



NORTH AYRSHIRE CORPORATE PARENTING REPORT

JANUARY 2021



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Corporate Parenting Manager

Corporate Parenting Report 2021

This Corporate Parenting report has been written to let you know some of the things that have been achieved over the last 3 years, celebrating our success and how we will continue to put care experienced children and young people's needs at the centre of everything we do.

Our Corporate Parenting Plan is submitted to the Scottish Government to demonstrate how we are responding to the six duties in Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and how we were working together as Corporate Parents.

In October 2017 we published our Corporate Parenting Plan (2017-20) that sets out the high-level priorities for our Care Experienced children and young people. We developed an action plan to achieve the promises we set out in the plan.

In addition, the Scottish Government asked that a report on our Corporate Parenting activities was published at least once every three years. This previous 3-year report to the Scottish Government was published in April 2018.

As you will see from this report, we are making steady progress towards achieving and delivering on our overall promises and our Corporate Parenting Plan.

The core elements of our 2017-20 plan are as follows:

- The rights and views of looked after children and young people will be taken into account when designing services and interventions
- Partnership working and collaboration between Corporate Parents
- Measurable promises made to looked after children and young people
- Actions to progress the six duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and its associated Statutory Guidance

The six duties outlined within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 are:

- *Be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people to whom corporate parenting applies*
- *Assess the needs of those children and young people for the services and support they provide*
- *Promote the interests of those children and young people*
- *Provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing*
- *Take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people to (i) access the opportunities it provides, and (ii) make use of services, and access support, which it provides*
- *Take such action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to the children and young people to whom corporate parenting applies*

Rather than report on every element of the Corporate Parenting Plan this report will highlight some of our key achievements and detail our plans for the future. Furthermore, it will make reference to most of the individual actions contained in the associated Action Plan.

In the construction of our Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-20, a number of key policies were introduced by the Scottish Government. The two principle policies are: 'Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People Strategy (2015)' and 'The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant (2016)'. We were mindful of both of these policies in devising our Corporate Parenting Plan.

The plan has been embraced and progressed by the Corporate Parenting Partnership and actions have been either carried out collaboratively, or by a single agency with statutory duties, in relation to looked after children and young people.

Our 2021-24 Plan will be structured differently: moving away from age groups to focusing on themes. We have annual evaluation workshops and as a result, new priorities have been identified and progressed. We endeavour to take a responsive and needs-led approach to our planning. Our new plan will primarily focus on:

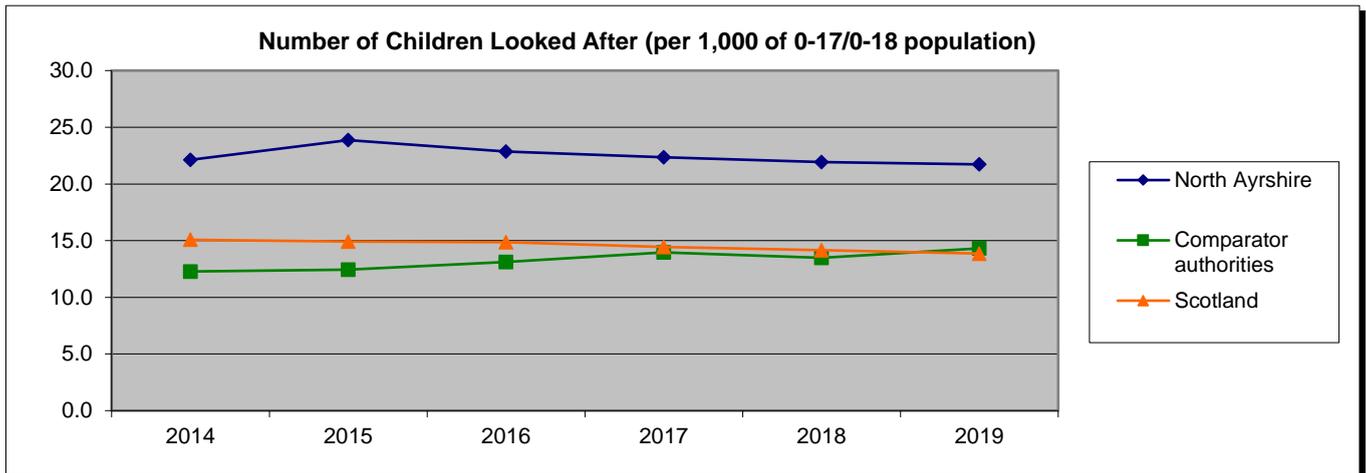
- Stronger collaboration
- Language and stigma
- Measurable outcomes
- Data gathering and analysis
- Mental Health
- The 'Promise'

The learning and feedback from our evaluation event has afforded us the opportunity to develop and devise a clear plan reinvigorating our co-produced vision. Our plans will undoubtedly be inextricably linked with the priorities contained within '#KeepThePromise'.

Throughout the current pandemic, it is regrettable but understandable that some actions have been unable to be completed as a result of being unable to have face to face contact and groupwork with children and young people. During this past year, we had planned to deliver a number of innovative programmes including: a Peer Mentoring Scheme; looked after and kinship care groups operating in all secondary schools and to grow the membership of our Champions Board. This work has been paused at the present time however we will restart when it is safe to do so and in conjunction with the national route map out of the pandemic.

