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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Head of Children's Services

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Services Plan Annual Performance Report 2019/20

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To note the content of the Children and Young People Services Plan annual performance report 2019/2020.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the key priorities within the Children's Services Plan 2019/20 and progress made with implementing improvements.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The East Lothian Children and Young People's Services Plan 2017 to 2020 is our partnership commitment to every child and young person in East Lothian. We want our children and young people to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included.
- 3.2 An annual report on the implementation of Children's Services Plans is required under the Scottish Government Statutory Guidance on Part 3 (Children's Services Planning) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The annual report was published jointly by East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.
- 3.3 The overarching priority in East Lothian is to reduce inequalities both within and between our communities. This places a 'prevention and early intervention' approach (along with the promotion of equality and respect for diversity) at the heart of our partnership working, to address both individual and "whole system" wider structural issues affecting the lives of children and families.
- 3.4 The Children's Strategic Partnership agreed a Partnership Vision that applies to all of our work affecting the lives of East Lothian's children and

young people, particularly those who experience isolation because of disability, looked after status, sexual orientation, cultural background or religion.

3.5 The vision states that “We will work together with children, young people and their families, delivering well-integrated, seamless services which result in positive outcomes for children and young people; we will “get it right” for all of East Lothian’s children and young people

3.6 Following a self-evaluation of the children’s social work service, consideration of practice, learning from elsewhere and messages from inspection, East Lothian Council decided in February 2019 to retain the governance of children’s social work within the Council and create a new joint business area of Education and Children’s Services. This new structure was implemented over the summer of 2019 with the Head of Education assuming responsibility of Education and Children’s Services.

3.7 The following overarching commitments were made in our Children and Young People Services plan 2017-20

- Early years: East Lothian’s children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- East Lothian’s young people achieve positive destinations
- Corporate parenting: the outcomes of our looked after children and young people match those of other children
- Ensuring our children are safe
- Improving young people’s mental health and wellbeing
- Additional support needs and disability: children with a disability are enabled to make appropriate progress to the best of their abilities

3.8 Cross cutting themes were recognised as being essential in underpinning our partnership work. These include:

- Engagement and participation
- Reducing child poverty
- GIRFEC

3.9 In 2019, the Children’s Strategic Partnership identified three priority areas for the next 12-18 months based on evidence, trends and outcome data for East Lothian.

3.10 The three priority areas included:

- Getting it right for parents and babies pre-birth to perinatal
- Getting it right for teens – improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people aged P7-S2

- Targeted places – putting Musselburgh Total Place into action.
- In addition, we identified two short-term scoping tasks covering family and parenting support, and services available for children and young people with a diagnosis of autism.

3.11 The Children's Service Plan Annual Report 2019-20 summarises progress made in relation to these priorities.

3.12 Getting it right for parents and babies pre-birth to perinatal

Three areas for support were looked at:

1. Supporting attachment in the early stages
2. Support for Dads, particularly around post-natal depression and maternal mental health
3. Support for parents with Learning Disabilities

3.13 Getting it right for teens – improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people aged P7-S2

The key factors of inclusion of all learners are presence, participation, supported and achievement. Using this framework allows actions and informed decisions to be made to support attendance (presence) and inclusive learning environments (participation) to meet the needs of all (achievement). The group agreed the focus needed to be on attendance as a core pillar of inclusion and getting it right for teens. Analysis of data has shown a cohort of S2-S3 young people with low attendance. Attendance is a key performance indicator for the council and it is recognised that a multi-agency response is required. Partners have shared their available data and intelligence; analysis has informed targeted next steps and future actions.

3.14 Targeted Places - Putting Musselburgh Total Place into Action

The Children's Services Partnership acknowledged that a greater understanding was required of our current provision across the county and how partners can work together to re-direct and target scarce resources to areas of greatest need.

3.15 Parenting and Family Support

At the end of November 2019 we were in a position to deliver on that priority through the establishment of the Our Families Project. The Our Families Project provided us with the basis for our specification for the delivery of the Intensive Family Support Service to be developed through ESESCRD funding. Following the procurement process led by Capital City Partnership, Children 1st were awarded the contract and now lead on the implementation and delivery of Our Families. Being part of the City Region IFSS brings not only the benefits of an enhanced staff team but also rigorous evaluation and shared learning across all 6 projects

through a Community of Practice. Phase 1 of the City Deal IFFS brings £170k over 2 years directly into the Our Families Project

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 2020/2021 was planned to see the full implementation of the new integrated education and children's services department and the work to re-launch our approach to Getting it Right for Every Child in East Lothian. This was pre the COVID pandemic. There is a review of our approach and offer to children with additional support needs and a significant piece of work to review how we meet the needs of the significant increase in demand for care placements in children's services.
- 4.2 Improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, supporting parents, carers and families to be more resilient and reducing inequalities for young people are the themes that have emerged within 2019/20 and will be prioritised within the children's services plan 2020-23.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

East Lothian Poverty Commission Report - [Challenging perceptions. Overcoming poverty](#)

[The East Lothian Plan 2017-27](#)

[Children's Services Plan 2017-2020](#)

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DATE	31 March 2021

East Lothian Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2019-20

East Lothian Partnership

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East Lothian Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2019-20

1. Introduction

The East Lothian Children and Young People's Services Plan 2017 to 2020 has been our partnership commitment to every child and young person in East Lothian. We wanted our children and young people to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included.

