree action plans with partners, utilising existing networks and forums wherever possible, in relation to each of the themed priority areas						
<p>Ensure our action plans contain details under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome • Activity • Lead partner(s) • Timescale • Resources • Performance measure(s) 						
Report annually to the CFMG on the delivery of action plans and performance						
Promote and raise awareness of Integrated Children's Services Plan amongst key stakeholders						
Implement activities detailed within action plans.						
Monitor/review action plans in accordance with agreed approach and system(s).						
Report annually on progress to key stakeholders.						

Performance management

Each subgroup of the Children and Families Management Group has identified its specific contribution to the delivery of the outcomes detailed within the Single Outcome Agreement. A robust suite of indicators, aligned to the Government's wellbeing indicators – safe, nurtured, active, responsible and respected, healthy, achieving and included, is being developed to build on those detailed in Table 2 – Indicators.

To ensure that we make a positive difference in the lives of children and young people across West Lothian these indicators will be tracked through partner's performance information systems e.g. Covalent. Each sub-group will submit performance reports on the suite of indicators to the CFMG on an annual basis and this information will be made publicly available.

Table 2 - Indicators

	Early Years	School Age	Young People In Transition
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children on the child protection register under 5 % of children referred to Domestic Abuse Screening Group Under age of 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of school age children and young people on the child protection register in the year who have been previously on the register % of school age children re-referred to the Domestic Abuse Screening Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of homeless presentations from 16-25 year olds % of Domestic Abuse Perpetrators completing a Probation Order without further incidents being reported to the Police
Healthy Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of obese children in P1 % of babies with appropriate birth weight for gestational age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of looked after children receiving health assessment within agreed timescales (CEL16) % of school children walking / cycling to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO) with a successful completion % of 14-25 year olds sustaining drug and alcohol interventions/
Nurtured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of infants breastfed exclusively at 6 - 8 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children demonstrating satisfactory progress at 6 moth LAC review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of young people in Supported Adult Placement in positive destinations
Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children under 5 referred to Speech & Language Therapy services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of 16-17year old looked after children gaining English and maths at level 3 The average cumulative tariff score for all S4 pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of school leavers entering a positive destination (SDS SLDR, Annual (Dec)) % of school leavers in a positive destination at the follow up SLDR in March (SDS SLDR and Follow up, Annually, (Dec and April) % of care leavers entering positive destination % of Offenders subject to Statutory supervision accessing services to increase employability
Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % parents who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % decrease in exclusion rate for looked after children % increase in attendance at primary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of young people who have ceased to be looked after with a positive accommodation outcome within 6 months of leaving their placement - Annual WLC % of Social Enquiry Reports or Criminal Justice Social Work reports resulting in a custodial sentence of less than 3 months
Respected And Responsible		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of school age children reporting that they are treated fairly by school staff and pupils % of school age children reporting that there is mutual respect between school staff and pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of Criminal Justice Service Users who stated that the effect Criminal Justice staff were having on their ability to avoid further offending was 'good' or 'excellent'. % of criminal justice social work reports on women offenders resulting in a custodial sentence



Partners

Education and Cultural Services | NHS Lothian | West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership | West Lothian Child Protection Committee | Lothian and Borders Police | Scottish Children's Reporter Administration : West Lothian | Voluntary Sector | Housing | Community Planning and Regeneration | MCMC | Criminal Justice | Tobacco Alcohol and Drugs Partnership | Skills Development Scotland