Comparator Statistical Data to July 2019

The Statistics outlined below are the last available comparator statistics as of July 2019. Our comparator local authorities are: North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian. These are our comparator set of authorities for Looked After Children in North Ayrshire.

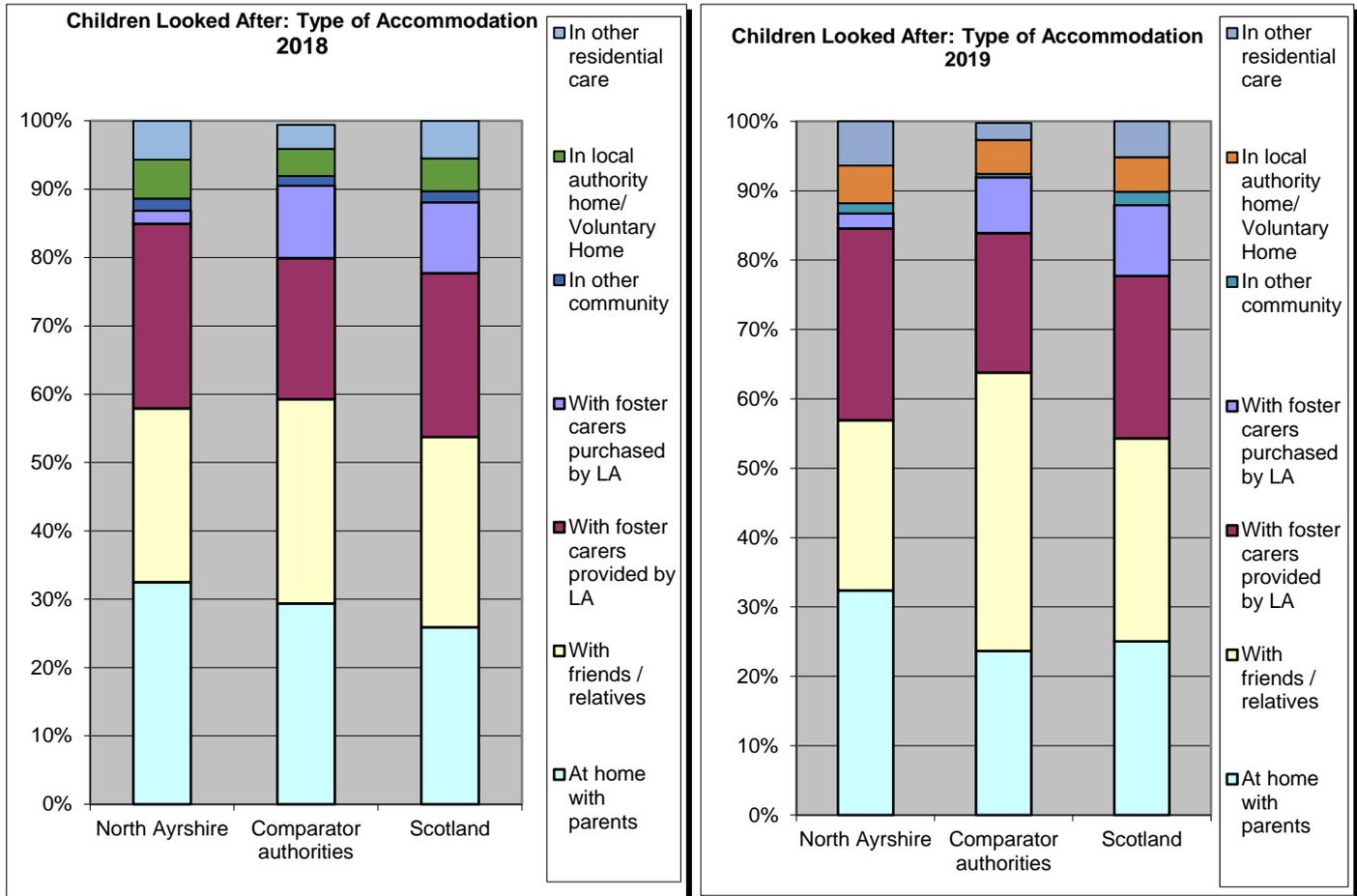


- The number of children looked after in North Ayrshire at July was 550 (a decrease of 2.3% from July 2018 following a 4% decrease from 2017). The comparator authorities show an increase of 5.8%, while Scotland figures show a decrease of 2%.
- As of July 2020, we had 576 children looked after. This is a 5% increase from July 2019.
- The rate (per 1,000 population) is 21.7 which is greater than the Scotland average of 13.9 and the comparator authorities of 14.3. It has been noted by the National Children's Social Work Statistics group that: "In general, the higher the level of deprivation, the higher the proportion of children who are looked after".

Please find Education data on Page 20.

Children Looked After - By Accommodation Type

The tables below are the latest comparator figures for 2018-2019.



- On July 2019 (n=550), 32% of Looked after children in North Ayrshire were **cared for at home**. (33% on July 2018) (This is a decrease of 1% from 2018). 25% were looked after by friends or relatives in 2019 (25% on July 2018 and July 2017). In 2019 28% were with foster carers provided by the local authority, a 1% increase from 2018.
- At 31/7/20, 31% of Looked After children in North Ayrshire were cared for at home, 24% with friends/relatives and 32% in foster care provided by the local authority.