This is our third annual report and reports performance on the implementation of the plan for the year 2019/2020. An annual report on the implementation of Children's Services Plans is required under the Scottish Government Statutory Guidance on Part 3 (Children's Services Planning) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This annual report is being published jointly by East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.

Our Partnership Vision and Values, overarching commitments as well as the broad East Lothian context can be found in the Plan.

2. Our areas of focus in 2019/20

The Children's Strategic Partnership identified three priority areas based on evidence, trends and outcome data for East Lothian.

- Getting it right for parents and babies pre-birth to perinatal
- Getting it right for teens – improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people aged P7-S2
- Targeted places – putting Musselburgh Total Place into action.

This annual report provides a summary of the progress against our overarching commitments as well as progress in these three priority areas (which are reported here under the cross-cutting theme GIRFEC), what the data tells us and how this links with the wellbeing domains.

3. Our over-arching commitments - progress reports

CSP Commitment 1.

Early years: East Lothian's children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

Healthy, Achieving, Safe, Nurtured and Active

Theme	Performance Indicator	SMART Target	Latest Validated Data
Mental Health	Percentage of CAMHS referrals seen within 18 weeks for first treatment Median Wait - generic services	Scot Gov target (2019) - 90% of children to receive treatment within 18 weeks of referrals to CAMHS	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 41.9% Lothian 41%
Mental Health	Reduction in no. of rejected referrals to CAMHS (reduced inappropriate referrals)	National Benchmark: ≤20% of referrals rejected	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 36.1% Lothian 28.5%
Total Child Population	Drop off in breastfeeding (babies who have ever been breastfed that have stopped by 6-8 weeks)	Scot Gov target - 10% reduction in drop off rate by 6-8 week review by 2025 (broken down into 2% drop off per year)	2018/19 Scotland 33.6 % East Lothian % Lothian 25.9%
Total Child Population	Percentage of eligible children receiving a 6-8 week review Based on the UP data, for children born in 2019/2020	Public Health Scot target - 100% of eligible cohort to be offered the 6-8 review within the appropriate timescales	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 100% Lothian 92%

Total Child Population	Percentage of eligible children receiving a 13-15 month review	Public Health Scotland target -100% of eligible cohort to be offered the 13-15 month screening review within the appropriate timescales	2018/19 Scotland 71.2% East Lothian 89.5% Lothian 90.8%
Total Child Population	Percentage of 27-30 month children receiving a developmental and wellbeing review	Public Health Scotland target - 100 % of the eligible cohort to be offered the 13-15 month screening review within the appropriate timescales	2018/19 Scotland 91.2% East Lothian 86.6 % Lothian 88.9%
Total Child Population	Percentage of pre-school & school age children where a child health assessment was completed within 56 days of the child being registered on a caseload.	Excellence in Care target - 100% of children will have child health assessment within the target time.	New 2020 data field to report from 2021
Total Child Population	Percentage of overweight & obese children in Primary 1 screening % at risk of being overweight or obese - BMI ≥ 25th (lower limit of 95% confidence interval)	WHO/SG target 2018 - 50% reduction in childhood obesity by 2030	2017/18 Scotland 22.4% East Lothian 21.9% Lothian 22.5%
Total Child Population	% of Children who have had their MMR2 & preschool boosters	Health Scotland target - 95% of children to have had their MMR 2 and pre-school booster each year	2019/20 Scotland 94.6% East Lothian 93.9% Lothian 93.8%
Vulnerable Child	Percentage of Looked After Children offered a comprehensive health assessment	100% of children up to age of 18 years of age to be offered LAC health assessment	New 2020 data field - work required on TRAK LAC fields
Vulnerable Child	Percentage of looked after children's health assessments completed within 4 weeks of referral being received CEL16	100% of children where consent has been obtained should have a LAC health assessment undertaken within 4 weeks	2019/20 Scotland - % East Lothian 92.5% Lothian 88.8%

CSP commitment 2.

East Lothian's young people achieve well and move into positive destinations

Achieving, Included, Active and Responsible

School-leaver positive destinations

- The percentage of pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) entering positive post school destinations in 2018/19 was 92.5% which was 0.5% improvement on the previous year and comfortably exceeded the target for the 2017/20 plan which had been 87.9%. It also exceeded the national average (91.9%)
- Percentage of school leavers entering positive destinations for 2018/19 % was 95.8%, its highest rate over the past 10 years, and exceeding the target set in the 2017-2020 plan which was 95%.
- We are unable to comment on whether average tariff scores for the lowest attaining 20% of school leavers for 2019/20 improved or worsened due to the absence of external assessment information and the Ministerial direction to award estimated grades. Data cannot be directly compared to previous years, nor can it be compared to the virtual comparator.

