

<i>item:</i>	6
<i>report:</i>	CYP11/08

## **FOR HIGHLAND'S CHILDREN 3**

### **By Bill Alexander**

#### **Summary**

This report provides an update on the review of 'For Highland's Children 2' and consultation with partners to progress proposals for 'For Highland's Children 3'. An earlier report explained the background to Children's Planning and how there is now a requirement to work within the Single Outcome Agreement which is currently under negotiation.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Work is ongoing to review the Integrated Children's Plan, For Highland's Children 2005 – 2008 (FHC2) and prepare updated plans for 2008 onwards.
- 1.2 The completion of the next Children's Plan (FHC3) needs to be aligned with the Council's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government. The SOA provides the opportunity to identify the local outcomes for children in Highland cast against the Scottish Governemnt's national outcomes. It will also streamline the amount of information required for the Government; although more detailed managerial information will still be required to ensure regional performance across the partnership continues to improve.
- 1.3 There is good alignment between the Government's 15 National Outcomes, supported by a menu of indicators to use (45 from the Government and 55 from the Improvement Service) and the Council's Programme for Administration and corporate performance framework. This means that relevant local outcomes for Highland's Children can be proposed in the first draft of the SOA, due by the end March 2008. This report provides information on the work in hand and the key issues under consideration.

#### **2. Single Outcome Agreement**

- 2.1 The Concordat agreed between Cosla and the Scottish Government at the end of 2007 set out the new working relationship between national and local government. This involves accounting for the achievement of public services locally, and how they contribute to the Government's national outcomes, as well as local priorities.
- 2.2 A significant shift in the working relationship between both spheres of government is intended; with national government concentrating on

what has to be achieved rather than how it is to be achieved. This approach is supported by the move away from micro-managing local government services nationally, evidenced already by the removal of ring fenced funding and separate reporting arrangements, and the commitment that the Scottish Government will work with local government to streamline the regulation of services and to reduce the burden of audit and inspection.

- 2.3 By focusing on what has to be achieved against the Government's five strategic priorities for the country, 15 national outcomes have been identified. These are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Local authorities and partners are asked to produce a Single Outcome Agreement which sets out how they will contribute to achieving these national outcomes in a local context, as well as achieving their local priorities.
- 2.5 To support the production of Single Outcome Agreements, 45 national indicators and 55 outcome indicators have been offered as a way of measuring progress; although only those relevant and useful should be adopted, with scope for local measures to be used where appropriate.
- 2.6 Work is presently taking place in Highland to set out a Single Outcome Agreement by the end of March 2008. This will be discussed and agreed with the Scottish Government by the end of June 2008.

### **3. Review of FHC2 and Consultation with Partners**

- 3.1 An overview of progress of the planning objectives in FHC2 has been completed. This was reported to the JCCYP Seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Information was provided on the progress made on the FHC2 50 Key Outcome Targets and the 400 Delivery Strategies that have been monitored and evaluated over the past three years.
- 3.2 Around 100 delegates from a wide range of partner agencies attended the Seminar. A series of workshops provided opportunities to discuss the progress made and to consult on a range of matters regarding the process and structure of present and future integrated children's planning. A great deal of information was gathered which will be used to inform planning for better services for children, young people and families.
- 3.3 The Highland devised vision for children - Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected and Responsible and Included (SHANARI) which was adopted by the former Scottish Executive received strong, continuing support at the Seminar, as the basis for the Children's Plan.

- 3.4 Delegates at the seminar valued an outcomes based approach and there was agreement that significant progress had been evidenced in FHC2 and that integrated planning had strengthened joint working. Delegates suggested that SHANARI targets should be used as the ground level model for ongoing improvements in Children's Services, that were then set against higher level agency and Government targets, including the National Outcomes.

#### **4. Key Findings for Updating Integrated Children's Planning**

- 4.1 A major focus of the JCCYP Seminar involved evaluating the FHC2 planning structure and seeking to identify improvements, particularly around the use and accessibility of the plan.
- 4.2 The seminar evidenced a strong consensus that FHC2 has brought a new dimension to integrated working in Highland. Continuous monitoring and updated reporting on progress makes this a uniquely dynamic plan, providing a means of continuous review of operational effectiveness against agreed strategic objectives.
- 4.3 On the negative side, FHC2 was considered overly large, too complex and not readily accessible. There was concern that, perhaps because of this, front line operational managers do not regularly use nor are they fully aware on the connection between their duties and the wider strategic framework of FHC2.
- 4.4 While there was a plea to reduce the size of the plan and its complexity, there was equally a strong request for training and regular feedback on the plan, particularly for front line managers. There was a feeling that Senior and Middle Managers were better informed on strategic plans than frontline staff, and therefore more engaged in the process. A better understanding of Children's Planning was seen as a requirement for front line staff.
- 4.5 There was agreement that a new generation of Children's Plans was not required. The consensus was that FHC2 was still work in progress. What is requested is an extended period of consistency in content and structure for the public and staff to become familiar with the aims and objectives of FHC2.
- 4.6 This resonates with the views of the lead officers group (LOG) for each of the FHC2 Strategy Groups, which reports to Chief Officers. This group meets regularly to oversee progress on integrated working and to agree updating of FHC2. Members are working on a reappraisal of the high level Improvement Objectives within FHC2. This is an important review which is moving towards a mix of old, revised and new proposals based on current progress.