Our Plan 2017-2020

Our report highlights the promises we have made to children and young people in the different age groups below, the work we have progressed to date and what we are planning to do next. Note that the graphics in this report materialised as a result of a Care Experienced participating and engagement event called 'Who am I?' which was designed, led and actions driven forward by listening to and acting on the voices of our young people.

The core elements of our 2017-20 plan (published October 2017)		
Elements	Progress	Evidence and impact
<p>The rights and views of Looked After Children and Young People will be taken into account when designing services and interventions.</p>		<p>We restructured our governance arrangements to incorporate the views of care experienced young people who now have their own participation group (Champions Board) where they set the agenda for change.</p> <p>During the process of completing the Corporate Parenting Plan we worked with and actively listened to children and young people to seek their views and thoughts. This was accomplished by having groups of young people coming together from foster care, residential care, kinship care and looked after at home. The groups were facilitated by operational staff. The Corporate Parenting Plan reflects these views and the plan quotes our children and young people throughout the document.</p>
<p>Partnership working and close collaboration between Corporate Parents.</p>		<p>We restructured our governance arrangements and have reviewed our Corporate Parenting Steering Group membership to ensure all relevant Corporate Parents are included and contribute. This has resulted in a closer working relationship between Corporate Parents that has given us a solid platform for increased partnership and co-operative working.</p> <p>We appointed a Corporate Parenting Coordinator and support worker to take forward specific actions within our Corporate Parenting Action Plan. This was only possible through close collaboration and co-production with and between our Corporate Parenting partners.</p>
<p>Measurable promises made to Looked After children and young people.</p>		<p>An action Plan has been devised with attention to analysis, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes as a driver for further improvement and change.</p>
<p>Actions to progress the six duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and its associated Statutory Guidance.</p>		<p>Our Corporate Parenting Plan and Action Plan has been structured to address the new six duties and collaboration activities.</p>

Early Years: 0-5 year olds

Our Vision

We want all of our children before they are aged 5 to have a secure, consistent place to live where we are robustly assessing their needs and supporting their caregiver to give them the best possible start in life.

Our Promises

To make sure we can fulfil our vision we have made several promises to children in this age group. We promise to:

- **Reduce the number of moves between different carers that they will experience before they are 5 years old.**
- **Help their mum and dad learn what is important in order to be a supportive and confident parent when they are looked after at home.**
- **Use a tried and tested assessment framework before they are born and afterwards to make sure that they are being cared for.**
- **Look for ways to secure a permanent place for them to live, by either returning them home or securing a kinship care order, permanence order or adoption.**

Our Response

a)We have developed our Universal Early Years Teams to include Health Visitors, Early Years Social Workers, Family Nurturers, Assistant Nurse Practitioners, Health Care Support Workers, a speech and language therapist and a peri-natal Mental Health Nurse who can all respond to the needs of children and their parents.

b)All parents receive an offer of parenting and other supports identified through the universal early years team. Any parent who is identified as needing additional support is offered this support.

c)100% of all expectant mothers are offered a wellbeing assessment.

d)We have adopted the Universal Pathway for Health Visiting and associated assessments including initiating a wellbeing assessment. Our processes and procedures continue to be modified to ensure the best outcomes for our families.

e)Every looked after child has a wellbeing assessment and a Child's Plan, focusing on wellbeing outcomes reflecting the strengths and needs of the individual child. These plans are regularly reviewed to ensure outcomes are being met.

f)Kinship Care – All carers are subject to a Carer's assessment to ensure that the placement can meet the child or young person's needs.

g)We have provided a 'We work for families' service to help parents who lack confidence or have low self-esteem to secure training or employment.

h)We have increased the number of assessments where a carer's capacity is assessed through our Pathways Team.

Next Steps

- We will increase the numbers of relevant people attending training, focusing on assessment, planning and thoughtful practice to ensure we continue to embrace the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). We will continue to evaluate and modify our training based on robust quality assurance measures.
- We promise that every looked after child will have a wellbeing assessment and a

Child's Plan shared on AYRshare¹ which is regularly updated and reviewed by professionals.

- Over many years we have been actively working to reduce the number of unnecessary moves a child experiences. We are making good progress in this regard and will continue to ensure this is a priority.

In 2018 the percentage of children or young people in North Ayrshire having three or more moves is substantially lower than the National average of 5% and 6% for comparator authorities. North Ayrshire's 18 children with three or more moves equates to 3%. In 2019 this had very slightly risen although still well below the national average nonetheless, we promise to continue to work towards reducing this number.



Not enough known of people experiencing care - COULD LEARN MORE



¹ AYRshare is an information sharing tool used by practitioners across North, South and East Ayrshire and NHS

Ayrshire and Arran to collate significant event and relevant documents.

School age: 5–18 year olds

Our Vision

We want all of our all children and young people in this age group to be helped to reach their potential: physically, mentally, socially and emotionally to be able to develop their skills and learning so they can realise their aspirations and goals.

