

Agenda Item	12.
Report No	EDU/17/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Education Committee

Date: 4 June 2025

Report Title: Integrated Children's Services Board Annual Report

Report By: The Assistant Chief Executive – People

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress being made to deliver the outcomes outlined within the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026 [here](#). The Integrated Plan is a Community Planning Partnership plan developed by the Highland Integrated Children's Services Planning Board which reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on the Integrated Children's Services Board's performance management framework.
- 1.3 The report provides an update of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and comment on the ICSB annual report which shares the work undertaken by the children's services planning partnership 2024/25 in delivering the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023/2026.
 - ii. Note the work of the delivery groups.
 - iii. Note work of Whole Family Wellbeing Programme.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - The children's services planning partnership will help determine future resource needs and priorities for improvement. Further resource implications may be identified within the duration of the plan (2023 - 2026).
- 3.2 **Legal** - There is a statutory requirement for partnerships to produce an Integrated Children's Service Plan every three years as outlined at 4.1 of this report. The Plan is underpinned by meeting the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3.3 **Risk** - This iteration of the ICS plan is delivered through the Community Planning Partnership infrastructure and is aligned to the aspirations of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan

3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people) - None

3.5 Gaelic - None

4 Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 This is a monitoring and update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Integrated Children's Services Planning

5.1 In February 2014 the Scottish Government passed the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act. The Act places duties on public bodies to coordinate the planning, design and delivery of services for children and young people with a focus on improving wellbeing outcomes; and to report collectively on how they are improving those outcomes.

5.2 This legislation requires each partnership to produce a plan every three years and to provide an annual update every year. The annual update at **Appendix 1** to this report is in draft pending final sign off by the Community Planning Partnership on 6 June 2025.

5.3 In December 2019, Scottish Government wrote to each of the strategic leads for integrated children's services planning issuing new guidance to support the development of ICS plans across Scotland. This guidance determined that children's services plans should be embedded within Community Planning Partnerships. This guidance also provided the structure and framework for our 2023 - 2026 plan.

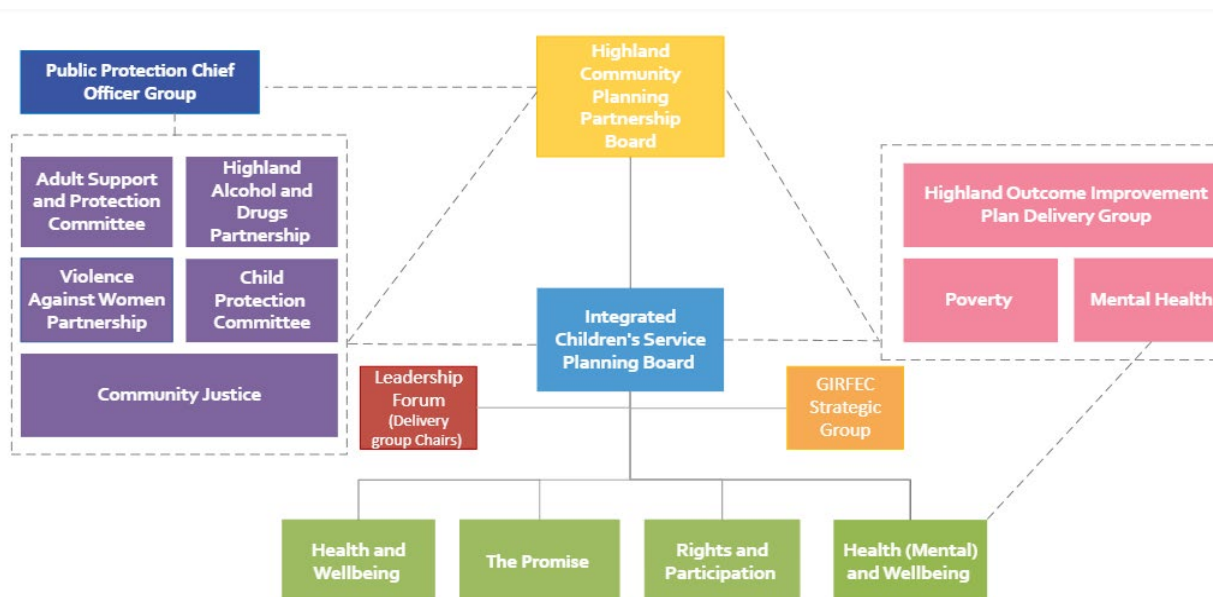
5.4 The Highland Community Planning Partnership brings together public agencies, third sector organisations and other key community groups to work collaboratively with the people of Highland to deliver better outcomes.

5.5 The Highland Community Planning Partnership works strategically at a Highland level, through a series of nine geographical Local Community Partnerships as well as regional thematic groups. Ultimately these deliver our Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

- 5.6 Highland Children's Service Plan sits within a context of the Community Planning Partnership; and the Integrated Children's Service Planning Board strategically leads the improvement of outcomes for all Highland's Children and Families.
- 5.7 This Plan has been developed in collaboration with public sector bodies and third sector organisations and is informed by both the voice and testimony of children, young people and families and the needs of our communities as articulated through our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2023).
- 5.8 This Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high quality, joined up, trauma informed, responsive and preventative support to children and families.
- 5.9 The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme is a change and innovation programme driven by several wide-ranging national policies and strategies. The programme is a Community Planning Partnership programme overseen by the Highland Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.
- 5.10 The programme supports a whole family approach that is family and person centred, with a strong emphasis on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, by strengthening supports for families, to reduce crisis and family breakdown and to meet The Promise in Highland.
- 5.11 The Scottish Government have committed to multi-year funding from 2022 to 2026, which in Highland has been confirmed as £7.4M. This partnership funding is hosted by the Highland Council, in line with the national agreement through COSLA for the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to be held by Children's Planning Partnerships, which in Highland is the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

6 Integrated Children Services Planning Board

- 6.1 The Integrated Children's Service's work continues as it enters the 3rd year of the delivery of the Integrated Children's Service Plan. The report highlights the continued progress that has been made in 2024/25. The work of the board has continued to be strengthened through the delivery groups and strong partnership across services and in all sectors



7 Integrated Children's Service's Annual Report 2024/25

- 7.1 This annual report details the significant work that has continued into the 2nd year of the Integrated Children's Service's Plan, undertaken by the delivery groups in progressing the priorities and change ideas.
- 7.2 The Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, trauma-informed, responsive and preventative support to children and families
- 7.3 Embedded within the annual report are documents and resources which provide further detail on the work of delivery groups.
- Child Poverty Report 2023-2024
 - Child Protection Committee Biennial Report
 - Highland Promise Plan – 2025-2028
 - Children and Young People Participation Strategy
 - Rights and Participation Website
- 7.4 Whilst the delivery groups have a focus on their thematic area, there are cross cutting themes and workstreams across delivery groups. This is reflected in the delivery group membership to strengthen joined up working across the Partnership.
- 7.5 A new subgroup of the ICSB was identified following the GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child) refresh and reset sessions. The multi-agency GIRFEC Strategic Group was established to have oversight of GIRFEC arrangements to support a joined-up whole system approach. This group has begun to focus on continuous improvement and implementation of action plans, continue to ensure consistency of the GIRFEC framework and the shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people, ensuring the right support is provided as early as possible.
- 7.6 The Integrated Children's Services Board members have participated in several development days to strengthen the partnership and inform the ongoing work of the board through collaboration and collective planning. The development days have included – Trauma Informed Systems, Child Protection Development Day, Whole Family Wellbeing, The Promise Special Meeting Plan 2024-30.

8 Performance Management Framework

- 8.1 The Integrated Children's Service Planning Board has responsibility for monitoring progress towards achieving the outcomes outlined within the Integrated Children's Services Plan and utilises our Performance Framework to achieve this.
- 8.2 Partners work together and take responsibility for co-ordinating performance reporting on a regular basis. In addition, we are committed to continuous improvement methods through listening to the voices of children, young people and their families; learning from self-evaluation; analysing intelligence; and scrutinising an agreed set of qualitative and quantitative improvement measures. Our performance management measures are attached at **Appendix 2** of this report.

9 Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

- 9.1 The Programme is delivered by a Programme Manager and a team of Locality Co-ordinators, through a locality focussed evidence-based and needs-led approach to embed the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme across Highlands' nine Community Partnership localities.
- 9.2 The Programme's work had been focused on holistic, early prevention family support that addresses needs and tackles inequalities.
- 9.3 It is vital that partners from locality areas who have experience, knowledge and understanding of the services accessed by children and families along with the challenges they face, contribute to the work of the Programme. Ensuring that any work undertaken, funded, or supported is being driven by the needs identified in each locality.
- 9.4 The work of the programme has been guided by The Scottish Government [Route-Map](#) for delivery of the Whole Family Wellbeing approach. This Route-Map outlines the four pillars of the programme and the ten holistic principles of whole family support. The programme activity has identified need aligning to the four pillars, fund activity through implementation of the funding strategy and allocating each element of funding to community-based supports, tests of concepts and future operating models of delivery, as detailed in **Appendix 3**.

10 Vision 26

- 10.1 Following the successful delivery of Vision 26 in August 2023 and 2024 to celebrate the work of the Integrated Children's Service Board, we have begun planning for our 2025 event.
- 10.2 The aim for this year's event is to include more children and families. The event will focus on a family fun day at Eden Court on Monday 11th August 10.00am-1.00pm and will take a similar approach to the 'Brighter Beginnings' event organised through the Inverness Family Centre in March this year which attracted almost 500 children under 5. This event will be open to all children and families (12 years and under). The event will still welcome organisations and practitioners but with an ask that an activity will be provided for the children and families attending.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive – People

Date: 6 May 2025

Author: Ian Kyle, Chair, Integrated Children's Services Planning

Appendices: Appendix 1 – ICSB Annual Report 2024/25
Appendix 2 – ICSB Performance Management Framework
Appendix 3 – Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Activity - Briefing Paper



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership

Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd
na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Integrated Children's Service Plan 2023-2026