PE Target

- Percentage of primary school pupils benefitting from at least 2 hours per week of physical education. 100% All our primary schools met the PE target for primary pupils in 2019/20.
- Percentage of secondary school pupils (S1 to S4) benefitting from two periods of physical education per week. 100% All our secondary schools met the PE target for S1-S4 pupils in 2109/20.

Physical activity

- We said we would increase the number of residents from specific target groups accessing local sport and leisure facilities at reduced rates (via the Access to Leisure scheme). The figure for 2019/20 was 3,086 which, while reduced from last year's 3,337 included the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- The average number of visits per resident was 12.83, comparable with last year's figure of 13.
- There is still reason to believe that due to Access to Leisure operating a peak / off-peak system this deters some groups from registering and / or accessing facilities on a more regular basis, and additionally the off-peak charge went up from £1 to £1.50 for all ATL users in 2018/19.

- However, in addition to the Access to Leisure Scheme, there has been a roll out of free access to programmes directly delivered by the Council (Active Schools) for young people in receipt of a clothing grant or free school meal. This work has seen an increased engagement in programmes by targeted groups.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We said we would increase the number of young people that engage in volunteering: unfortunately in 2019/20 the three schools with the greatest number of participants in 2018/19 reduced their number of participants considerably. Work has been going on to support these schools look at ways of meeting the demand set by young people.

However, despite the overall number of participants in East Lothian schools being 28% fewer than the previous year, the numbers of completed awards actually increased from the previous year's 205 to 222, meaning that 72% actually achieved an award compared to only 48% in the previous year.

Saltire Awards

We said we would increase the number of young people that engage in volunteering - The number of Saltire Certificates awarded from 1/1/2019 to 1/1/2020 was 644 – a slight increase on the previous year's figure of 639.

Personal Bank Accounts

Unfortunately we have no data for 2019/2020. The latest available statistics show that the proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing they had a personal bank account in 2018/19 while increasing slightly, still hovered around the baseline on 60.1% from 2017.

Community involvement

Again the latest data we have for this indicator is from 2019/2020. At that point, the percentage of pupils agreeing that they had opportunities to get involved with local environmental issues was 58%. The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2018/19 decreased by 3.6% points on the previous year and showed a slight drop in trend over the last 5 years.

Whilst the 2017-20 plan focused on improving outcomes for older young people, emerging data indicated we needed to look more closely at how well vulnerable children were achieving at school and how well their needs were being met.

CSP 3. Corporate parenting: the outcomes of our looked after children and young people match those of other children

Healthy, Achieving, Respected and Nurtured

Kinship care

We said we would:

- Increase the proportion of Looked after children and young people in Kincare. After a fall from the original baseline of 22% to 16.7% by 2018/19, the figure increased slightly by 2019/20 to 19% of all looked after children. The rate per 1,000 also increased to 2.1 (from 1.8) although still well below the national rate of 4.0. However, the number of young people who are being supported in informal kin care relationships remains strong at around 77, two more than the previous year. A new kinship care support service began at the start of 2020, developing resilience in carers of both types.

Children looked after away from home

We said we would:

- Increase the percentage of Looked After Children who feel settled where they live. Using the Viewpoint survey data, 98% of young people looked after away from home who used the survey in 2019/20 said they felt settled most or all of the time - an increase from 92% the previous year. There is a strong link between feeling safe and being settled.
- Reduce the proportion of Looked After Children in external residential placements. From a position of 25 young people in residential care (including our own residential house) in March 2018 the total rose to 38 at March 2019. In 2019, focused work was undertaken to reduce the numbers of young people in external residential. During the period October 2019 to April 2020, 7 young people returned to East Lothian from external residential reducing the total number in external residential to 19.

Corporate parenting - Ensure children and young people who are looked after or are care leavers are cared for and supported to improve their life experiences and life chances

The Corporate Parenting Board meets every two months and is made up of representation of Corporate Parents from health, education, community learning and development, third sector, children's services and East Lothian Works. The group was supported by CELCIS to create a multi-agency Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-2020 based on feedback and the views of care-experienced young people. The plan incorporated

the East Lothian Champions Board priorities for change¹. The Council's Chief Executive chairs the Board. This was an important message of support for our looked after and care experienced children and young people.