Our Promises

To make sure we can fulfil our vision we have made a number of promises to children in this age group. These are:

- **Ensure that their mental health and wellbeing are a priority**
- **Support them to be as healthy as they can be.**
- **Support them to achieve their potential**
- **Help them to develop skills for life, learning and work**

In addition, North Ayrshire Council has made promises to:

- Encourage professionals who work with care experienced children and young people to use language and behaviours that are more suited to a family setting.
- Review the practice of removing children and young people from school with the aim of ceasing this practice at the earliest opportunity.
- Encourage and support new prospective foster carers, especially those who currently live in housing that cannot accommodate children, to ensure they meet the requirement of becoming a North Ayrshire foster carer.

² The Family Firm policy was introduced by the Scottish Government in to encourage Corporate Parents and other partners to provide training, employment or skills

Our Response

a) We have invested in school counsellors in our secondary schools that are accessible to all children and young people. The number of schools offering nurturing support is 29 (20 Primary and 9 Secondary with associated counselling services).

b) We have trained a number of professionals from Health, Education and Social Services in Mental Health First Aid.

c) We have developed an even more robust Health assessment when children are first looked after and when they have Health needs at any time.

d) Each school has a Looked After Child coordinator who works with the child to identify and progress their needs working alongside partners.

e) We appointed a Corporate Parenting Coordinator who is taking forward our Family Firm Model.²

f) We have secured free KA Leisure cards (all ages) for any Care Experienced child or young person who wants/needs one. The Corporate Parenting team also ran an exciting Summer Programme focusing on life skills.

g) We have enhanced the wifi and broadband in all of our residential houses so that children and young people can access the educational & recreational resources.

h) We have provided laptops, ipads, wifi dongles and mobile phones to those care experienced children and young people who require these.

development opportunities to Care experienced young people

i) We have developed a multi-disciplinary team of Health and Social Care staff within schools to support care experienced children and young people.

j) Participation – We have facilitated a Champions Board whose views are fed into our Steering Group³. We aim to grow membership and extend its reach.

j) Nurture training has been rolled out to all residential staff and plans are progressing to train all Foster Carers.

k) Individual attendance of care experienced pupils is accessed and monitored by each individual school, using bespoke reports on their management information system for pupils falling below 90% and/or below 85% and 80% attendance. Interventions are then triggered as appropriate.

l) MCR Pathways has been commissioned to provide mentoring in two schools and we will work alongside them to look at other development opportunities and widening the reach to other schools.

m) Work continues to train education staff in ASSIST training.

n) The number of Modern Apprentice places for Care Experienced has been increased to ten. These have been taken up and work is ongoing with NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

o) Skills Development Scotland and the Corporate Parenting team have agreed a pathway for identifying skills and opportunities for our care experienced young people. We continue to monitor in particular the age range 16-26 and take action as appropriate, including sign-posting to other services.

p) Our Champions Board designed, published and launched a Care

Experienced Mental Health Toolkit called 'Care4Yourself' for all Care experienced young people and staff.



q) We have social workers based in five of our schools with plans to further develop this integrated working and also introduce youth workers.

Next Steps

- We will continue to increase the number of trained personnel in mental health first aid and the number of schools providing nurturing support.
- We will continue to increase the number of looked after children receiving support at a Nurture Base returning to full-time mainstream schooling.
- We will continue to increase the number of formal offers of Health assessments within 28 days of health services being notified a child has become looked after.
- We will continue to increase the number of children & young people receiving assistance to access sports, leisure or cultural activities.
- We will continue to work towards increasing the level of attainment and achievement for all care experienced children and young people.
- We will continue to ensure schools and colleges work to continue to improve attendance and reduce exclusions in order to increase levels of participation and engagement.

³ The North Ayrshire Champions Board consist of Care Experienced young people between 16 to 22 who represent the voice of their care experienced community

and are supported by staff members to affect change and policy development.

- We will work towards increasing the percentage of young people moving on to a positive post-school destination and sustaining it.
- We will have an Action plan for the commitments in the Care Leavers Covenant that will be progressed and reported on annually.
- We will continue to engage with, collaborate and work tirelessly with our partners to get the best support and outcomes for our young people.
- We will invest in new resources and technology to enhance communication and ensure our young people have instant access to resources to meet their needs.



Young Adults: 18-26 year olds

Our Vision

We want all our all young adults in this age group to have access to opportunities that increase their self-esteem, access to opportunities for personal development and become more independent.

Our Promises

To make sure we can fulfil our vision we have made a number of promises to children in this age group. We have said that we will promise to: -

- **Provide access to opportunities that value them as individuals and their aspirations.**
- **Listen and seek to understand the issues which affect their mental health, giving them the right support when they need it.**
- **Support them to gain skills for life and to access meaningful opportunities for further education, training and work**
- **Help them to become more independent and have a home of their own.**

Our Response

a)North Ayrshire Council have agreed to increase the number of ring-fenced Modern Apprenticeship opportunities and work has commenced with NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

b)We are proud to have a Care Experienced bursary for our young people going into further education. This bursary does not affect any housing benefits.

c)We are proud to have implemented a policy to ensure care leavers are exempt from Council Tax.

d)We established an Employability and Skills sub-group to develop processes and pathways to support care experienced young people into education, employment or training.