Annual Report 2024/25





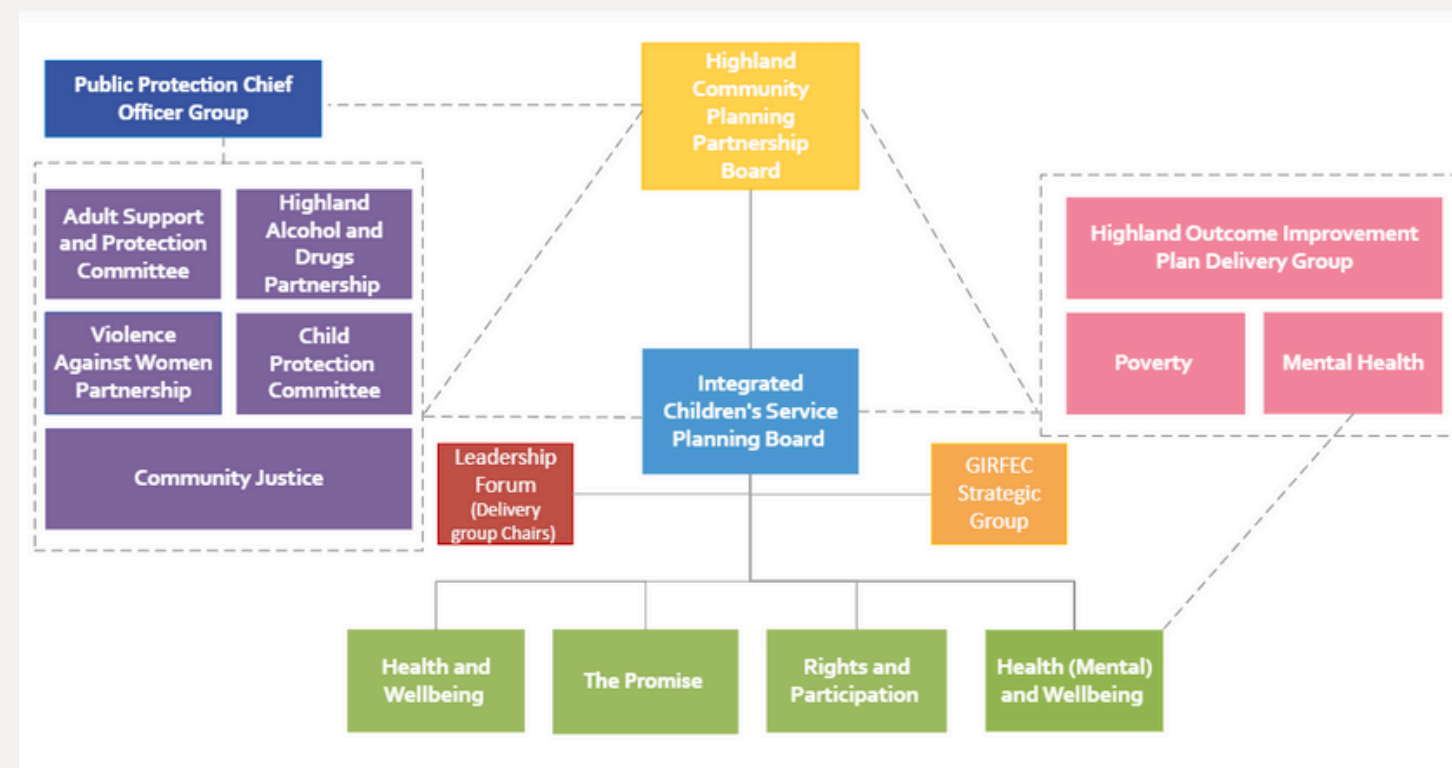
Integrated Children's Service Board



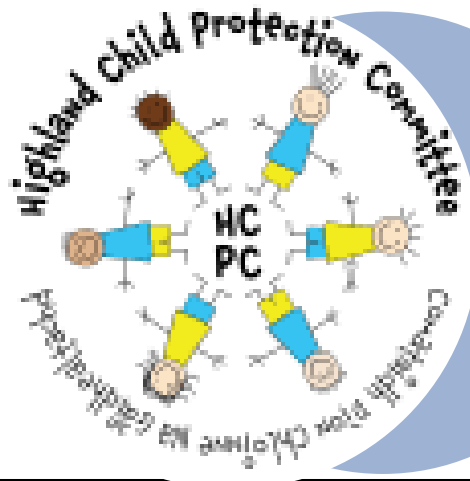
Highland Children's Service Plan sits within a context of the Community Planning Partnership and the Integrated Children's Service Planning Board, strategically leads the improvement of outcomes for all Highland's Children and Families.

The Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, trauma-informed, responsive and preventative support to children and families. [Find full plan here](#)

The annual report represents the work undertaken during 2024/25 and outcomes achieved in the delivery of the integrated children's service plan 2023-2026. The change ideas and priorities are implemented through each of the delivery groups.



DELIVERY GROUPS



The Child Protection Committee



The Promise Board



Health and Wellbeing



Drugs and Alcohol



Rights and Participation



Poverty Reduction



**Health and Wellbeing
(Mental Health)**

The delivery groups are partnership groups made up of statutory and 3rd Sector representatives. The groups take a life course approach to their improvement work of the Integrated Children's Service Plan

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

VISION 26

Another successful Vision event was held with over 200 attendees and 60 local organisations showcasing the work to support children, young people and families in Highland and the contributions to the Children's service plan. Vision 26 launched the Children and Young People Participation Strategy and the child friendly version of the Integrated Children's Service Plan. Celebrating the incorporation of UNCRC into Scots Law,



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION WEBSITE

USERS	VIEWS	CLICKS
478	2000	6300



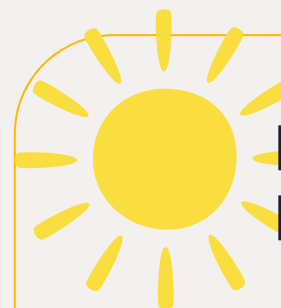
WORRIED ABOUT MONEY APP - 2300 VIEWS AND 213 USERS



100'000 Free Period packs/ products distributed across Highland

1000 Views of the Vaping Information Booklet

Integrated Children Service Board engaged in 4 development days to focus in on workstreams of Trauma Informed Practice
The Promise 24-30
Child Protection
Whole Family Wellbeing



BRIGHTER BEGINNINGS: WHY EARLY YEARS MATTER'S

Early years event Brighter Beginnings hosted by Inverness Family Centre and supported by Highland CPC was held at Eden Court on 3rd March 25. Over 500 Families and Children under 5 were welcomed along to meet services and enjoy the activities. Celebrating the importance of the Infant Pledge and working alongside families to give our youngest children the best possible start in life. The event welcomed key note speaker Dan Wuori. [More details on event here](#)

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

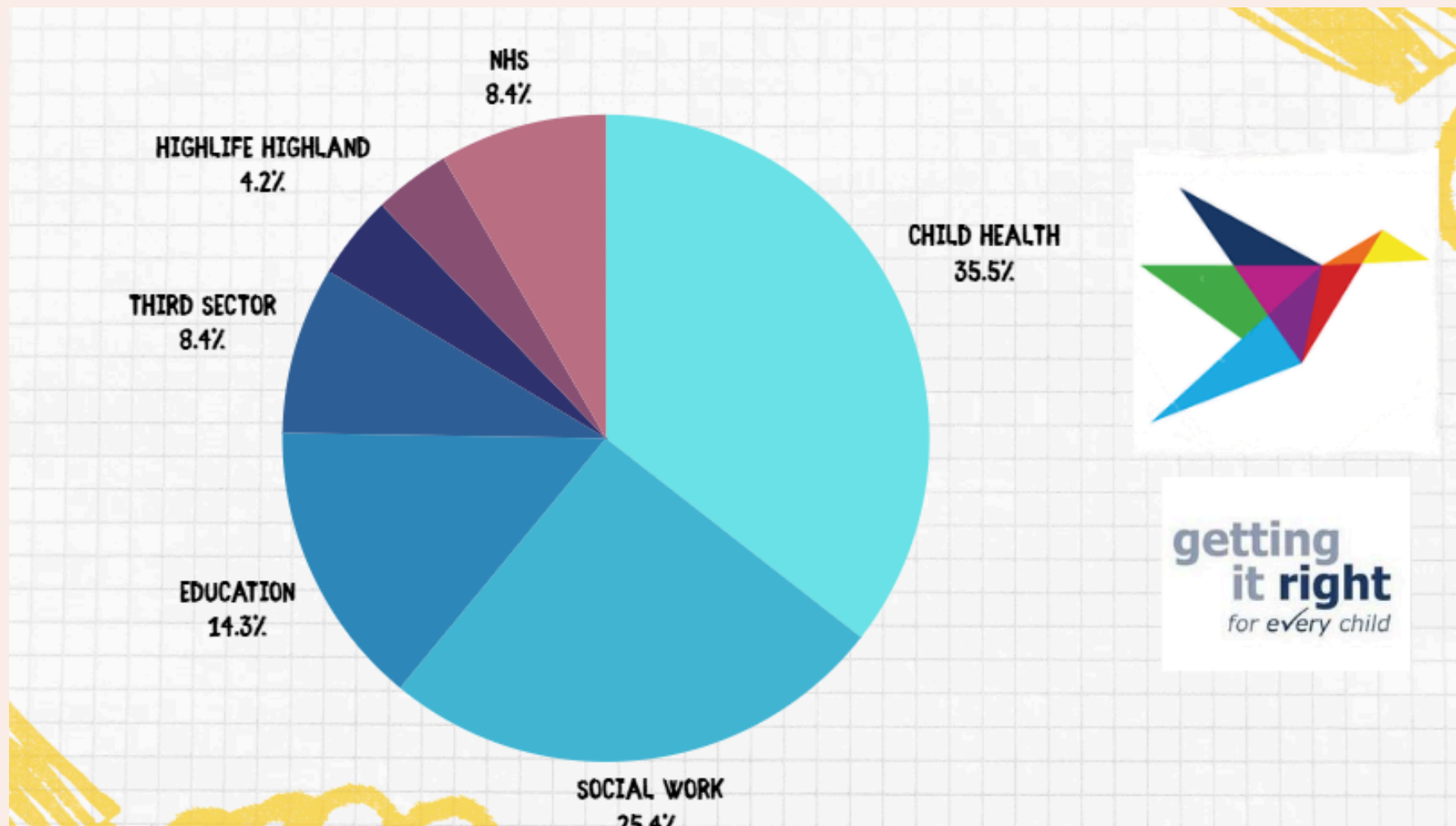
A renewed focus was developed following the updated National GIRFEC Guidance and Highland launched the GIRFEC refresh and reset, lead by The Integrated Children's Service (ICS) Board with facilitators provided across the partnership including CALA, Child Protection Committee and The Whole Family wellbeing team. This began with planned face to face sessions Highland wide. During these sessions we held discussions in relation to the eLearning module, Child's Plan, Chronologies and Implementation of the refreshed guidance. We received a wealth of feedback across the services.

Delivery consisted of 9 'in person' sessions

Overall, 284 attendees. The workshops were held in 7 locations between March and June 2024:

An improvement plan was developed based on the feedback from practitioners

Highland GIRFEC elearning module was developed and so far been completed by 294 practitioners



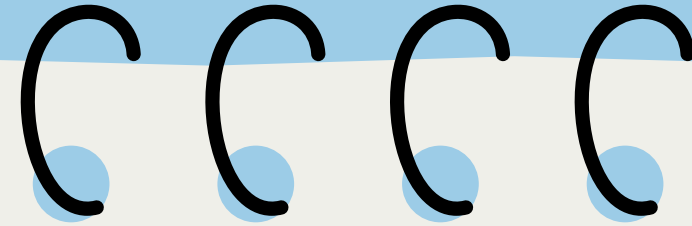
Following the feedback from refresh and reset sessions the multi agency GIRFEC Strategic Group has formed to take forward the improvement plan, this is underway and includes;

- Review of the Child's Plan (started Nov 24)
- Development of Practice Guides for Childs Plans, Additonal Support needs and Chronologies.
- GIRFEC Multiagency Training

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

The Whole Family Wellbeing team have been undertaking significant work across Highland working towards the programme's aim to provide holistic whole family support, readily available across Highland to families that need it, when they need it for as long as they need it. Working with local organisations, assessing local need and funding activity inline with the programmes funding strategy, whilst taking a whole system approach to delivery of services provided to support children and families.

Inverness High School ASG Test of Concept. Partnership working with CALA, Thriving Families and Home-Start East Highland working as an alliance to provide Holistic Whole Family Support through the Family Links Project within the Inverness High School ASG area. This is now reaching a 6 month evaluation of the project.



Self-Assessment Toolkit

The WFWP Self-Assessment Toolkit was launched and completed by wide range of 3rd Sector organisations, there is now a further requirement to disseminate the WFWP Self-Assessment Toolkit through our statutory services in Highland. This will allow for a whole system approach to quality assurance across services both in statutory and third sector, who provide support to families.

[Can be found here](#)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE CENTRE

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

How We Work

If you have worries about your child's engagement with school/education (e.g., attendance, routines, well-being), then we are here to help!

- FAMILY- AND PERSON CENTRED**
Making sure your needs are at the heart of what we do
- EMPOWERING YOU**
Building your confidence to take positive action
- HELPING YOU BE HEARD**
Supporting you to share your needs and find solutions
- LINKING SERVICES**
Helping you access the support that is available to you

Get in touch

We're here for your family, so feel free to reach out anytime - no strings attached!

If you have any questions about the project or the support available to you, please contact the Family Links Worker in your area. You can find further information on the Meet the Team page.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GET IN TOUCH

- Meet your Family Links Worker for a First Meeting
- Spend time getting to know each other and work together to identify your family strengths and challenges
- Make a plan to support your family in ways that you choose
- With our help, take action and access person- and family-centred support that works for you
- Achieve positive outcomes for your family wellbeing to enhance children and young people's learning and development

Family Links
WORKING IN THE INVERNESS HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

Helping children & young people connect positively with school and supporting family wellbeing

Positive school engagement can bring many benefits for children, young people and families. We understand that life can bring various challenges for families which can impact on children and young people's engagement with school and learning. We are here to help with positive solutions to promote children and young people's learning and development by enhancing family well-being and supporting positive engagement with school.