'My Place' project

My place is a joint initiative between East Lothian Council Housing Strategy and Children Services Team, 'My Place' was awarded £307,000 funding from The Life Changes Trust. Working alongside the Champions Board, the 'My Place' housing model was created in 2018. 'My Place' will progress over the following three years, bringing 10 properties from the open market into council stock for care experienced young people. Each property will house two care experienced young people and a peer flatmate, all provided with housing support by the Rock Trust. The project is underpinned by trauma informed principles, an elastic tolerance approach and a commitment to ongoing service user involvement. The role is being supported by Who Cares? Scotland. My Place currently has 6 shared tenancies, accommodating 12 care experienced young people with 6 peer flatmates.



The Life Changes Trust also funded a Research and Link Worker who will work alongside Housing Strategy and Children's Services to produce East Lothian Council's first Home and Belonging Strategy for Care Experienced Young People. This will explore CEYP's associations of home and belonging taking accounts of transitions within care and from care, income and options available for care experienced young people in East Lothian, reducing the need for B&B use.

¹ http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/2546/east_lothian_corporate_parenting_plan_2017-20.

CSP commitment 4.

Ensuring our children are safe

Safe, Nurtured, Respected, Responsible

As our sister partnership, the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee brings together responsibility for our inter-agency approach to child protection, adult support and protection, Violence Against Women and Girls and offender management. The Public Protection team is co-located with the Police Scotland 'J' Division Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, other Police Public Protection Unit personnel and the Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP). There is a close interface with members of the NHS Lothian Public Protection Team and other NHS Lothian staff with a broader Public Protection remit. This approach allows us to see the dynamic relationship across adult and children's services of the factors that put children at risk of harm.

Youth offending referrals from the Vulnerable Person Database (VPD) – East Lothian

Year	Referrals
2017-2018	154
2018-2019	236
2019-2020	339

Yearly ASB Incidents by area

Area	Yearly ASB Incidents 2017-2018	Yearly ASB Incidents 2018-2019	Yearly ASB Incidents 2019-2020
Musselburgh	1,359	1,272	1,207
Prestonpans	649	612	671
Tranent	906	758	797
Haddington	651	571	469
North Berwick	213	179	306
Dunbar	456	509	379
Total	4,234	3,901	3,829

Some of the key themes and priorities for 2018/19 continued to be issues for the public protection committee in 2019/20. For example, young people absconding or going missing from local authority care continued to be on the increase despite the overall decrease in the general child population. Some of these children placed themselves in serious and risky situations with poor outcomes and this placed additional strain on police and children's services. Child sexual exploitation as well as the Prevent agenda continued to feature.

The very significant rise in levels of domestic violence (with another 14.8% increase in domestic abuse crimes in 2019/20) gave significant concern as many of these incidents affect children and influence their behaviour and mental health. Where there is a risk of homicide or serious harm, referrals are made to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The numbers for 2019/20 stayed fairly steady from the previous year: 105 victims of domestic violence (with a total of 151 children) were referred to MARAC during the 2019/20 year, against 103 (and 137 children) during the previous year, following the dramatic rise from 78 (and 110 children) in 2017/18. In December 2019, SafeLives carried out their second observation of the East Lothian MARAC and highlighted areas of good practice, including strong, well established and effective working relationships, strong operation of the SafeLives model, the level and detail of risk assessment, proactive information sharing, good follow through on actions and good governance structure. Some improvements actions were being taken forward in 2020/2021 including the need for improved multi-agency engagement and referrals.

Meanwhile, the Public Protection office continued its commitment to implementing 'Safe and Together'. This child-centred model provides a framework for partnering with domestic violence survivors and intervening with domestic violence perpetrators in order to keep the children safe and together with their non-offending parent. The Children's Strategic Partnership works with and supports the work of EMPPC in implementing this multi-agency practice framework as well as supporting the Signs of Safety approach, aimed at strengthening our work with families to help them reduce the risks to their children and protect them, and themselves from future harm.

CSP commitment 5.

Improving young people's mental health and wellbeing

Safe, Healthy, Respected, Responsible and Included

Mental health and wellbeing is of central importance to the development, attainment, social and emotional health and positive destinations for children and young people. From birth to 25 years a young person's life is made up of relationship building, challenges, transitions, and experiences that shape and make the adult they become, the identity they hold, and the view of the world and others they retain.

Mental health is a significant concern for our young people in East Lothian:

- The rate of CAMHS referrals per 1000 (<18yrs) was 25.4% for East Lothian compared to 6.8% for Lothian and 5.3% for Scotland.
- In 2019/20 for children under 12, 222 referrals were received, most came from Tranent and Musselburgh. Fewest referrals came from Haddington and North Berwick. Dunbar and Prestonpans were in the middle.
- For children over 12, 206 referrals were received, most were again from Musselburgh and Tranent
- For both age groups, high numbers of referrals were deemed not to be suitable for a service from CAMHS leaving children, young people and families frustrated and distressed.

CAMHS have continued working with partners including primary care to improve communication to and from the service.

