

FOR HIGHLAND'S CHILDREN 3 - UPDATE

by Innis Mitchell

Summary

This report provides a further update on *For Highland's Children 3* and proposes that the final draft of *FHC3* will be presented at a seminar prior to the Joint Committee meeting scheduled for 2nd October 2009.

1. Introduction

1.1 Following the report and presentation of the current draft of *FHC3* to the Joint Committee on 5 June 2009, each of the agreed action points have been taken forward for inclusion in the final draft. The key action points to be included are:

- Transitions to be included as an additional Strategic priority in Section 2
- Stronger reference to be made regarding alignment with the Single Outcome Agreement
- Stronger reference to be made to the alignment with The Highland Council's Programme "Strengthening the Highlands".
- Specific detail to be provided in Section 5 (Review of *FHC2*) of how those Key Outcome Targets in *FHC2* which did not make satisfactory progress are being addressed in *FHC3*.

1.2 A presentation of the planned new *FHC3* web-site will be made to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

1.3 Additionally the Joint Committee agreed that the *FHC3* web-based performance monitoring be reported to the committee at regular intervals.

2. Key Outcomes

2.1 Work is continuing to finalise the list of Key Outcome Targets to be included in *FHC3*. This will not depart significantly from the initial list detailed on an earlier report to the Joint Committee of 27th March 2009:

Key Outcomes:

- *Increase the percentage of Looked After Children in P3, 4, 6, 7 & S2 stages achieving or exceeding the appropriate 5-14 level relevant to their stage in reading, writing and maths.*
- *Increase the percentage of Looked After Children attaining at SCQF level 3 by the end of S4 in English and Maths.*
- *Increase the average tariff of Looked After Children in S4.*
- *Increase the percentage of young people ceasing to be Looked After Away from Home attaining awards at SCQF Level 3.*

- *Increase the percentage of young people ceasing to be Looked After at Home attaining awards at SCQF Level 3.*
- *Reduce the number of low birth weight babies born.*
- *Reduce the proportion of women smoking in early pregnancy.*
- *Increase the proportion of mums breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after birth.*
- *Achieve and maintain a 95% uptake of the pre-school immunisation programme.*
- *Improve the oral health of young people.*
- *Sustain a downward trend in the number and rate of teenage pregnancies.*
- *Reduce the proportion of 13 and 15 year olds misusing alcohol, and drugs and smoking regularly.*
- *Reduce suicide and recorded self harm in under 19 year olds.*
- *Reduce child injuries and fatalities for accidents relative to the total population.*
- *Increase the proportion of Looked After Children with an appropriately reviewed health plan.*
- *Substantially increase the number of vulnerable families of 0-3 year olds accessing services supported by Surestart funding stream.*
- *Increase the number of parents participating in funded parenting programmes.*

2.2 However the concept of the Key Outcome Target requires development which will result in significant change in the presentation of these over time, including their integration with other associated planning processes (SOA, Service Plans etc).

2.3 There is an increasing requirement to measure and evidence outcomes which can be seen in the changes and improvements in the lives of children and young people in Highland rather than service processes or indicators of improvement.

2.4 As an important contribution toward this aim it is proposed that the Key Outcome Targets are developed to provide better evidence of improved outcomes.

2.5 The template for each Key Outcome Target is designed to incorporate a range of relevant measures which support evidence on achieving that particular outcome. This approach reflects the principle of triangulation often used in evidencing outcomes which are by their nature difficult to measure and quantify. To date this has not been fully exploited mainly due to the absence of supporting evidence, particularly evidence of a more qualitative nature.

2.6 Services are developing a broader range of measures to demonstrate better outcomes. This new information will be included in outcome target templates where appropriate. An anticipated good example is the Lifestyle Survey of school pupils which is currently being collated, and will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

There is also significant development planned for quality assurance processes which will provide important additional information on service outcomes.

2.7 It is anticipated that considerable “added value” for outcome targets will be achieved through this development of quality assurance processes. In particular self evaluation studies of service provision will provide information and evidence to complement the more traditional performance indicators. This will give a more rounded picture of outcomes which can be presented in the outcome targetT

templates. This development will be a gradual process which will be shown on the web-site version of *FHC3*.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Agree the presentation of a final draft *FHC3* at a Joint Committee seminar on 2 October 2009
- Note the proposed continuous development of Key Outcome Targets

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