Logos: Highland Community Planning Partnership, Core of Learning, Thriving Families, HOME START East Highland

WFWB - News Round up distributed to over 800 people monthly.

Detailing locality and highland family support activity

WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH / JOINED UP SUPPORT

LEADERSHIP WORKFORCE CULTURE

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding Strategy

The WFWB Funding strategy was developed to define the approach, application/allocation process and governance of the Whole Family Wellbeing fund, to services who are providing Holistic Whole Family Wellbeing Support across Highland. [Funding Strategy](#).

Element 1 Funding

Element 1: Locality Community Based Activity Small Grant Fund (>£10K)

To date a total of 34 applications were received from Third Sector Organisations, with 30 of those being successful.

A total of £286,583.64 has been released so far to the 30 successful Projects across Community Partnership areas



Element 2 Funding

£1,257,308.00

Funding was awarded for element 2 tests of concept to improve the reach of Holistic Whole Family Support across various thematic work streams, covering a broad range of support services meeting family needs in Highland.

Poverty

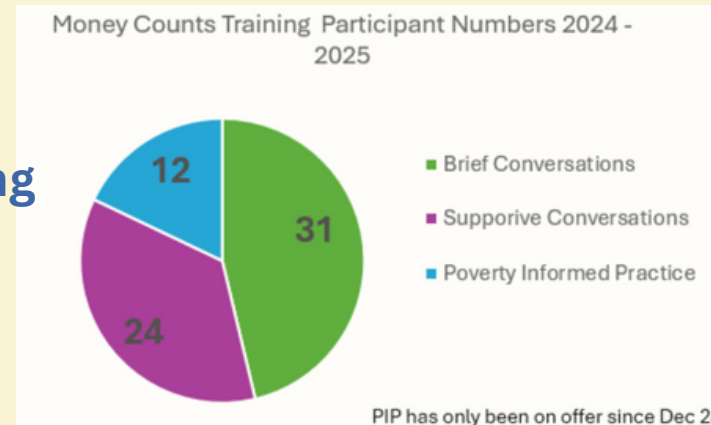
Money Counts Training delivered since April 24.

5x Brief Conversations,

4x Supportive Conversations Training and

2x Poverty Informed Practice Training

This continues to be offered as a means of increasing the number and quality of conversations around money worries. The training highlights the **Worrying About Money? Leaflet** and app as tools to support individuals access a range of appropriate support services and organisations.



Local Child Poverty Action Update Report produced and published



[Find worrying about money leaflet here](#)

2024 has seen further delivery of projects across the Highlands and sessions to boost numeracy confidence in everyday life ranging from outdoor family fun days to weekly activities within highlife libraries for families to explore everyday numeracy through games, crafts and play. With the introduction of additional evening classes to achieve maths qualifications and the development of digital tools to support learning.

Lead Officer for Period Products attended various events across the summer in conjunction with the Welfare Support Team. Events attended included **Belladrum Music Festival**, Inverness Highland Games, Pop up shops in Eastgate Centre, **Vision 26** at Inverness Leisure Centre with over **100'000** packs of free period products distributed across Highland

Caithness Parental Employability Pilot

The aim of the project is to develop and deliver a 6-week, 2 days-a-week pilot place-based offer in Wick that is targeted at helping approximately 8 unemployed parents overcome some of the barriers they face to securing fair and sustainable employment in the local area. This in turn has the potential to reduce levels of child poverty in the area and help employers secure the staff they need. This will be rolled out wider across Highland following successful evaluation of the pilot

Development of Flexible Models of Childcare in Rural Areas

- New models piloted. A more sustainable delivery model in place, including a shift in the balance of Early Learning and Childcare delivery between Local Authority and Private providers.
- Successful Alcohol and Drug Partnership funding bid focused on new models of delivering rural childcare
- ADAP funding to engage rural consultant to support CALA in development of the integrated Single Care Model (SCM) pathway pilot and working group has met and continues to develop model
- Partners include CALA, HIE, Highland Council, NHS Highland, Care Inspectorate and 3rd/private providers.
- Challenges of rural delivery of childcare been highlighted to Minister for Children and Young People as well as MSPs to gain support to allow flexibility in models.
- Close partnership working on new models for childminding

Child Protection

GIRFEC and Child Protection Procedures were launched in December 2024. These joint procedures were brought together to reinforce the importance of the continuum of care, support and protection. An APP has been developed for easy access to the guidance.

GIRFEC and CP Procedures plus APP

The Vulnerable Pregnancy Pathway has been reviewed and relaunched as Women, Pregnancy and Additional Support Needs guidance. Led by our Midwifery Development Officers, this activity forms part of the CPC 'Starting Out' Action Plan to work together and make sure families are at the heart of all our assessment and planning processes. The voice of our youngest children is a key priority and on 3rd March 2025 we relaunched our Consulting with our youngest children toolkit developed in partnership with the Care and Learning Alliance. All resources can be found at www.hcpc.scot.

The Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) aims to support children who have experienced abuse or harm, making sure they are interviewed in a trauma informed way, and receive ongoing support through Bairns' Hoose standards. Funded by the Scottish Government, we have been working to create warm and welcoming spaces for children, families and services to work together and support recovery. We have now recruited a Bairns Hoose Manager and a full-time SCIM team to take this work forward. Further information on Bairns Hoose and SCIM is available at www.hcpc.scot/resources.



The launch of Scottish Child Interview Model and Bairns Hoose took place in May 2024.



Highland Child Protection Committee Biennial report has been produced and published

To provide support for older young people in Highland, we have continued to work in partnership with Police Scotland, Action for Children, Aberlour and Barnardos to deliver specialist services for young people at risk of exploitation, including delivery of an outreach service through The Anchor Project. We have also worked with the CYCJ, Youth Action Team and our partners in the Highland Alliance to develop an Older Young People Action Plan to support young people at risk of community harm and those involved with justice services.

Highland welcomed Graeme Armstrong (author of the bestselling novel The Young Team and presenter of the BBC documentary series Street Gangs). This unique opportunity allowed staff and practitioners working with young people in the Highlands to gain valuable insights into gang culture, youth violence, and the power of connection and healing

In 2024/25 CPC and partners delivered training to **3632** people

492 downloads of the GIRFEC and Child Protection Procedures APP



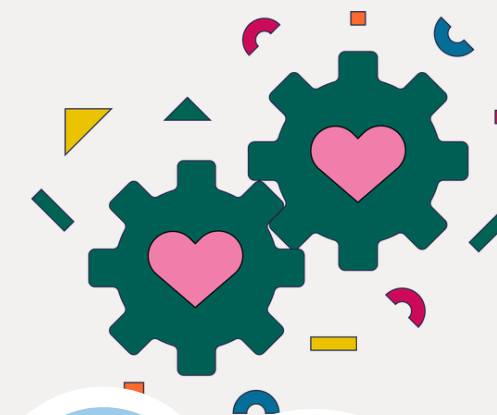
The Promise



Highland Promise Plan 2025-2028

Highland 's first Promise Plan was developed and is built on the voices and experiences of care experienced children and young people through a broad range of engagement and participation activities across Highland and developed as a collaborative Promise Board Plan

[Find the Highland Promise Plan here](#)



Children's Rights and Participation Service

Children's Rights and Participation service recruited 3 Child Rights and Participation Officers.

Their role is to support the council's commitment to 'Keeping The Promise' and actively listening to children and young people about decisions that affect their lives

Highland now have

28

Promise Ambassadors

10

Has Answers APP



HasAnswers developed by the Calman Trust, is designed to equip young people to manage the challenges they may encounter as they move towards independent living. **214** Individuals have registered. Advice most frequently accessed is

- Help to find or keep a job (50)
- Money related information/advice (28)
- Ways to save money (19)
- Cooking for yourself (19)
- Things that cause worry (mental health) (14)
- Recipes (14)

Direct help from the HasAnswers team is available for further support.



Family Group Decision Making

Referrals to Family Group Decision Making for 135 children from 92 families.

67% of referrals relate to children and young people who are on the edge of care, 21% relate to children and young people who are Looked After Away from Home 12% are for young people transitioning from care. This included supporting families to create, review a family plan. Families that did not want to create a family plan, worked with coordinators to make commitments to what they would provide for the child or caregivers.

- Trauma Summit held with senior leaders across partnerships in Sept 2024, supported by MSPs, Scottish Government and Improvement Service
- Development session on Trauma Informed Systems held , in line with Road Map and Self Assessment tool (Jan 2025) Actions identified from the meeting are being take forward.

Rights and Participation

Children's Rights and Participation website was developed and launched. This includes The Library of Voices is live and there are already examples of consultations uploaded.



Users
478

Views
2000

Clicks
6300

Trainees training for understanding of UNCRC and Impact assessments went live **97 staff have accessed and completed these**

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments have now been undertaken for **149** strategic developments and actions across Highland Council.

Children and Young People Participation Strategy

Development was led by Inspiring Young Voices and was designed ensuring the meaningful and equitable participation of children and young people at the heart of the process. With input gathered from almost 800 children and young people from across Highland. Implementation is now underway with focus on training, support and Voice



Highland Community Planning Partnership | Com-pàirteachas Dealbhadh Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhealtachd

SPACE VOICE AUDIENCE INFLUENCE

Highland Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2024 - 2029

"Together we can all make change"

Health and wellbeing (Mental Health)



Community Based Supports

An interactive session was led by colleagues from Public Health to explore how we align to the Framework's four outcomes around community-based supports and services Scottish Government CYP Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports and Services Framework, : which will enhance the work of the delivery group

Mental Health and Wellbeing delivery group held a development day held to map Highland Services across the continuum of need using the THRIVE Framework

A collective focus on Pathways has been agreed and in development for young people to gain a better understanding across the system and so any gaps can be identified.

Outcome 1: Wellbeing

Children, young people and their families have improved mental health and wellbeing.

Outcome 2: Early guidance and support

Children, young people and their families can access guidance and support at an early stage, when and where they need it.

Outcome 3: Clearer pathways

Children, young people and their families receive the help they need, and pathways to supports and services are clearly communicated.

Outcome 4: Whole-system approach

Supports and services are part of a whole system where key partners work together to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families, all of whom are integral to the co-design of supports and services.

CYP Community Mental Health and Wellbeing fund been introduced to the Integrated Children Services Board and encouragement has been made for better use of partnership funding by working together. Aligned to the WFWP Funding Strategy and enabling a joined-up approach for improvements to community-based supports and services across Highland

Drugs and Alcohol



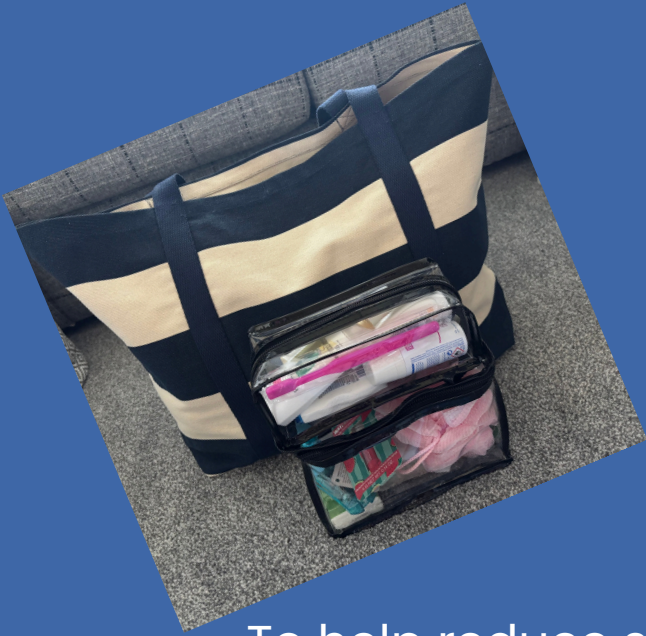
Planet Youth- 5 Local Action Groups have agreed 3 clear goals each, focused on reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors for substance use initiation, and improving overall mental and physical health outcomes.