Current performance

- 41.9% of children and young people were seen within 18 weeks in 2019/20 which was very similar to the Lothian-wide figure of 41%.
- There is an improving trend for numbers of accepted referrals although 36.1% were still rejected.

Specific challenges faced by East Lothian:

- There has been a dramatic increase in CAMHS referrals in recent years but many of these were inappropriate.
- There has been no formal tiered framework to support referrers such as school staff to know where to refer children and young people who are not acutely mentally unwell and who do not therefore meet the current criteria for CAMHS.

- There have been significant gaps in support and services at Tier 1 and 2 level for children and young people, leaving a real deficit in provision for young people with lower level mental health problems.

Recent developments:

- The multi-agency group which was established the previous year to look specifically at mental health has developed a comprehensive plan of work including the development of the workforce; developing a focus on early and preventative support and services; and developing community based support and services
- The group has been developing a coordinated and coherent tiered approach that will reflect the differences between our communities but ensure we offer consistent evidence-based services that all children can access. This will be rolled out in the Academic Session 2020/2021.
- Funding has been sought for Tier 1 and 2 support for children and young people who do not require the specialist CAMHS support but do require some level of intervention that can allow their mental health to be supported while it is vulnerable, and to ensure parity and equity of support across localities
- Work began too to look at strengthening and coordinating parenting support programmes locally, again with a view to ensuring equality across localities in East Lothian, recognising that there are different needs in different areas- for example isolation in rural areas, impact of deprivation in some areas.

CSP commitment 6.**Additional support needs and disability: children with a disability are enabled to make appropriate progress to the best of their abilities****Included, Achieving, Respected**

During 2019/20, we began work to develop our Inclusion Policy and Accessibility Strategy for schools. During that year, all education staff participated in managing distressed and challenging behaviour training as part of the implementation of a policy in this area. Positive Support Plans are now in place for all children and young people who need additional and targeted support to regulate their social and emotional behaviour. As a result of this work there has been a significant reduction in the use of physical restraint in schools and all schools have in place a positive relationship policy.

We began to review our Devolved School Management (DSM) scheme as part of the review being undertaken by the Scottish Government. We established a working group to focus on reviewing approaches to ASN funding including predictable and exceptional needs funding to ensure children's needs are better met. We intend to progress and finalise the DSM review and the approaches to funding ASN in our schools during 2020/2021.

We responded to the 2018 Enable Scotland Report: 'Decreasing the Disability Participation- a call to action for effective Industry and Education partnerships'. Data collated from SEEMIS proved to be unhelpful (too broad) and further work needed to be undertaken to clearly identify the number of pupils concerned. Discussions have taken place with partners (Fort Kinnaird and FUSE- Edinburgh) around a supported employment/work taster/placement programme for individuals with disabilities, including school pupils. In addition research is being undertaken to identify good practice in other local authority areas. Our intention is then to create a pilot project to address the needs of pupils with disabilities (based on findings in the Enable report). Fuller details of this and all our other work can be found in the [Education Service Progress Report on 2019/20 and Improvement Plan for 2020/2021](#) (at item 03).

Meanwhile the Children's Services Disability Team built on the changes developed the previous year using proportionate assessments. They saw an increase in families opting for this shortened assessment which provides a smaller personal budget. This gives the family the opportunity to "test out" support and for some families the smaller personal budget is enough to meet the child and

families outcomes. When it comes to reviewing the support plan some families then opt for the full assessment whilst others will continue with another smaller personal budget.

The Resource Allocation Panel embedded the use of their new Support Tool which along with the Funding Table informs the personal budget allocated to the child and family.

We have continued to see a rise in families opting for a Direct Payment in order to meet the child and family's outcomes. There have been some great examples of creative support planning and children and families using their personal budgets in lots of different ways to meet the agreed outcomes.

4. Cross cutting themes: participation, poverty and GIRFEC

Cross cutting theme a: Our Partnership approach to participation and consultation with children, young people and their families

Included, Respected and Responsible

How children, young people and their families were consulted and participated in 2019/20 helped us realise our commitment to ensuring children and young people are included, respected and responsible.

The East Lothian Community Planning Partnership values the engagement and participation of children, young people and their families in the planning and delivery of all services to children and young people. The Children's Strategic Partnership signed up to the 'Golden Rules for Participation' developed by the Scotland Commissioner for Children and Young Children through consultation with children and young people across Scotland. Every golden rule has a list of things to consider about children and young people's participation. Some examples of the ways that we engage with our children and young people are noted below.

East Lothian Champions Board

The East Lothian Champions Board provides young people with care experience with a platform to have their voice heard. The Board is made up of three groups. The participation group is made up of young people with care experience. The support group is made up of staff that support the young people in every way they can. The Ambassador's group is made up of Heads of Services and Elected Members representing Housing, Education, Police, Finance, Aftercare, Health & Well-being, Keeping Loved Ones Together and Employment.