f)The 3 Ayrshire College campuses have an identified member of staff who will support care leavers with any issues that arise whilst they are at college.

g)Our Throughcare Team have been working closely with Ayrshire College to identify opportunities for young people and to support them through transitions.

h)The Champions Board and Corporate Parenting Team provided over 100 young people with either data, mobile phones and other IT equipment to keep them in touch with friends and family through our local 'Get Connected' Fund. We continue to support our young people with IT.

i)All young people within Throughcare and Aftercare have an allocated worker. Where there is no need for an allocated worker, there is a duty system that enables positive contact and support for those who require it at the time that they require it. We monitor this is our CFJ weekly data dashboard.

j) There remains a very clear route to money matters for young people within Throughcare and Aftercare, where they have ready access to support and advice from staff within the Money Matters team and Throughcare Aftercare team to access this support as and when require.

k)Intervention and residential teams have had a number of sport and leisure activities for children & young people. Some of our

partners include KA leisure, Beith Community Trust, Muirshield Country Park, Eglington Park, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, John Muir Awards, National Galleries work, Impact Arts and Inverclyde Sports Centre, this is in addition to a number of local groups who we link with.

Next Steps

- We will increase in the number of care leavers supported by Money Matters.
- We will provide support and access to Health professionals who will help assess Health needs and get the right support and the right time.
- We will increase the number of young adults with care experience who are connected with a significant adult to support them into a positive destination.
- We will increase the number of young adults in employment, education and training opportunities.
- We will extend the housing protocol to all care leavers, not just those who were still accommodated on their sixteenth birthday.
- We will offer financial support and advice to reduce financial pressures.



General

In addition to the promises outlined above, there have been many other activities spanning all the age groups which dovetail with the Corporate Parenting Plan and wider engagement with care experienced young people.

Activity

- We held a very successful Peer Research Event in March 2019 around behaviours, stigma and language. This was facilitated by care experienced young people and Modern Apprentices.
- In the spirit of the Family Firm Policy, and to lead by example, we have appointed a Corporate Parenting Support worker and a Modern Apprentice within the Corporate Parenting Team who are both Care Experienced.
- We had an evaluation workshop in September 2019 utilising the quality improvement framework '*How good is our corporate parenting? How good can we be?*' to further assess our performance and drive us to further develop our plans for the future.
- We established a separate Corporate Parenting Continuing and Aftercare Group who have implemented our Continuing Care Policy.
- Champions Board - Through hearing and acting on their voices and practical efforts, the Champions Board have secured free access to leisure facilities through KA Leisure; a sports clothing and equipment grant; launching our 'Get Connected Fund' to enable young people to stay connected with family and friends through the pandemic; holding a language and stigma event; creating What is Care Experience animated video to raise awareness to all corporate parents; launching a Stigma Policy and being at the heart and centre of consultations and policy changes.
- Our Champions Board continue to meet, albeit virtually, and we are exploring their own role as advocates for the care experienced community.
- Throughout the pandemic the Champions Board have continued to host live quiz nights, music nights, fun Fridays, question and answer sessions and movie nights. Our Champions Board have continued to be innovative and adaptable to offer support, guidance, fun and friendship during this difficult time.
- Multi-disciplinary universal services offer a range of varied support to our communities designed around localities and a community engagement model. This affords professionals the opportunity to work together in the same teams and locations to ensure our families get the right support, at the right time without delay.
- The HSCP have invested significantly in the Kinship Care Service and have a clear directive/strategy indicating that family should be the first choice when children require alternative care. This is supported with procedures and processes to ensure assessments are completed in timescales and children and carers are supported adequately.

- Early intervention is a key strategic priority for The Heath & Social Care Partnership which is to support children to remain within their family and community where appropriate. The outcomes for children placed within Kinship arrangements are generally known to be better than for children in other care settings. We have established a workstream to drive this work.

Support for Care Experienced Young People during the Pandemic

- Education & Summer Hubs
- IT (Get Connected, Who Cares?, Connecting Scotland, spend in all locality offices)
- Weekly meetings & check-ins (Champions Board, Who Cares?, Barnardo's)
- Champions Board – weekly meetings
- All Care Experienced YP written to with packs of resources, wellbeing activities and treats
- All foster carers given vouchers at Christmas time
- Caravan breaks purchased post-COVID
- Post-COVID treat days planned
- Links to national events – eg National Care Day events, festivals etc
- Advocacy
- Weekly quizzes, Friday fun day, online learning support, games nights, fake-aways, cinema nights, music, discussions/debates, cooking
- Art and crafts kits, ceramic painting kits, scavenger hunts, booklets and wellbeing activities distributed
- Distribution of food vouchers, clothing vouchers, electricity cards
- Chicken Dinners project
- Christmas Toy Appeal
- Ongoing support by Throughcare and Aftercare Service
- We developed a number of fun activities for family-time sessions for our care experienced children and families. We made up packs with arts and crafts activities. We purchased fairy doors with story books about the fairy, enabling parents to undertake a craft painting session of the door and then read the story book to their child. We built a fairy/wizard garden behind Pathways designed by families which included painting fairy doors and gratitude stones.