Increased provision of activities for young people via Highlife Highland, with estimated 645 young people involved in specific Planet Youth activities since July 24

Parents and Carers Padlet
This resource has had excellent feedback and provides data and support around the topics reviewed by the Planet Youth survey:
[Find the padlet here](#)

Webinar delivered with Safe, Strong and Free with a focus on bullying, coincided with anti-bullying week, and was available online

Vaping booklet has been produced by NHS Health Improvement Team with over +1000 views, with positive feedback.



Midwifery Packs

To help reduce stigma and respect everyone's right to dignity, packs for mums are now available in the Maternity department in Raigmore Hospital. These have been made in reusable bags, with clothing items available in a range of sizes. Each bag includes a dressing gown, pyjamas, slippers, socks, pants, a water bottle, and wash bag. Wash bags include a wide range of toiletries for Mum. With thanks to small grant funding from Police Scotland.

Mocktails for Mums

As part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), specialist midwives served alcohol-free "mocktails for mums" at several events, all thanks to funding from HADP. Our mocktails provided an opportunity to actively engage in conversations about the impact of alcohol during pregnancy with both staff and members of the public. We were then able to offer evidence-based information and advice for safe and healthy pregnancies with our printed recipe cards. We were delighted to receive positive feedback about the taste of the mocktails from those who engaged with us.

Mocktails for Mums

Berridale Bellini (Serves 6)

- 750ml bottle of no-alcohol prosecco
- A handful of frozen berries pureed in a blender
- Sugar syrup made of 1 tsp of sugar and 1 tsp of water
- Serve with a slice of lime

Munlochy Mule (Serves 4)

- 500ml of ginger ale
- Juice of 1 grapefruit
- Juice of 1 lime
- 200ml of sparkling water
- Lime slices and a handful of fresh basil leaves to decorate

Feedback

What Practitioners, Children and Young people and families tell us

Vaping information pack was useful to understand why young people vape and how to help them avoid starting

- Active Schools

Ensure my voice is heard
Young person,
Feedback about
Childs Plans

Planet Youth provided information that was specific to our school, which highlighted areas to work on
Parent - School Parent Council

It was busy and highlighted just how much we have going on for young people in Highland. It was a great chance to network -
Organisation Rep Vision 26.

'I think the Padlet is an absolutely brilliant resource. My son is 11 and there is so much on there to talk about together and to help create healthy habits, as well as so many things to turn to when difficulties arise'
Parent- Planet Youth

We are the next generation so what happens will affect us in the future -
Young person - C&YP Strategy

I very much love it when Family Links Worker comes to see me on Fridays because it makes me feel like more people care about me and it is very fun and I wish I could go with her every day
p6 child Family Links Project

"I am thankful for my time with the Family Links Worker. It was about my daughter's anxieties about going to school, but it is as much for me as for my daughter. I was needing reassurance, and our time together put me at ease. Parent - Family Links Test of Concept Project.

Excellent to have lots of partner agencies together to focus on GIRFEC in practice.
Practitioner - GIRFEC Refresh Session

Development of Integrated Children's Service Plan
2026-2029 -Predicated on Children's Voice

GIRFEC FOCUS - Continued Implementation of Improvement
plan, delivery of training and completion of Childs plan
review

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme - Developing Holistic
Whole Family Support operating model for Highland

Children's Rights and Participation - Child Friendly Complaints Process in
Highland produced by children and young people and creation of a
guidance document to support practitioners understand what 'capacity'
means in relation to Child Friendly Complaints, but also more widely.

Highland Child Protection Committee are undertaking reviews
and work on neglect and CSA, based on data evidence.
Including development of a neglect toolkit of support.

The Promise Board and delivery groups will continue
implementation of Highland Promise Plan 2025-2028



Work Progressing into 2025/26





Integrated children's services planning board Performance Management Framework 2023-2026



Data Overview -

Baseline Data – This was established between 2012-2016 to provide a longer-term measurement of progress

Education and Learning – Data from Lifestyle Survey collected every 2 years last completed in 2023

Health and Social Care & NHS - This data is collected quarterly

HSC – CP Minimum Dataset – This data is collected quarterly

HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return – Annually collected, usually ready by November each year

↑ ↓ → - Arrows indicate an increase or decrease in figure since last reporting, these are colour coded to denote movements are positive, negative or no movement. Some child protection figures are not colour coded as these cannot always be attributed to either positive or negative movements.

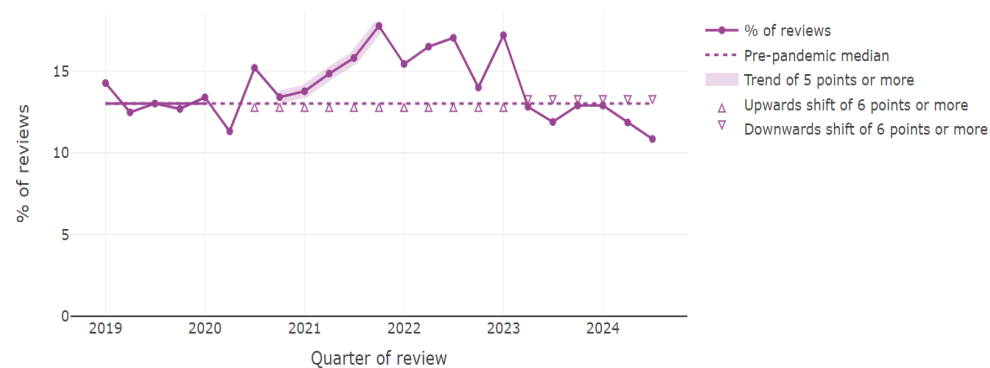
Indicator #1	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of households with children in temporary accommodation will reduce.	160	200	↓130	Housing
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly. The baseline was established in 2015. This has reduced from 180 in the last year.				

Indicator #2 (NHSH CYP14)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children with one or more developmental concerns recorded at the 27–30-month to decrease	TBC	TBC	11%	Child Health

ANALYSIS

The measure has changed from Percentage of children reaching their developmental milestones at their 27 – 30-month health review will increase. This is due to how the data is now collected, The target and baseline to be established.

Percentage of children with one or more developmental concerns recorded at the 27-30 month review



Indicator #3 (NHS CYP16)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children in P1 with their body mass index measured	95%	85%	↑ 97.8%	Child Health

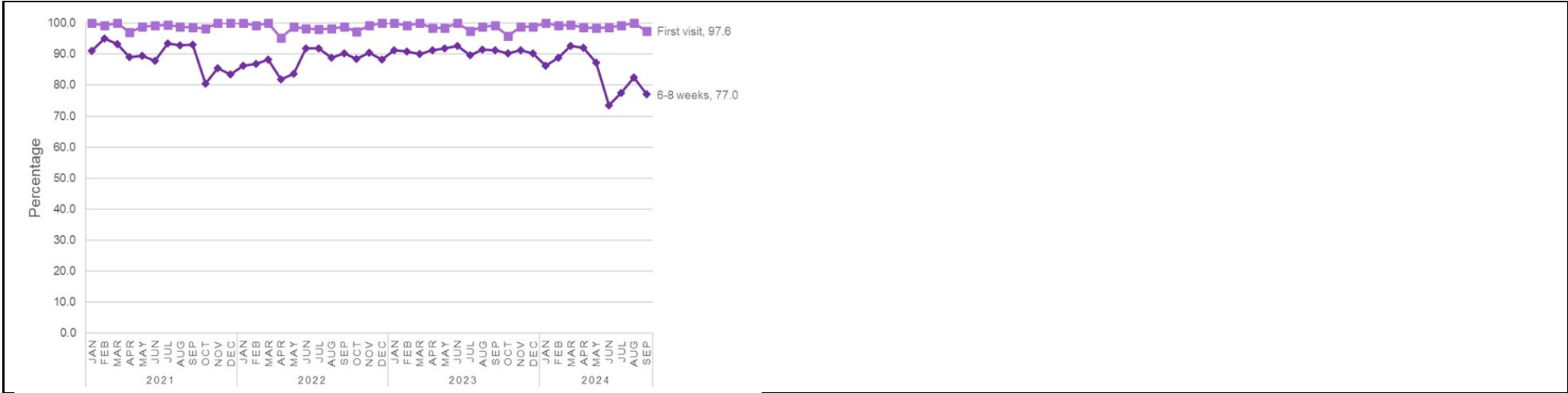
ANALYSIS

This data is reported Annually. Body Mass continues to be measured as part of the Child Health Surveillance Programme at the P1 Screening visit within School Nursing. Additional support, by way of follow up continues to be available through the Child Health Weight Programme. Full data can be found at <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/primary-1-body-mass-index-bmi-statistics-scotland/>

Indicator #4 (NHS CYP03)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage uptake of 6–8-week Child Health Surveillance contact	95%	80%	↓ 78%	Child Health

ANALYSIS

Target 95% been around 90% all year now at 78% which is a decrease. At first review, coverage is consistently very high in the Highland HSCP. The coverage of children eligible for review at 6-8 weeks was consistently high at around 90% between June 2022 and May 2024. More recent cohorts in the Highland HSCP appear to have not achieved this level of coverage. The 6–8-week assessment is undertaken jointly by the child's health visitor and general practitioner. In some cases, the health visitor part of the review may have occurred, but the data has not been returned following the review in the general practice. An audit of health visiting records for areas with low uptake in recent months will be carried out to establish if there have been systematic issues with returns from general practices.

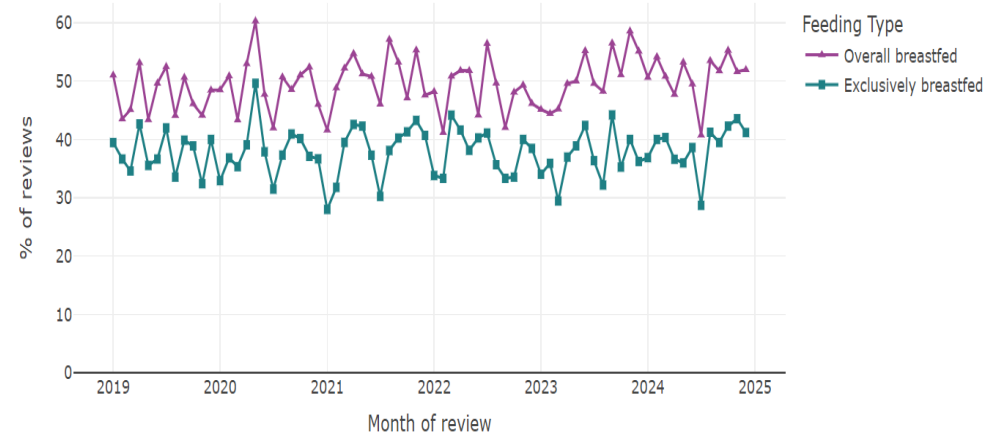


Indicator #5 (NHS CYP06)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Achieve 36% of newborn babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 week review	36%	30%	↑40%	Child Health
ANALYSIS				

There is a multi-disciplinary approach to supporting women to breastfeed in Highland and this includes midwives, health visitors, family nurses, infant feeding support workers, infant feeding coordinators, paediatric dietitians and community early years practitioners. Breastfeeding rates in Highland have increased over the past few years, resulting in fewer babies receiving only formula milk. Both midwifery and health visiting services have achieved sustainability status (GOLD award) from Unicef Baby Friendly Initiative resulting in a clear action plan to support leadership, culture, monitoring and progression of breastfeeding services within Highland. Infant feeding support workers will soon be tested as a concept in non-SIMD 1 areas, while Skye and Wester Ross has tested a concept where CEYP are upskilled to offer the level of support provided by IFSWs.

The Scottish Government has just finalised plans for the roll out of the Local Authority Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme which was tested in North Lanarkshire and there is an ask for Highland colleagues to participate in this along with the nursery and school friendly schemes. There has also been a national breastfeeding target which is monitored and reported to the Scottish Government from NHS Highland. This target aimed to reduce the attrition rate by 10% in any breastfeeding at 6 -8 weeks and NHS Highland has also made huge steps to achieving this target. The target is due to be renewed in 2026. This group would be encouraged to monitor and report on this target. For areas within SIMD 1 and where IFSWs have supported, attrition rates at 6 – 8 weeks have lowered from 44% in 2017/18 to 29% in 2024/25.