- 4.7 The LOG proposes that the next Children's Plan should retain the current planning structure but reduce the number of Key Outcome Targets.
- 4.8 The Highland Single Outcome Agreement will provide the framework for Key Outcome Targets and both the National guidance and local feedback would suggest that FHC3 should have a reduced number of targets.

## **5. Proposals**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the current priority is to align these various planning frameworks, to ensure an appropriate fit of children's plan improvement objectives and targets.
- 5.2 This would involve not progressing to a new generation of the Children's Plan at this time, but taking stock on the basis of the Single Outcome Agreement, the supporting framework, and the new partnerships that are forged around it.
- 5.3 In the meantime, the various strategic groups should continue to work towards defining the strategic priorities for children's services for the next three years across the authority.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to consider this report, and to agree the proposals set out in section 5.

**Bill Alexander**  
Head of Children's Services

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Scottish Government Strategic Priorities**

1. Wealthier and Fairer Scotland
2. Healthier Scotland
3. Safer and Stronger Scotland
4. Smarter Scotland
5. A Greener Scotland

### **National Outcomes**

1. We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
2. We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
3. We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
4. Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
6. We live longer, healthier lives.
7. We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
8. We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
9. We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
11. We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
13. We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
15. Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

### **National Indicators**

**Indicator 1:** At least halve the gap in total research and development spending compared with EU average by 2011

**Indicator 2:** Increase the business start-up rate

**Indicator 3:** Grow exports at a faster average rate than GDP

**Indicator 4:** Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion

**Indicator 5:** Increase the percentage of Scottish domiciled graduates from Scottish Higher Education Institutions in positive destinations

**Indicator 6:** Improve knowledge transfer from research activity in universities

**Indicator 7:** Increase the proportion of school-leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)

**Indicator 8:** Increase the proportion of schools receiving positive inspection reports

**Indicator 9:** Increase the overall proportion of area child protection committees receiving positive inspection reports

**Indicator 10:** Decrease the proportion of individuals living in poverty

**Indicator 11:** 60% of school children in primary 1 will have no signs of dental disease by 2010

**Indicator 12:** Increase the proportion of pre-school centres receiving positive inspection reports

**Indicator 13:** Increase the social economy turnover

**Indicator 14:** Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018

**Indicator 15:** Increase the average score of adults on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale by 2011

**Indicator 16:** Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas

**Indicator 17:** Reduce the percentage of the adult population who smoke to 22% of by 2010

**Indicator 18:** Reduce alcohol related hospital admissions by 2011

**Indicator 19:** Achieve annual milestones for reducing inpatient or day case waiting times culminating in the delivery of an 18 week referral to treatment time from December 2011

**Indicator 20:** Reduce proportion of people aged 65 and over admitted as emergency inpatients 2 or more times in a single year

**Indicator 21:** Reduce mortality from coronary heart disease among the under 75s in deprived areas

**Indicator 22:** All unintentionally homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012

**Indicator 23:** Reduce overall reconviction rates by 2 percentage points by 2011

**Indicator 24:** Reduce overall crime victimisation rates by 2 percentage points by 2011

**Indicator 25:** Increase the percentage of criminal cases dealt with within 26 weeks by 3 percentage points by 2011

**Indicator 26:** Increase the percentage of people aged 65 and over with high levels of care needs who are cared for at home

**Indicator 27:** Increase the rate of new house building

**Indicator 28:** Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live

**Indicator 29:** Decrease the estimated number of problem drug users in Scotland by 2011

**Indicator 30:** Reduce number of working age people with severe literacy and numeracy problems

**Indicator 31:** Increase positive public perception of the general crime rate in local area

**Indicator 32:** Reduce overall ecological footprint

**Indicator 33:** Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition

**Indicator 34:** Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment

- Indicator 35:** Biodiversity: increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds
- Indicator 36:** Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport
- Indicator 37:** Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week
- Indicator 38:** 50% of electricity generated in Scotland to come from renewable sources by 2020 (interim target of 31% by 2011)
- Indicator 39:** Reduce to 1.32 million tonnes waste sent to landfill by 2010
- Indicator 40:** Increase to 70% key commercial fish stocks at full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably by 2015
- Indicator 41:** Improve people's perceptions, attitudes and awareness of Scotland's reputation
- Indicator 42:** Improve public sector efficiency through the generation of 2% cash releasing efficiency savings per annum
- Indicator 43:** Improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services delivered
- Indicator 44:** Improve the quality of healthcare experience
- Indicator 45:** Reduce the number of Scottish public bodies by 25% by 2015