resource booklet for
families.docx

Winter Care Social Funding Spend

- Musical equipment
- Bikes
- Indoor & outdoor toys

- £250 per young person spend on supporting a young person achieve in a particular area of passion/ interest (music, dance, gymnastics, sport, science...)
- Impact Arts Creative Confidence Course
- Who Cares Development Officer
- Aberlour Sustain – support for families experiencing issues with poverty, isolation, loneliness, anxiety, mental health and wellbeing concerns (Kilwinning and Auchendarvie)
- Fullarton Hub – individual and group mental health support for young people
- Caravan Respite
- Sessional Staff
- Crisis Counselling
- Art and Dance Therapy
- HOPE Packs (Service Access)
- Gym Memberships
- Cinema Vouchers
- KA Leisure Cards
- IT (phones, sim cards, wifi dongles, laptops, ipads)
- Syrian Swans
- Summer Houses – Children’s Houses
- Meadowcroft – summer house, cinema room, art & crafts kits, cooking equipment
- Wellbeing kits (personal care, clothing vouchers, supermarket vouchers, electricity, SIM cards)
- Entry costs to junior football, Kelburn, Eglinton Park café vouchers
- Bowling vouchers
- Restaurant vouchers
- Art materials
- Family entertainment

We believe our creative and innovative approaches to how we are spending this allocation will greatly improve outcomes for families. The resources going directly into the pockets of families will impact very positively on health and wellbeing, offer equality of opportunity and afford families the opportunities to enjoy time together, including supporting and facilitating family-time.

Rosemount Whole Family Approach

To build on the work we are doing across our services with young people and in terms of service development, Whole Family Approach and “scaffolding of support” work is taking place with Community Education to involve Adult Tutors to provide bespoke support to our parents and carers who are involved with the Rosemount project. The intention is to boost confidence and self- esteem, mental health and wellbeing amongst parents/carers with regards to further education and employability. At the moment we can commence this virtually however post-COVID we plan to use the IT room at Meadowcroft and local community education locations i.e. Caley Centre to

encourage and support community involvement and increase the circle of support that parents/ carers have in their local area.

We are also looking at volunteering and work experience for parents/carers with regards to the Quaint Larders etc. (another shop has opened in Kilwinning and one proposed for Irvine) where parents/carers can gain a wealth of experiences. There is also potential for work experience for parents in the Ayrshire Hospice. This will also promote the “customer to citizen” journey as the community is the sustainability factor for families once they move on from HSCP services.

We hope this initiative will have a positive impact on the family as a whole, particularly when we move into a recovery phase from lockdown as we provide hope and opportunities for vulnerable parents/carers /families.

We are also looking at wider family events within the local communities, again to support the families as we move out of lockdown.

Meadowcroft Summerhouse

A summerhouse will be purchased for the Meadowcroft building to provide both additional and creative space for our families and young people. There are plans to create a small cinema area using some of the retro cinema seats from *Thinking Different Doing Better* to promote family time and to enable our young people (particularly those who may be attending Ambition Agreements) to screen films they have made themselves. In addition, some of the work we are embarking on with the National Galleries of Scotland with the funding from the Youth Recovery fund could be screened in the cinema area.

There are also plans to have a seating area in the summerhouse to deliver therapeutic family work.

Furthermore, our young people and families will be involved in a gardening project outside the summerhouse.

Unpaid Work can assist with preparing the ground and supporting the build of the summerhouse.

The Promise

We are in the process of putting in place a dedicated governance structure to enable the priorities within '#KeepThePromise' and have completed a draft Promise Plan to ensure we have a clear communication plan, action plan, development plan, business analysis, stakeholder analysis and identify issues and risks ensuring we have a solid foundation to drive the outcomes of The Promise.

From our own analysis, we have a strong foundation to build The Promise work on including:

- The Getting it Right for Every Child principles and values are embedded in all that we do and our workforce recognise our children and young people our most important people in our communities.
- Partnership working is embedded in our operational and strategic efforts through our Corporate Parenting Steering Group. However, this is not just across the Corporate Partnership but also in partnership with young people through our Champions Board and care experienced networks.
- A dedicated Corporate Parenting Team to support our Champions Board taking forward policy developments and to ensure collaboration between Corporate Parents.
- Strong partnership across all public services, including community planning partners and third sector.