Percentage of children recorded as overall breastfed and exclusively breastfed at 6-8 week review



Indicator #6 (NHS CYP15)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain 95% uptake rate of MMR1 (% of 5 year olds)	95%	95%	↓94%	NHS Highland

ANALYSIS

Latest data from NHS slight reduction by 1%

Full data can be found at <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/childhood-immunisation-statistics-scotland/>

Indicator #7	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of statutory health assessments completed within 4 weeks of becoming LAC will increase to 95%	95%	70%	↑59.7%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
The current LAC data for 24/25 is 59.7% completed within four weeks. This is an improvement from the 23/24 data of 56.5%. As part of delivering The Promise for Highland care experienced children and young people, there is currently a review of the health delivery model for CE CYP in Highland. Early improvements have already been put in place including the appointment of a Health Visitor (The Promise) in March 2025. This post will support early prevention and delivery of all statutory health assessments for infants under the age of 5 years, within the 4 week timescale. The recruitment to a Specialist Nurse (The Promise) School Years, to undertake a similar function for school age cyp, is underway. It is anticipated that as both posts move into operation, there will be a significant improvement in the timescales of delivery for the initial health assessment.				

Indicator #8 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service PHYSIOTHERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	↑78%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
The children's physiotherapy team have been fully staffed for a number of months which has seen progress towards our target for waiting times. The team have also remodelled their service delivery to maximise efficiency, including offering more clinics to reduce travel time for therapists. Along with all the children's therapy services, physiotherapy are seeing an ever-increasing demand.				

Indicator #9 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	↓ 54%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

The downward trend this quarter is due to sickness and vacancy within the team leading to longer waits for first appointment. Absence of any kind has a significant impact on capacity within a small team. An action plan is in place and all requests for assistance are triaged and prioritised. It should also be noted that all requests are contacted and receive a 'First Conversation' consultation and are provided with advice and suggestions for things they can do while they wait. March 2025 data indicates improvement with 70% seen within 18 weeks and this will be reflected in the next report.

Indicator #10 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service DIETETICS, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	88%	↑ 84%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

There is an upward trend in Dietetics towards the target due to the team currently being fully staffed since August 2023. Dietetics use Near Me to ensure responsive care for their patients and families. In December 2023 a support practitioner joined the team, funded with waiting times money (0.4wte). This additionality has resulted in continuing progress towards our target.

Indicator #11 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%		↑ 87%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

The upward trend in response to this indicator is due to service redesign and the team are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Indicator #12 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Services (ALL above), waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	80%	↑ 79%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

Across the allied health professional teams progress is being made towards our target of 90% of requests being seen. March 2025 data currently reports this as sitting at 81% which will be reported on next quarter. Nationally, no other IJB/NHS Board collates/reports on paediatric AHP waiting times, rather they focus on either “response”, “experiential” or “outcomes” to measure performance. AHP performance measures are therefore currently under review.

Indicator #13	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children reporting that they feel listened to in their school	Improve from Baseline	40%	↑39%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS

Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils current data is based on average of 3 age groups surveyed. Slight Increase from 2023 which averaged 36%

Do you feel listened to in your school?						
	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
Yes - very much so (P7)	65.6%	64.6%	57.6%	56.9%	50.4%	52.2%
Yes - very much so (S2)	43.2%	38.4%	34.8%	38.9%	29.9%	34.2%
Yes - very much so (S4)	32.0%	31.9%	20.8%	32.6%	26.8%	31.1%

Indicator #14	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Self-reported incidence of smoking will decrease	Improve from Baseline	13%	↓ 2.6%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS

Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils with a continued downward trend 2023 data was 3%
Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools
With the shift being children choosing vaping rather smoking consideration this data was collected in 2025 survey

Have you ever used a Vape or e-cigarette – 19.2% self-reported incidence of vaping. New measure so further analysis and exploration to change as an indicator measure to be agreed and finalised.

Indicator #15	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children who report that they drink alcohol at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	20%	↓ 1.6%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils Data taken as an average of all 3 age groups. 2023 data – 4.3% P7 – 0.08%, S2 – 1.29%, S4 – 3.62% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #16	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in P7 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	1.80%	↓ 0.00%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils 2025 data – 0.25% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #17	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S2 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	5.30%	↓ 0.39%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils 2023 data – 0.53%				

Indicator #18	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S4 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	19.20%	↓0.29%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
<p>Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils A reduction from 2023 – data – 2.38% Highland Substance Awareness Toolkit (H-SAT) Whole school early intervention approach to embedding H-SAT being tested in a high school. Regular review of content via google analytic Promotion via community events e.g. Vision 2026 launch, Delivery of H-SAT awareness and use of lesson plans to guidance staff Support to schools to develop substance aware policy Substance awareness education being delivered to education and associated staff Collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in development of naloxone policy for children’s homes</p>				

Indicator #19	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain high levels of positive destinations for pupils in Highland vs national averages	93%	91%	↑95	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
This data is reported annually.				

Indicator #20	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The delay in the time taken between a child being accommodated and permanency decision will decrease (Target in Months)	9	12	↑ 9.4	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected, scrutinised and reported quarterly. Mitigating action plan is in place.				

Indicator #21	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people placed out with Highland will decrease (spot purchase placements)	15	55	↑ 17	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is reported monthly as part of the data collection for the Home to Highland programme. The numbers of placements outwith Highland were at the lowest level ever recorded at 9 placements in Oct 2023 but have since increased again to 17, 2 placements above the target. This is a result of several larger families coming into spot purchased residential care and a number of young people with needs and behaviour that required specialist placements outwith Highland. Work is continually targeted through the Home to Highland Programme to reduce the number of children in residential placements outwith Highland. The team are currently working on returning 12 children over the next 12 months.				

Indicator #22	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people in secure care will decrease	3	8	↑4	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
New regulations came into force on 28 August and as of that date, there will be no new admissions of children under 18 to YOIs this is likely to affect this figure to rise				

Indicator #23	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	26	↓37	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This gives an indication of numbers of vulnerable children and young people (in terms of risk of harm). Increases in numbers may be positive as it can evidence good practice in assessing and responding to risk. It can also evidence increasing risk within communities and support the design and delivery of services. The number of children subject to initial and pre-birth case conferences in Highland has decreased by 11 from 48 in the previous quarter, to 37 in the current quarter. This is the 3rd lowest within the last 6 quarters, while the highest recorded in this period was 51. Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025).				

Indicator #24	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	19	↓20	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This quarter sees a decrease in the number from case conferences from 26 in the previous quarter to 20 in this quarter. The number of case conferences can indicate family groups where the figure is lower than the number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences. Data can be benchmarked by converting numbers of children or Planning Meetings into a rate per 1,000 total children aged 0-17 (which can be found at National Records of Scotland Mid-Year Population Estimates). The rate per 1,000 can then be compared with other areas to assess the number of cases progressing to Initial or Pre-Birth Child Protection Planning Meeting.
Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025).

Indicator #25	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Conversion rate (%) of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences registered on child protection register	95%	78%	↑97%	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The conversion rate has increased from 86% in the previous quarter to 97% in the current quarter. A high conversion rate indicates that risk is being assessed appropriately, progressing to child protection case conferences where required. This figure has remained consistently above 85% since Q2 2019/20.
Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025).

Indicator #26	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children on the child protection register as at end of reporting period	N/A	112	↑ 101	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The last 3 quarters have seen a small rise in the number of children on the register, with an increase of 6 in this quarter compared to the previous quarter. Looking at the broader trend, the last 6 quarters have seen a general decrease from a high of 142 children on the register in Q2 2023/24. It should be noted that larger sibling groups registering or deregistering can affect the overall number and give the impression of larger movements.

An increase may be a positive move in terms of risk assessment and planning, it could also have been influenced by the impact of the Children's Services Inspection for children at risk of harm. However, it could also indicate increasing risk within communities, or because of the current financial climate, work is underway to examine the data in more detail.

Data as of Q3 2024/25 (30/04/2025).

Indicator #27	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children de-registered from the child protection register in period	N/A	34	↑ 29	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This quarter sees a slight increase in the number of de-registrations from 26 in the previous quarter to 29 in the current quarter. The highest number of de-registrations recorded in the last 6 quarters was 60 in Q1 2024/25, this was found to be due to many sibling groups deregistering the same time.

Indicator #31 can provide information as to how well risks are being reduced for the most vulnerable children and how well Child's Plans are working. However, this analysis must be supported by quality assurance processes to ensure children are de-registered at an appropriate time to avoid any escalation of risk and ensure ongoing support.

Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025).

Indicator #28	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of concerns recorded for children placed on the child protection register in period at a pre-birth or initial conference	N/A	58	↑ 121	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The current quarter shows a rise in concerns from 95 in the previous quarter to 121 in the current quarter. This increase is as expected as its relative to the fairly large number of new registrations within the period (40).

Most concerns recorded relate to vulnerability factors including Domestic Abuse (20), Services Finding it Hard to engage (9), Parental Alcohol Use (6), Parental Drug Use (15), Child Affected by Parental Mental Health (26). In terms of Impact and Abuse Emotional Abuse (17) and Neglect (17), are the largest concerns recorded. Criminal Exploitation, Child Experiencing Mental Health Problems, Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse feature but as numbers are lower than 5, individual figures are not provided to protect the identity of children. There are an increasing number of concerns being recorded in registration which could suggest increasing complexities with families experiencing more than one risk/vulnerability factor. This has implications for service design and delivery, and learning and development provision to ensure staff have the right knowledge, skills and tools to support their work with families.

Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025)

Indicator #29	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
% of Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings with parental attendance	95%	TBC	↑ 97%	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
<p>This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The current quarter sees a rise in the % of meetings with parental attendance from 83% in the previous quarter to 97%.</p> <p>Percentage of Initial and Pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings where at least one person who usually has care of the child attends (e.g. a parent or carer). This indicator highlights the level of parental involvement in decision making and planning around the child and will be reinforced by audit activity into the quality of their involvement (e.g. level of active participation as well as attendance). This figure has remained consistently high over the past 2 years and has never fallen below 80%.</p> <p>Data as of Q3 2024/25 (01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025).</p>				

Indicator #30	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children’s Reporter on non-offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↓ 147	HSC – SCRA Quarterly Reports
ANALYSIS				
<p>Number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on non-offence (care and protection) grounds. Non-offence referrals constitute referrals that have grounds other than section 67 of the 2011 Act. These are also referred to as Care and Protection referrals by some agencies. Work has been undertaken through the Quality Assurance Sub-Group to look at SCRA referrals by type and by age due to an increase in referrals in relation to lack of parental care. Work has also been undertaken to look at older young people being referred in to SCRA and discovered that where there has been an uplift in referrals during any one quarter, these tend to refer to a small cohort of young people with a large number of referrals. Latest data from Q1 2024/25 =137</p>				

Indicator #31	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children’s Reporter on offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↓ 41	HSC-SCRA Quarterly Reports
ANALYSIS				
<p>This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. There has been a rise of 13 children referred to the reporter on offence grounds in this quarter compared to the previous quarter (28).</p> <p>An increase in previous figures could reflect the increasing focus on responding to young people in conflict with the law through the Children’s Hearing System rather than within an adult criminal justice system. It is too early to determine if this is the case but will be a key focus over the next few years. We are seeing an increase this quarter however, figures are relatively small so increases and decreases in the data need to be considered over a longer period.</p>				

Data as of Q2 2024/25, new SCRA data for Q3 is expected mid-May 2025

Indicator #32	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people at home with parents	Increase from Baseline	112	↑ 110	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 7 children/YP that are with friends and families in 2024 compared to 2023 (74).</p>				

Indicator #33	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with friends and families	Increase from Baseline	100	↑ 81	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 7 children/YP that are with friends and families in 2024 compared to 2023 (74).</p>				

Indicator #34	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with foster parents provided by local authority	Increase from Baseline	121	↓ 97	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been a decrease of 7 children/YP that are with foster parents provided by local authority in 2024 compared to 2023 (104).</p>				

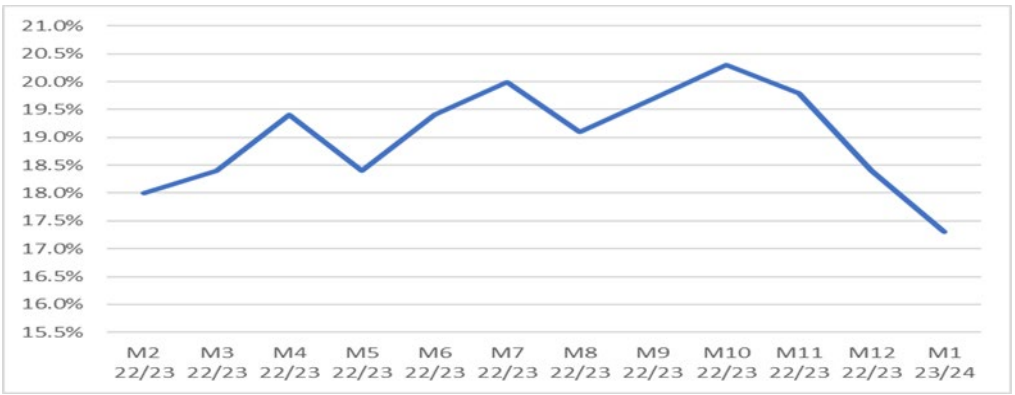
Indicator #35	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with prospective adopters	Increase from Baseline	12	↓ 14	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been a decrease of 1 child/YP that are with prospective adopters in 2024 compared to 2023 (15).</p>				

Indicator #36	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people within a local authority provided house	Reduction from Baseline	81	↑57	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 5 children/YP that are within a local authority provided house in 2024 compared to 2023 (52). The number of available in-Highland residential beds has decreased by 7 in the past year due to a number of provisions in the north closing</p>				

Indicator #37	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The percentage of children needing to live away from the family home but supported in kinship care increases	20%	19%	19.4%	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				

This data is reported monthly on PRMS,

There has been a slight increase in the monthly figure, with the current figure sitting slightly below the target but above the baseline figure.