The Champs Board was established with funding from the Life Changes Trust and relies on this to operate and deliver its functions. During 2019/20 a further period of funding was awarded, although at a reduced level, and will cease entirely in 2021. Members of the Corporate Parenting Board, on behalf of all East Lothian corporate parents have been tasked with identifying a sustainable solution during to ensure the continuation of this essential service. East Lothian Champions Board is now in its sixth year and members are rightly proud of its achievements. Members come from a range of care backgrounds, with the majority living in foster care or care leavers. The ages range from 14 up to 26 years of age and reaches out to all care experienced young people. The champs meet weekly and are supported by two care experienced Participation Assistants and a Development worker.

Make Yourself Heard

In January 2020, the Champions board held a consultation and fun event for the care experienced community in East Lothian. 'Make Yourself Heard' aimed to consult with and celebrate care experienced young people. It was run by East Lothian Council and Who Cares? Scotland with funding from 'In Control' (a charity organisation which supports young people with disabilities and additional needs to be included have more control in the decisions in their lives).

Representatives from the local police, the NHS, ELC's social work, education and housing departments, and In Control, came to ask the children and young people specific questions that would help improve their services in relation to care experienced people across East Lothian. There were also information stalls from Edinburgh College, Move On, Dadswork, Enjoy Leisure, Children's University, and Youth Scotland. In addition to this, we hoped to provide an afternoon of fun for care experienced children and young people- with games, prizes and activities – all donated by members of the local community and local organisations. This celebration of care and commitment to improving services had special significance as it was held just two days after the launch of the [Care Review's 'The Promise'](#).

39 Children and young people attended. Around 65 people in total including carers, parents and social workers. Comments from those involved said it had a lovely community feel to it. One carer said that this should happen more often as there's not much on offer for kids with care experience.

During 2019/20 there were a range of mechanisms in place to support engagement and participation of children and young people and their families. Many of the forums listed below enabled children and young people the opportunity to participate in strategic policy practice and review. These included:

- **Pupil Councils** are established in all East Lothian primary and secondary schools. These councils aim to give our children and young people a voice and consider aspects of school life, learning and teaching, and how the school engages with its community.
- **Youth Councils** representing the six secondary schools, feed into local and national consultations.
- **Who Cares? Scotland** provide independent advocacy and children's rights support to children and young people that are looked after and represent their views at an individual and strategic level. Who Cares? Participation Workers support the involvement of care experienced young people in a range of local and national groups and events.
- **Viewpoint** – Children's Services uses Viewpoint Technology) as a tool to gain the views of used to inform their individual plans and planning. Viewpoint was also introduced as a
- **Student Evaluation of Experience Survey.** The pupil evaluation survey on an annual basis. The in Primary 6 and Secondary 2 and 4 for their including community safety, participation, child The findings inform service planning and school



(Computer Assisted Interviewing children and young people. Results are reviews as well as multi- agency service tool to help identify young carers.

Education Department undertakes a survey asks children and young people views on a wide range of subjects, protection and environmental issues. improvement planning.

- **Family Led Information Point (FLIP)** is a forum for parents and carers who have a child/relative with additional support needs. Parents and carers share their views on a wide range of services including education, health, sports and leisure.
- **Parent Councils.** Parents and carers have been actively involved in the life of the school, particularly since the implementation of the Parental Involvement Act in 2008. The council has been proactive in working with parents to empower them, and parent councils have a key role to play in many school decision-making processes. East Lothian Council has developed its own Parental Engagement Strategy, designed by parents for parents. https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/12100/parental_involvement/2
- **Recruitment and selection.** East Lothian Council has a commitment to involve young people in the recruitment and selection of staff including senior manager posts within Education and Children's Services

What are children young people and their families telling us?

The following section outlines some of the main outcomes following our consultation activity.

Champions Board Priorities

For 2019/20, the Champs Board identified 7 priority areas for action in order for care- experienced children and young people to have better outcomes in life. The priority areas included:

- Better outcomes in education
- Improved Housing support and housing options
- Improved mental health
- Keeping loved ones together- improved contact arrangements with family and friend and keeping families together
- Improved aftercare support
- Better relationships with police
- Better understanding of benefits and support to manage money

Family Led Information Point priorities

Parents and carers of children and young people with additional support needs, particularly those with a diagnosis of autism meet on a monthly basis in Musselburgh. Parents and carers have identified three priority areas that they would like to see improvements in, these include:

- better consistency in the implementation of GIRFEC and Getting it Right for children with additional support needs in schools.
- the need for more inclusive sports and leisure activities on offer during term time and holidays.
- the importance of schools and communities becoming more autism aware.

FLIP parents and carers contributed to the National Review of Additional support for Learning and had a two hour meeting with the chair of the Review, Angela Morgan where they fed their views and experiences of ASN provision.

Two parents of children with additional support needs completed the National 'Partners in Policy Making' course.