The Promise: Initial work that has been progressed

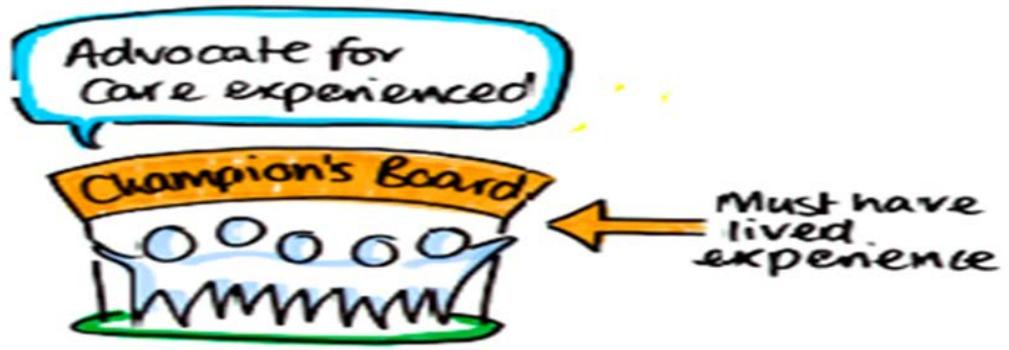
- Communications Plan developed
- Stakeholder analysis developed
- Ongoing weekly meetings
- Promise Roadshows underway
- Application for £50k funding for co-ordinator role
- Advertisement for two posts (Youth Worker & Engagement/Participation lead)
- Training (Signs of Safety, Safer & Together, Trauma informed) - we see such approaches as being instrumental to creating cultural shifts in practice focusing on family strengths and engaging the family network in wider safety plans whilst still holding the child's safety and voice at the heart of any plan
- Review of key documentation underway
- Meeting (and follow up meeting) with The Promise national team
- Informal national Promise group meeting monthly – chaired by NAC
- Exploration and implementation of an online forum to share resources, ideas, research and documentation
- We are heavily involved in a Scottish Government working group: *Support for families who have experienced the removal of a child or children into care* This work with SG has commenced and will conclude in October. The outcomes of this short- life piece of work are: (1) We have clear understanding of what a good service looks like for birth parents and families in Scotland;

(2)We understand ‘what works’ (and what does not); (3)We have access to a literature review which outlines the available research on the needs of birth or first parents, and on ‘recurrence’ in care proceedings; (4)Gaps in the Scottish context are identified; (5)We develop a support framework which sets out the core aspects of a high quality service that any organisation could apply within the Scottish context.

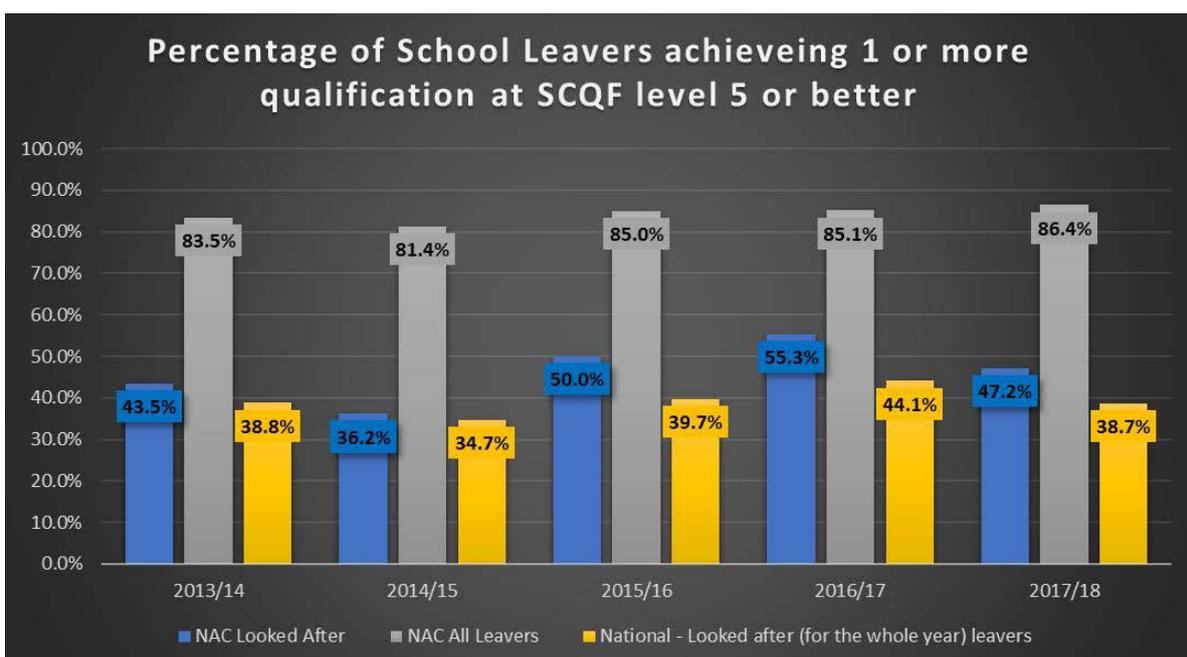
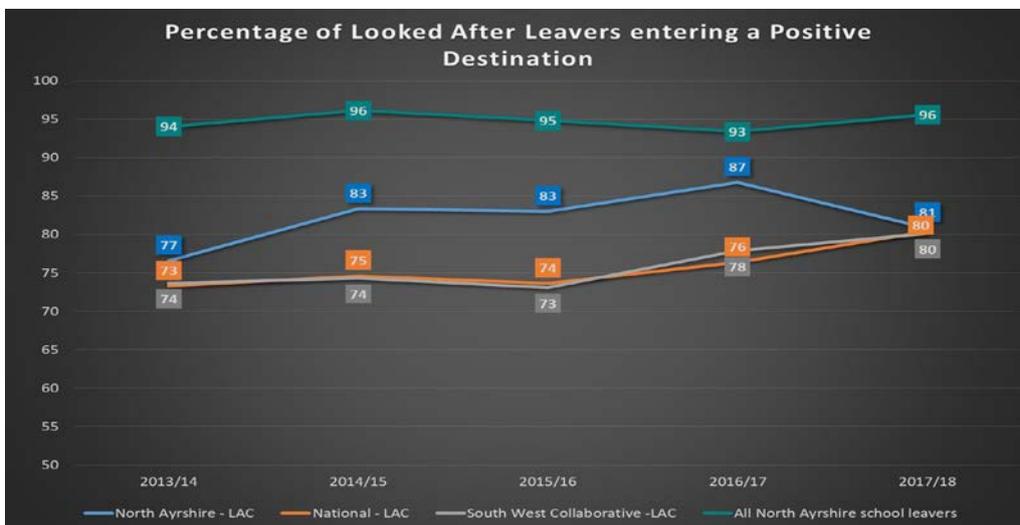
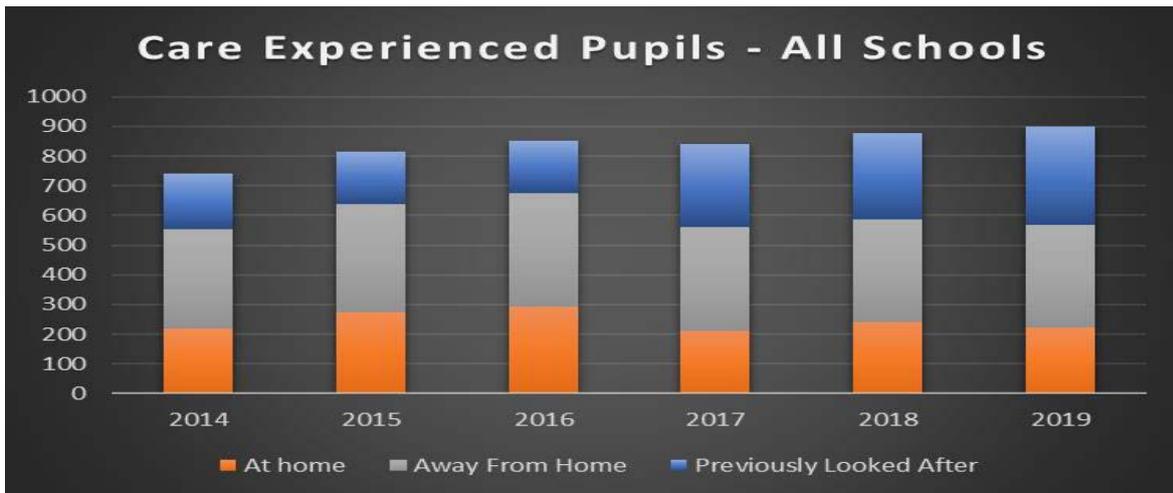
- SWS Radical Test Site pilot at Pathways – This approach was developed by listening to the voices of parents who came to Pathways impacted by distress and trauma. Talking /Listening Support is provided by a Health Visitor over a 6-8 week at the point a child is outwith family care, to listen and acknowledge the parent’s distress & offer a safe space to explore their emotions and needs. This will assist in identifying other vulnerabilities that may be impacting the parent they require additional support with. It is hoped this approach will create a better platform from which parents can have the child returned to their care. We have developed a small parents reference group who have engaged very well with the service. This group will inform practice developments and give parent a sense of agency and greater control over their lives.