Indicator #38	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children where permanence is achieved via a Residence order increases	82	72	137	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Activity - Briefing Paper

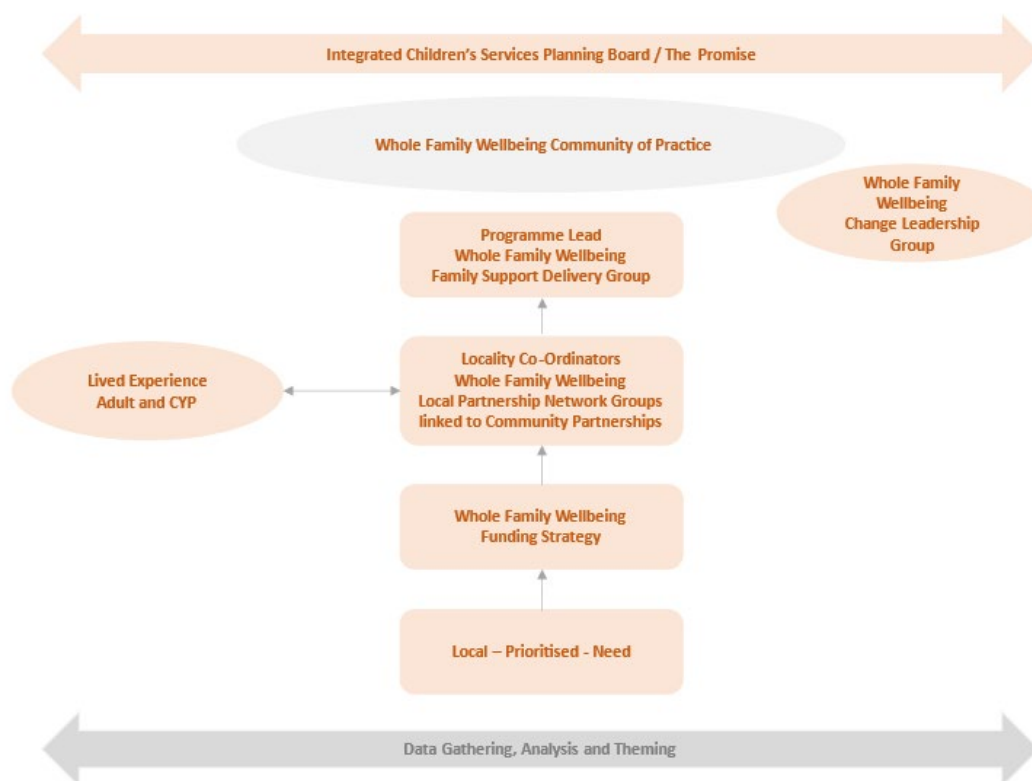
Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Funding Strategy

The [Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Funding Strategy](#) has been developed as a framework for the activity of the Programme.

The aim of this strategy is to define the approach, application/allocation process and governance of the Whole Family Wellbeing fund, to services who are providing Holistic Whole Family Wellbeing Support across Highland.

Governance is provided for strategic oversight of priorities and themes for change and the funding allocation, through the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Change Leadership Group.

This group provides multi-sector strategic leadership to develop transformational change and to ensure alignment to Pillar 3 – *Whole System Approach/Joined-up Support*.



The above diagram outlines that governance and shows the link between locality partnerships, The Promise Board, through the Family Delivery Group, all reporting upwards to the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

Programme Activity

Formation of the Local Partnership Network Groups (LPNG)

These groups are now formed within each of the nine Community Planning Partnership localities and are led by the Programme's Locality Co-Ordinators.

Membership of these groups consists of locality-based community, statutory and Third Sector organisations/services who provide support to families within their communities.

These are strong multi-agency partnerships which report activity to the Community Partnerships through the People strand of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan.

These groups will hold a remit for:

- To support the WFWP to gather evidence of need per locality area.
- To act as a Community of Practice for the locality in matters affecting Whole Family Wellbeing and Holistic Whole Family Support.
- To share information and where applicable resources to support the Programme per locality area.
- To contribute to the direction of activity, whether through Programme funding or through partnership working to maximise benefits to children, young people and families who need to access services in the locality area.
- To ensure a partnership approach is taken with all partners respectful of other agencies and the part they play in supporting children, young people, and families per locality.
- To ensure that all activity undertaken or directed as a Whole Family Wellbeing LPNG is aligned with the Pillars of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme and the Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support.

Development sessions with the LPNGs in Lochaber and Badenoch and Strathspey have now taken place. These sessions were undertaken to assist the groups to explore and identify priorities which can be aligned to the partnership working or funding applications within those localities around local supports for families.

Element 1 Fund: Locality Community Based Activity Small Grant - Grants up to £10K

This fund was opened in September 2024 for one month to support local community-based activities, addressing family wellbeing activities based on locality need. It prioritised tackling Poverty based inequality, and focussed on the following family types:

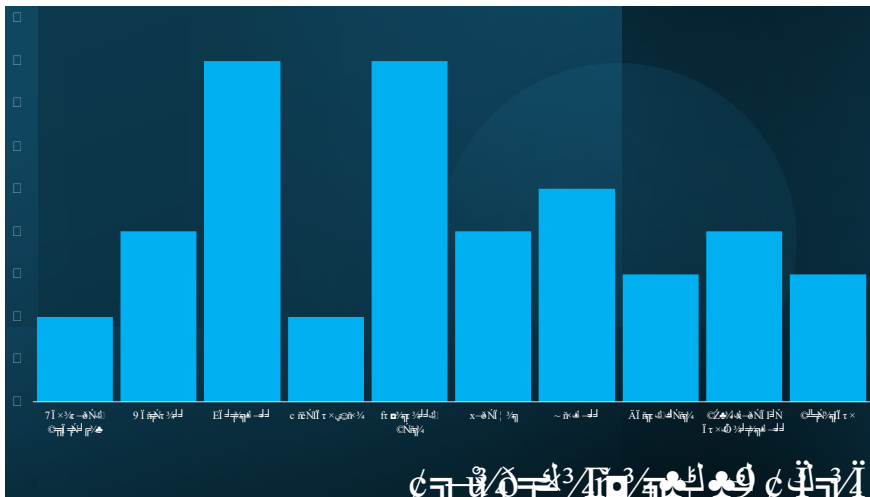
Family Type
Families where the mother is under 25
Lone Parent Families
Families which include children or adults with disability

Larger Families
Minority Ethnic Families
Families with a child under 1

Applications for up to £10K were invited by smaller grass roots third sector organisations and encouraged joined-up approaches in locality to avoid duplication and siloed working.

A total of 30 projects were successful with a total of £286,583.64 of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund being released. (See Appendix A).

The below graphic is a representation of how this Element 1 funding has been distributed by Community Partnership area:



Moving forward the Element 1 fund will become a rolling process, enabled through partnership working by the Locality Co-Ordinators and the respective LPNGs, to ensure community based opportunities can be seized.

Element 2: Collaborative Partnership Fund - Grants up to £50K – two per Community Partnership Locality

This fund will enable local partnerships through the Community Partnerships and LPNGs to apply for longer term funding to meet identified locality need. This will be based on Programme led locality data and data and intelligence from across the partners within each LPNG.

Applications will require evidence of a collaborative, co-production approach, to ensure activity is stronger, more sustainable, with a locality/community focus. Hybrid models of statutory and third sector collaboration will be encouraged and welcomed. Applications will be required to evidence longer term sustainability by outlining exit strategies.

In view of the fact that this fund will be for larger improvement activity, and particularly those addressing Pillar 4 – *Whole System Approach/Joined-Up Support*, applications will be applied for using the Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme – Project/Test of Concept Proposal Application process (as outlined in the WFWP Funding Strategy).

Inviting Tests of Concept, funds will be awarded over a maximum period of 18 months. These will be subject to monitoring for periodic measurements of improvement and evidence on outcomes supported by evaluation pieces.

These applications will be considered for scale-up based on evaluation evidence of improved outcomes. This will be governed by the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Change Leadership Group.

Work continues through the Local Partnership Network Groups to identify gaps and need to support proposal applications to this fund.

Element 3: Transformational Commissioning Fund

This Fund will prioritise specific activity addressing wider system changes identified and will take due consideration of opportunities for Pan-Highland services, scale-up and hybrid models.

The fund will be directed at specific activity to embed the key principles of Holistic Whole Family Support within our systems and structures. Building capacity for achieving the transformational change needed in how families are supported across Highland.

Through the Governance of the Change Leadership Group a wider range of strategic proposals have now been supported, examples of these include:

Thriving Families

To make a significant contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs across Highland. This will be achieved by increasing the holistic, flexible, tailored, one-to-one support available to families and their wider circles of support by expanding the capacity of Thriving Families to deliver this support across Highland.

Autism and Neurodiversity North Scotland

Implementation of a leading neurodiverse specific facility in Dingwall, from which newly recruited and trained A-ND staff will deliver specialised neurodiverse specific Outreach Support Services and a Day Care of Children Services, which includes a playscheme and afterschool club for neurodiverse children and young people.

Family Links (Test of Concept)

This Test of Concept incorporates the partnership of three Third Sector organisations – Care and Learning Alliance (CALA), Thriving Families and Home-Start East Highland who have come together as an alliance to provide Holistic Whole Family Support through a Home-School Link model within the Inverness High School ASG area.

Three Holistic Whole Family Support Workers are now recruited to post, each provider hosting one post across the alliance. This is a significant step forward with the first Programme led, Holistic Whole Family Support worker posts commencing in Highland.

A number of design workshops were undertaken with key stakeholders which is outlined in the [Report on project design workshops](#).

As the Test of Concept arrives at the six-month evaluation point, two development sessions were undertaken on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March 2025 again with key stakeholders. A report is now being prepared to outline this six-month evaluation point. It will be presented to the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board and once agreed will be published for wider information.

How We Work

If you have worries about your child's engagement with school/education (e.g., attendance, routines, well-being), then we are here to help!

- FAMILY- AND PERSON CENTRED**
Making sure your needs are at the heart of what we do
- EMPOWERING YOU**
Building your confidence to take positive action
- HELPING YOU BE HEARD**
Supporting you to share your needs and find solutions
- LINKING SERVICES**
Helping you access the support that is available to you


Get in touch

We're here for your family, so feel free to reach out anytime - no strings attached!