Viewpoint Aggregate Data

Viewpoint presents the views given by children and young people for their Looked After and Accommodated children and young people consultations. The aggregate data report for 2019/20 presents the responses according to GIRFEC outcomes: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. Below are some key areas that professionals could explore further:

- Explore bullying issues.
- Explore sleep issues, health issues and feelings of anger.
- Explore worries about school and support needs for school.
- Explore personal care items and life story information in detail.
- Explore access to hobbies / sports and the role played by carer support.
- Explore contact with social workers and how to help young people feel they are listened to
- Explore friendships and contact arrangements
- Explore information needs of children and young people and child's plan arrangements in detail.

What did we achieve as a result of what children and young people said?

There is emerging evidence to support the impact of the Champions Board activities. Below are a list of areas that demonstrate a greater awareness of corporate parenting and changes that have happened:

- Employment of two care-experienced young people in paid roles as participation assistants and a third care-experienced young person will be recruited to work on the Home and Belonging project. This demonstrated our commitment to provide paid employment opportunities to care experienced young people.
- £60,000 has been allocated to over 60 care leavers over three years up to 2019. Young people have used this grant to help achieve aspirations in their life. In 2019/20, Care experience bursaries were allocated to care experienced young people from the care experience attainment bursary.
- All active schools and instrumental tuition activities are now free to care-experienced young people.
- There are positive relationships between staff, with children and young people at the hearing centre. There is a commitment to making hearings more child and young person friendly.

- Council tax exemption has been very well received by care experienced young people. Workers have been supporting young people to access the exemption.
- The Virtual Head Teacher has worked closely with the East Lothian Champions Board in making improvements to young people's experience of education, learning and support.
- A mini champs for younger care experienced young people was established.
- The champions worked on creating an inclusive group space for all care experienced young people taking account of any additional support that young people require to participate.

Young carers

We said we would:

- Decrease the percentage pupils who regularly help to take care of someone in their family who is physically or mentally ill or has problems with drugs or alcohol. 23%. The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2019/20 shows a drop of 5% on the previous year.

Enjoying school

We said we would:

- Increase the numbers % of pupils agreeing they enjoy being at school. 75%. The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2019/20 shows a drop of 3% on the previous year and an overall drop in trend over the last 5 years

Access to home internet

We said we would:

- Increase the number % of pupils who can use the internet in their home (98.4%) The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2018/19 shows a slight increase of 0.3% on the previous year and a relatively static trend over the last 5 years – This measure was changed in 2019/20 to say 'I can access any learning I need at home through the internet' as this is a more relevant indicator for the Education service that the service can actually impact – response from P6 & S2 pupils was 87%.

Including disabled children and young people

We said we would:

- Increase the number % of pupils who can access regular public transport where they live. (83%) The proportion of P6 & S2 pupils agreeing in 2019/20 shows an increase of 1% on the previous year and an overall improved trend over the last 5 years

Crosscutting theme b: Reducing Child Poverty

While we have a lot of advantages in East Lothian, relative poverty is growing in all of our communities. Child poverty in Scotland is forecasted to rise. We now have 1 in 5 children of children living in poverty after the cost of their housing is taken into account. Reporting of domestic abuse is increasing year on year, and we know there are strong links between domestic abuse and poverty, as many women are prevented by their abusive partner from having paid employment.

There is significant Partnership work ongoing to deliver/develop anti-poverty work such as our Local Child Poverty Action Reports and wider anti-poverty work in East Lothian. The work focusses on the drivers of poverty. Some of their wide-ranging achievements during 2019/20 include:

- The delivery of the Jobs Kingdom Live event in May 2019 attended by around 1300 P5 pupils to inspire positive career choices
- The development of Level 5 and 6 courses in early years and childcare
- The development of East Lothian Council's new procurement strategy to include a commitment to Fair Employment and Fair Wages
- The funding by NHS Lothian of a Welfare Advice Service (provided through Community Heal and Advice Initiative) based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children which started operating in Jan 2020
- The provision of free access to activities for young people in receipt of a free school meal or clothing grant and care experienced young people which was rolled out across programmes.
- The delivery of the recommendations of the Food Poverty and Holiday Hunger Group including the improvement and expansion of holiday hunger provision across the county
- The doubling of affordable houses in 2019/2020 from the previous year to 279 units via East Lothian East Lothian Local Housing Strategy

Crosscutting theme c: Getting It Right For Every Child in East Lothian

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is our national policy framework, and East Lothian has a history of strong engagement with the principles of identifying wellbeing needs, coordinating plans and planning for children and young people using a staged process of intervention to respond to emerging needs. Our workforce remains committed to the practice model. Our constituent agencies and departments have continued to adjust and refine their approaches to implementation. However, as a partnership, we have reflected on the challenge of maintaining a joint and shared approach, supported by routine self-evaluation and quality assurance that would enable us to have confidence in our progress and the consistency of our collective practice. Despite our best efforts, the uncertainties around the role of the Named Person has impacted on the confidence of frontline staff around information sharing and some of our key operational processes. A fresh implementation group was therefore commissioned by the Children's Strategic Partnership in Spring 2020 to take a closer look at ensuring that the maintenance of our joint and shared approach is sustained as we move forward.