Key areas of potential challenge and constraint that we are mindful of in terms of implementation of The Promise include:

- The shift in culture of language used for care experienced young people - Our Laungage and Stigma event highlighted care experienced children and young people are uncomfortable with the language of the ‘care system’ as this has a stigmatising effect on them. We need to change this locally and nationally.
- Mental health support for our young people - Although there has been great progress made through the Kilwinning Wellness Model and Counsellors in all schools, care experienced young people consistently want access to Mental Health services earlier. An Extreme Teams approach to reviewing CAMHS locally is underway with conclusions being reached by summer 2021.
- Educational attainment remains a challenge for our care experienced children.
- In these challenging times the need for further resources will be a challenge. We have been asked to recruit young people as ‘Promise Design Champions’ who will be trained to work alongside organisations and be involved in designing the changes. They will require support, training and it has been recommended that they are financially compensated. This needs to be explored fully.
- To shift the balance of care from residential/foster care to children remaining or returning to birth parents or kinship placements.
- Availability of resource within the Covid context
- Pace of change
- Scope and complexity of a whole systems approach



Education: Attainment and positive destination information



Appendix 1 – Corporate Parents

CORPORATE PARENTS

- 1 The Scottish Ministers
- 2 A local authority
- 3 The National Convener of Children’s Hearings Scotland
- 4 Children’s Hearings Scotland
- 5 The Principal Reporter
- 6 The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
- 7 A health board
- 8 A board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
- 9 Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- 10 The Scottish Qualifications Authority
- 11 Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd (registered number SC 202659)
- 12 Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland
- 13 The Scottish Social Services Council
- 14 The Scottish Sports Council
- 15 The chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland
- 16 The Scottish Police Authority
- 17 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- 18 The Scottish Legal Aid Board
- 19 The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
- 20 The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- 21 The Scottish Housing Regulator
- 22 Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- 23 Creative Scotland
- 24 A body which is a “post-16 education body” for the purposes of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2014