If you have any questions about the project or the support available to you, please **contact the Family Links Worker in your area**. You can find further information on the **Meet the Team** page.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GET IN TOUCH

- Meet your Family Links Worker for a First Meeting
- Spend time getting to know each other and work together to identify your family strengths and challenges
- Make a plan to support your family in ways that you choose
- With our help, take action and access person- and family-centred support that works for you
- Achieve positive outcomes for your family wellbeing to enhance children and young people's learning and development




Family Links

WORKING IN THE INVERNESS HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

Helping children & young people connect positively with school and supporting family wellbeing

Positive school engagement can bring many benefits for children, young people and families. We understand that life can bring various challenges for families which can impact on children and young people's engagement with school and learning. We are here to help with positive solutions to promote children and young people's learning and development by enhancing family well-being and supporting positive engagement with school.



KINDS OF SUPPORT WE CAN OFFER

- WORKING WITH YOU TO CREATE A SUPPORT PLAN AND PUT IT INTO ACTION
- SIGNPOSTING AND REFERRING YOU TO USEFUL SERVICES
- ACCOMPANYING YOU TO MEETINGS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.
- SUPPORTING YOU TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS HEARD
- TAKING TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOU AND SUPPORTING YOU IN A WAY THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU



WHAT WE DO

HOLISTIC FAMILY SUPPORT

We work closely with families to identify and address their specific needs around well-being and school engagement. Through our partnerships with schools and community organisations, we aim to build **meaningful connections** to enhance the **wellbeing of the family** and promote children and young people's learning and development.

ABOUT US

We are an **alliance of three community organisations** with decades of experience supporting families in Highland - the **Care and Learning Alliance (CALA)**, **Home-Start East Highland** and **Thriving Families**. This project is funded and supported by the **Highland Whole Family Wellbeing Programme** to work alongside families in a holistic way.

MEET THE TEAM

Family Links Workers

If you or your child / young person attends one of the schools below, please reach out to the Family Links Worker in your area:

Lisa-Marie
Dalneigh Primary
Inverness High School
Lisa-Marie@home-start
easthighland.org.uk
07523 915168



Isabelle
Central Primary
St Joseph's RC Primary
Inverness High School
i.struckmeier@cala
childcare.co.uk
07742 911470



Roni
Merkinch Primary
Bishop Eden's Primary
Inverness High School
roni.smith@thriving
families.org.uk
07563 554568



The Pines Website

A proposal application was agreed for the development of a new Pines Website by Thriving Families, this also included the management of the site over the next four years.

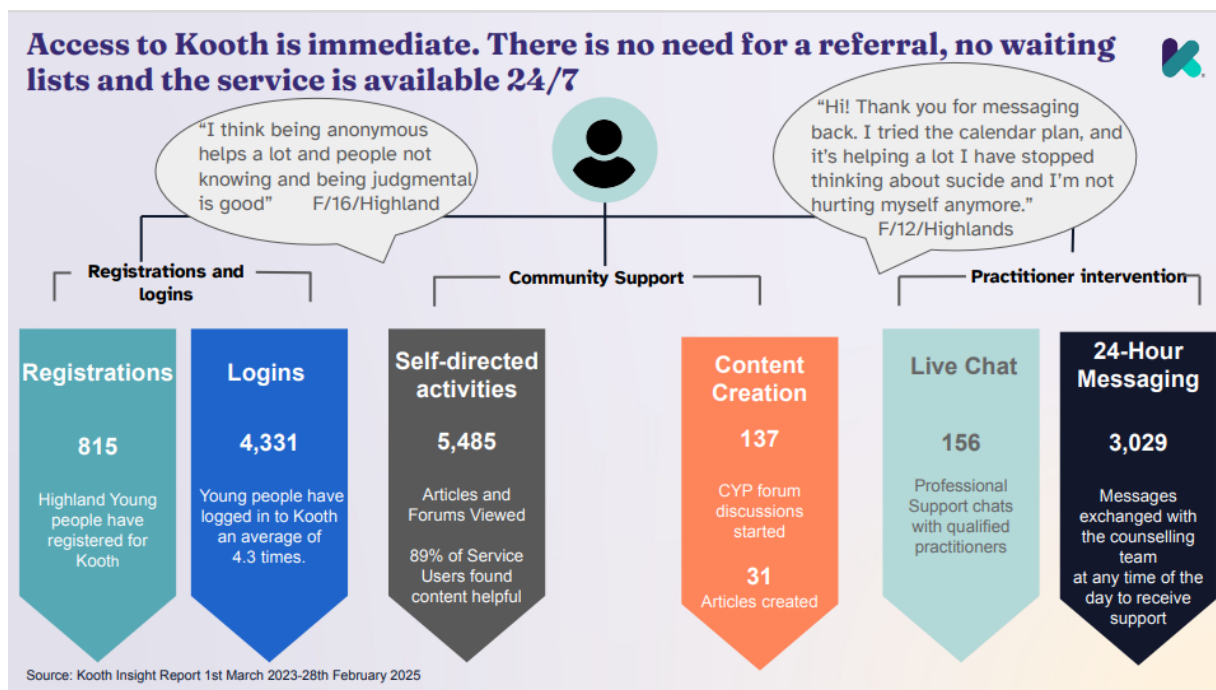
The proposal seeks to undertake a full review of content to ensure that it is up-to-date and relevant. This will include rebranding the site as a neurodevelopmental support information hub.

Kooth

For the past 12 months Kooth have been funded from the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme fund. As the contract has reached renewal a solution was sought for future funding for the contract. The Change Leadership Group have agreed that the CYP Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund will be utilised to cover the 12-month contract for Kooth for FY 2025/2026.

Kooth provides anonymous on-line therapeutic content and activities, peer support which is pre-moderated to ensure safety and professional support through asynchronous messaging and live chat functionality.

Insight Report:



Contextual Safeguarding Project

The Contextual Safeguarding Project is a partnership between Action for Children, Barnardos, The Anchor Project, Police Scotland and Highland Child Protection Committee.

The multi-agency team will be co-located in Rail House, Inverness alongside existing Action for Children and Anchor spaces.

This will enable improved collaborative working and a ‘four rooms’ approach for families in a single setting (this will be replicated in buildings across Highland which have been created using Bairns’ Hoose standards).

The project will be supported by an Exploitation Steering Group to continue to develop contextual safeguarding approaches for children and young people at risk of community harm.

The project has been developed using the Scottish Approach to Service Design methodology using the voices of practitioners and young people, as well as self-evaluation and wider quality assurance work. It was also developed in response to the Inspection of Children's Services for children at risk of harm in 2022 where responses to community harm were highlighted as an area for improvement.

The funding for this project will come from 3 sources – Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Bairns' Hoose funding (through Child Protection Committee) and Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. This demonstrates the key elements required to address Exploitation through a Holistic Contextual Safeguarding approach.

The project aims to bring together and scale up existing programmes to support young people affected by community harm and in particular, those at risk of Exploitation. Community harm can include risks relating to exploitation, youth justice, drugs and alcohol, harmful sexual behaviour and regular missing episodes. To date, the project has established that many young people accessing the services have multiple vulnerabilities within the community, often being on the edge of justice services, whilst being victims of Exploitation.

Whilst specialist services can provide intensive and direct support to the young person, support for families (and the wider community) to help reduce the risks and vulnerabilities is required to avoid an escalation of harm, and prevent young people being removed from their family and/or Highland for their own safety.

At present, Side-Step and RISE are offered as two distinct services along with support from Youth Action, HOST and ISS. This project aims to create an overarching Contextual Safeguarding Framework with a joined-up service to enable seamless support for young people and their families. This meets the Bairns' Hoose standards of having a 'four rooms' approach in one space – families should not have to seek out support, the support should be brought to them in a comfortable and safe setting.

Seasons for Growth

Seasons for Growth is a small group change, loss and bereavement programme that is delivered across Highland, mostly within a school setting.

It is a universal small group, psychoeducational intervention which supports children and young people (and their families) who are experiencing significant change or loss, which ideally would be available to all families across Highland.

Where there is capacity and the programme has become embedded, children and young people self-refer to the group due to hearing about it via assemblies, from staff in their school or their peers recommending it to them.

A variety of staff from a range of professions have attended two-day training to deliver the CYP Programme and some who have furthered that training and attended a one-day Parent Programme Training, allowing them to deliver small group programmes to Parents too.

There are 237 trained CYP companions, of which 29 have gone on to train in the Parent Programme. These staff are predominantly Highland Council employees, based in our schools and across Health & Social Care.

There are a further 20 staff trained in the Third Sector in organisations such as Young Carers and the Ministry of Defence.

To develop this further, plans exist to enable support for staff from partner agencies to undertake the CYP Programme training and deliver a group so that they can become accredited in the CYP programme which in turn would allow them to train to deliver the Parent Programme. This would create capacity in the system.

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Future Family Support Operating Model

Home-Start Caithness and Home-Start East Highland have been commissioned to develop, in partnership with the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme, a future operating model for a pan-highland holistic whole family support service.

This will enable accessibility for families within all localities to receive early family-centred, relationship-based supports to reduce unmet need and tackle inequalities.

The service will work alongside the Programme providing operational capability for the co-ordination and delivery of supports for families.

Work will continue to develop the operating model in partnership with other service providers who are also providing supports to families to ensure a joined-up approach.

It is also planned that the implementation and testing of the operating model will undergo full evaluation.

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Strategic Needs Assessment Report

The Programme's Strategic Needs Assessment is now complete. Based on Poverty inequalities data it provides a focus on the six priority family types within the Scottish Government's [Best Start, Bright Futures – Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022 - 2026](#):

- Families where the mother is under 25
- Lone Parent Families
- Families which include children or adults with disability
- Larger Families
- Minority Ethnic Families
- Families with a child under 1

This is a valuable document set for evidence of need for the nine locality Community Partnership areas and will provide a needs-led approach to the Local Partnership Network Groups in line with the Locality Model agreed for the Programme by the HCPP Board and Integrated Children's Services Planning Board in 2022.

Element 1 Fund: Locality Community Based Activity Small Grants – Funded Project

Highland WFWP Element 1 funded projects – December 2024

Name of organisation and project	Summary of funded activity
<p>Brent Centre Highlands: Psychoanalytic/systemic parent/family therapy</p> <p>CP area: Inverness and Shire</p>	<p>This project will utilise psychoanalytic/systemic parent/family consultations to meet the needs of more young people. It will also offer group work to families of neurodivergent teens, supporting the needs of parents / carers to understand the diagnosis of autism, navigate school and employment, learn how to deal with social anxiety in family life, the impact on siblings, navigate restrictions and rigidity and enjoy the young people's strengths. Families will feel less isolated and have the offer of connecting with other families to share their lived knowledge and experience.</p>
<p>Broadford and Strath Community Company: Broadford School Garden</p> <p>CP Area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>Horticultural therapy project supporting the whole family to access cherished community space. The project aims to see improved mental wellbeing and increased self-esteem through building social connections and access to green space and activity.</p>
<p>Caithness Klics: Older young carers transition programme</p> <p>CP area: Caithness</p>	<p>Caithness KLICS is dedicated to supporting young carers up to the age of 18 in Caithness. Listening to their young carers, they've identified a need for additional support for older carers aged 16-21 as they navigate transitions potentially into other community services. In collaboration with Listening Ear, they plan to launch a weekly group offering peer support, social inclusion, guidance, and a safe space. Co-designed with current and former young carers, this one-year pilot aims to ensure no young carer feels unsupported during this critical stage of life.</p>
<p>CCAST Highland: Housing Support – Tain</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project will provide a much-needed housing support service in Tain town for families considered to be at risk of poverty. The key aims are to provide: Housing Support to enable clients to retain their tenancies and live independently; addiction recovery support programmes such as SMART, Decider plus 1-1 support; employability support; food bank locally; community larder; warm Space / Fuel Poverty; parent and toddler group; Hannah House – vulnerable women's supported accommodation.</p>

<p>Create Lochalsh: Scribble and Giggle/Families Creating Together</p> <p>CP area: Skye Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>A two-part project for families and young people with additional support needs. Part 1 - Scribble and Giggle for young people and Part 2 - Creative sessions for the young people and their carer(s). They aim to achieve increased self-confidence and self-worth and create a final public exhibition/event. Participants will do this through learning new artistic skills with isolation reduced and people more socially included.</p>
<p>Ewen's Room: Creative Therapies for Wellbeing (in collaboration with Kinlochlovin)</p> <p>CP area: Lochaber</p>	<p>The aim of this project is for parents and carers to feel calmer and more in control of their emotions. The project will work towards reducing conflicts within families through self and co-regulation skills, empowering families to cope with challenges when working with services, increasing the ability for families to engage with services, for example, social work and schools.</p>
<p>Fox & Friends Highland: Family Hub - The Perrins Centre</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project seeks to ensure that support and activities are readily accessible to every family in the Easter Ross area, by creating a community space which offers more opportunities for people, giving them the tools they need to build stronger more resilient community. Once open, the Hub we will bring people together in their community, to upskill, build friendships and seek support if they need it. The community space will help reduce social isolation and loneliness, and positively impact on the health and wellbeing for all.</p>
<p>Grantown YMCA Community Centre: Youth programme with increased accessibility</p> <p>CP area: Badenoch and Strathspey</p>	<p>Expansion of current youth programme and soft play sessions to improve accessibility. Weekly youth activities and soft play sessions will be developed, serving as a safe space for young mums, lone parents, and diverse families by introducing a free breakfast to address food insecurity for those who also rely on the food bank. The project will support school refusers by increasing outreach efforts to include more community projects. It will also ensure that facilities are more fully accessible and inclusive by acquiring an evacuation chair and defibrillator and providing appropriate training for staff on its use.</p>
<p>Highland Action for Little Ones: Bright Futures project</p>	<p>Expansion of current Bright Futures project, which provides accessible and flexible support to young mothers aged 25 and under in Inverness via a combination of drop-in sessions and workshops aimed</p>

<p>CP areas: Inverness and Shire / East Ross</p>	<p>at addressing the specific needs of this demographic. This expansion will see the development of a second group in Inverness and the creation of additional groups in East Ross.</p>
<p>Hilton Family Support: Expansion of provision of holistic whole family support</p> <p>CP area: Inverness and Shire</p>	<p>To meet current demand, the service will employ an additional family worker who will support families to access groups which aim to encourage positive parenting, strengthen parent confidence and the relationship between parent/carer and child. The service also aims to reduce isolation and parental anxiety and depression.</p>
<p>Home Ed Teen Group</p> <p>CP areas: Inverness and Shire / Mid-Ross / Badenoch and Strathspey / Nairn and Shire / East Ross</p>	<p>This project is to facilitate support for a youth-led, self-directed and parent-supported group of home-educated teenagers who are feeling isolated - some living with traumas following negative experiences in and out of school - but all wanting to connect more fully with their peers and experience what life as a teenager could be. The group aims to do this by supporting the development of the teens' own ideas for collaborative projects as well as offering opportunities for them as a group to learn from local, skilled craftspeople and gain insights into possible avenues of skills development for themselves.</p>
<p>Home Start Caithness: Ad Hoc childcare</p> <p>CP area: Caithness</p>	<p>Home Start Caithness is seeking to establish a new childcare service offering slots of up to 2 hours providing tailored support for families. This service, based around their extensive understanding of the needs of young families in Caithness, is designed to help parents and carers attend crucial appointments, support meetings, or training sessions, ensuring they have reliable care when needed. Practitioners will also be able to refer families to this flexible and accessible resource, offering peace of mind during busy or challenging times.</p>
<p>Inspiring Young Voices: Youth-led participation</p>	<p>This project will develop and pilot a youth-led participation approach, working alongside young people with additional support needs and disabilities to develop their learning and understanding of inequality, stigma, discrimination and youth-led participation. The learning process will be informal and participative. From this, the young people will be supported to identify the barriers and enablers they face and use this to develop youth-led participation</p>

<p>CP areas: Inverness and Shire / Caithness</p>	<p>projects to bring about transformational change. The project will take place in partnership settings in Inverness and Caithness.</p>
<p>Kinlochleven Community Trust: Family Hub</p> <p>CP area: Lochaber</p>	<p>First stage of developing a pilot family hub providing a safe place to address gaps in services. This will be space available 7/7 where parents and CYP can: meet up in a safe environment to foster relationship, fight isolation, particularly for lone parents; join activities/workshops/training tailored to various abilities and audiences; access information in one place, in a non-stigmatising environment to empower families with awareness, decision making and action; meet enablers and support agencies to break barriers such as transport or lack of childcare that prevents access to these services often in Fort William; access a computer and support towards employability and upskilling.</p>
<p>Kinlochlovin: Creative Terapies for Wellbeing (in collaboration with Ewen's Room)</p> <p>CP area: Lochaber</p>	<p>The aim of this project is for parents and carers to feel calmer and more in control of their emotions. The project will work towards reducing conflicts within families through self and co-regulation skills, empowering families to cope with challenges when working with services, increasing the ability for families to engage with services, for example, social work and schools.</p>
<p>Kyleakin Connections Limited</p> <p>CP area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>Tis project aims to extend the work of the organisation to a wider target group through: 1. Completing installation of a sensory room. 2. Promoting the current facility in the Kyle and Lochalsh community to maximise its use to benefit all. 3. Running a pilot project to gather evidence on families' needs and wishes in the community. 4. Providing a base/drop-in facility to meet the needs and wishes in collaboration with individuals, partners and stakeholders. The developments aim to increase the provision of support that meets individual needs which will increase wellbeing, mental health, quality of life, and relationships whilst enhancing collaborative working to ensure accessibility to locally based support/guidance.</p>
<p>Lairg and District Learning Centre: The Maker's Space (expansion)</p>	<p>The Maker's Space will provide a range of hands-on activities, like family cooking, creative arts, pottery, woodworking and crafting sessions. Participants can explore new ideas or bring their own projects to work</p>

<p>CP area: Sutherland</p>	<p>on with support and tutor guidance. This new project will focus on intergenerational participation, encouraging skill-building and family connections. The project aims to bring generations together, allowing families to cook, craft, and build - while fostering stronger relationships and a sense of belonging. Families will be central in both participating and guiding the direction of the project.</p>
<p>Lochview Rural Training: Family Pioneers Project</p> <p>CP area: Sutherland</p>	<p>The Family Pioneers project will focus on different elements, and will include support for parents, children and young people, and families. All three elements will support individuals and families to develop new skills, build self-confidence, peer and family relationships. Parents: adult workshops will be run to develop self-confidence and an understanding of the cost of living crisis, and how to address this through rural skills. LVRT will signpost and refer to support websites and organisations. Children and Young People: activities will focus on developing self-confidence, peer relationships, self-care, team building, numeracy and literacy.</p>
<p>Lyth Arts Centre: Whole family wellbeing project for early years and young families</p> <p>CP area: Caithness</p>	<p>Lyth Arts Centre are developing a vibrant new social prescribing project which is designed to nurture whole family wellbeing by addressing social isolation, loneliness, and mental health through creativity. Local families will be offered a range of engaging activities led by trained creative facilitators and supported by mental health practitioners, support workers, and partner organisations. Some of the activities currently being planned include Junior Jammers Early Years Wellbeing Music, Babywearing Dance Classes, a Buggy Choir, and outdoor art clubs. The project will culminate in a Shareable Toolkit, inspiring others to explore creativity as a path to family wellbeing.</p>
<p>Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Outdoor Family Contact Time</p>	<p>This project will provide an alternative to family 'contact time' in an indoor social care setting. Families and their workers will spend quality time together in an outdoor natural setting (Abriachan Forest) and they will have access to creative activities run by the Abriachan Forest Trust. Families will be encouraged and supported to try new things together - whether it's adventure outdoors or crafts, visual arts and reading indoors. A key aim will be to create experiences</p>

CP areas: Highland-wide	together which can be recalled, remembered and, if wanted, captured in visual art form.
Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Rural Care-Experienced Tasters	This project aims to reach and connect with the rural care experienced community - including kinship families - to offer creative experiences which could lead to further involvement creative activities locally in the longer term and encourage the establishment of lasting and beneficial connections between care experienced families and their local community. 'Tasters on Tour' creative sessions in six rural locations in Highland (to be confirmed) will be the first part of this process and will kick start these lasting and beneficial connections for participants.
CP areas: Data-guided tbc Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Quiet Sundays Safe Space	This project will provide a safe space one Sunday per month for young people with anxiety who are not attending school and to develop creativity-designed programmes which the young people will take forward themselves. The young people will develop confidence in sharing their creativity, socialising in small groups and using this to go forward to school or alternatives to mainstream schooling.
CP areas: Travel distance to Moniack Mhor (Inverness-shire) Moniack Mhor - Creativity and Care: Transitions to Secondary School	This project will support and empower vulnerable young people in Inverness High School ASG before moving onto secondary school and with teens who are presenting differently at secondary than they did at primary. The young people identified will come together in a safe space to support each other and receive tutor and peer-led support for their mental health, confidence and ability. Creativity will be a key focus and the project will aim to create a template for support which can be used in other areas.
CP area: Inverness and Shire Rokzkool Academy: Youth Leadership Development Team	This exciting project empowers the Youth Leadership Team to shape the service in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, helping other young people build skills and friendships, with a focus on supporting the six family types most at risk. The team will play a key role in decision-making, backed by insights from market research and online surveys. Plans include creative fundraising through merchandise sales and setting up a small food bank/care cupboard to support local families, foster community engagement, and attract more people to the studio.
CP areas: Travel distance to Rokzkool Academy (Inverness)	

<p>Smithton Primary School Parent Council: Cost of the school day project</p> <p>CP area: Inverness and Shire</p>	<p>This project seeks to expand on Smithton Primary School's track record of delivering whole family support in different formats over the past few years by utilising the community room to deliver activities for families based on the cost of the school day. The Parent Council is working with the Child Poverty Action Group to develop this project and will use its toolkit to consult with families, children and staff to identify areas for improvement and further tailor what the school can do to support families.</p>
<p>SNAP: Self-finding families awaiting SDS reviews</p> <p>CP areas: Highland-wide</p>	<p>This project will focus on supporting families who currently self-fund their places at SNAP while awaiting outcomes of SDS (Self-Directed Support) reviews. Engagement with families highlighted a critical gap in financial support for these families, who faced a potential loss of access to beneficial activities at SNAP catering for their specific needs. This funding will contribute to ensuring that these families can continue to attend all sessions hosted by SNAP , which are crucial for fostering social connections and support networks.</p>
<p>Tain and North Highland YMCA: Family hub</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>This project will pilot a 'Family Hub' including an early mentoring programme for Tain. This is based upon identified needs following discussions with agencies, head teachers and families within the area. The Family Hub will be open on a Friday and build on existing family support provided along with linking in with other agencies e.g. Child Smile. We already provide a young carers support programme and two monthly discos on a Friday evening. An additional component will be the creation of the early years mentoring programme, which has been identified after discussions with local primary head teachers.</p>
<p>The Mama Tribe FW: Expansion of support for mothers</p>	<p>The aims and activities of this project will be to provide: a continued safe space for mums in Lochaber to go and talk about motherhood; provide group postnatal trauma counselling sessions; training such as paediatric first aid courses for mums to help with postnatal anxiety; yoga and movement sessions for mums; self-pampering evenings for mums to take some me time which they don't often get to promote their own wellbeing; more opportunities and support as they adapt to their new identity as a mother;</p>

<p>CP area: Lochaber</p>	<p>to create partnerships with the health visitors and midwives to spread the word about what we do, so it's readily available and accessible to more mums.</p>
<p>The Place Youth Club - Drop-in: Upscaling of services</p> <p>CP area: East Ross</p>	<p>Providing and continually developing youth services within the town of Alness across two very different venues with an emphasis on encouraging and supporting engagement between young people from different ethnicities; young people's confidence by taking part in challenging activities; supporting young people to access diverse sources of support; creating positive relationships between staff and young people.</p>
<p>Viewfield Garden Collective: Family friendly workshops</p> <p>CP area: Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross</p>	<p>Expansion of family friendly workshops, group sessions, community events and outreach and follow-up support. The aim is to offer the same support and educational services for health and wellbeing including outdoor activities, healthy produce and diet, and life skills to families as is currently offered to individuals.</p>