Much of the other work we focussed on as part of this cross-cutting theme were the three priority areas which we focussed on for 2019/20

Priority 1: Getting it right for parents and babies from pre-birth to perinatal

Why did we identify this as a priority?

The group's purpose was originally set out by the Children's Strategic Partnership because of the changing picture in East Lothian, where the Child Protection Register in under 1's and the pre-birth and 1st year of life vulnerability seemed to be going up, and we needed to explore how we work together and what we could do differently.

Summary of progress

A member of staff was seconded in December 2019 to identify our offer to parents and families at all levels and from this, to be clear about gaps or duplication in service or resource provision, and inform a more co-ordinated approach with a strengthened early intervention and prevention focus. A further task was to learn from other high performing local authorities via their way of supporting parents and families.

Initial findings indicated a more in depth look at how children's social work family support was required and this work will be reported on in the 2020/21 annual report.

Meantime from early discussion, three areas for support were looked at:

1. Supporting attachment in the early stages
2. Support for Dads, particularly around post-natal depression and maternal mental health
3. Support for parents with Learning Disabilities.

Summary of developments

Aberlour Perinatal Befriending: This project began in East Lothian following a successful pilot in Forth Valley. The project offers support early in a woman's pregnancy by receiving referrals from Health Visitors and Community Midwives.

Growing together: This ante-natal/post-natal intervention service had just been launched in the early part of 2020. It is based at Olivebank and covers the Musselburgh area. The main outcomes are specific intervention around developing a secure attachment, giving the best possible start in antenatal and specific and focused intervention and development of the baby using VIG (Video Interactive Guidance).

Fathers 2b: HomeStart and Dads Work started Dads 2b in the Musselburgh area, with additional identification of potential fathers via Aberlour. Covid impacted on the sessions at the end of 2019/20 but they are now held on Zoom.

Learning Disabilities: Unfortunately the pandemic struck just as the group had starting discussing how to support parents with learning disabilities. A number of assessment tools were looked at 'Change Material' by Child Mental Health at the Scottish Government roughly four years ago, and PAMS (Parenting Assessment Manual) which enables workers to clearly see where gaps are for parents. The work will be picked up again in 2021.

The group has agreed the following for 2021

- Work will continue throughout 2020/21 to ensure there is a clear strategy in place for the delivery and co-ordination of parenting and family support at the universal and additional levels.
- Pursuing work around supporting parents where there is a learning disability

Priority 2 - Getting it right for Teens

Why did we identify this as a priority?

This area of improvement was identified as a result of data indicating poor outcomes for vulnerable children and young people aged P7-S2. Work was required to design and implement a multi-agency work plan for this area and increase engagement with relevant staff across the workforce and lead new approaches to joint working. The group were asked to identify service gaps and barriers to integrated joint working at an operational level and feedback to CSP. The group was asked to identify the reasons for children and young people's disengagement from education and focus on one cluster area and group to identify potential early intervention strategies and actions.

Summary of progress

The key factors of inclusion of all learners are presence, participation, supported and achievement. Using this framework allows actions and informed decisions to be made to support attendance (presence) and inclusive learning environments (participation) to meet the needs of all (achievement). The group agreed the focus needed to be on attendance as a core pillar of inclusion and getting it right for teens. Analysis of data has shown a cohort of S2-S3 young people with low attendance. Attendance is a key performance indicator for the council and it is recognised that a multi-agency response is required. Partners have shared their available data and intelligence; analysis has informed targeted next steps and future actions.

Summary of key strengths

The GIRFT group has focussed on gathering evidence from a variety of sources regarding the attendance of young people in S2-3. This work has highlighted a lack of multi-agency sharing of data and a lack of available interventions for children and young people with low attendance. In addition, the group identified a lack of understanding of agency roles and capacity across the Local Authority.

Summary of next steps for our Children's Strategic Partnership.

At the end of July 2019 the group agreed that attendance data indicates greatest area of need in terms of further thematic analysis. From Aug – Dec 19 it was agreed that the group would complete a case file audit of 30 children and young people with the lowest levels of attendance in the Tranent cluster. This work would include a focus group of children, young people and parents to explore barriers, challenges and solutions to improving attendance. It was hoped this activity would allow key areas to be identified so interventions and redeployment of resources can be discussed. Education and Children's Services staff have visited other local authorities to discuss and learn about approaches to early intervention and prevention in place and impact on improving outcomes for disengaged learners. The outcome of these visits is supporting the development of East Lothian's strategy.

Priority 3 - Musselburgh Total Place / Our Families

Why did we identify this as a priority?

The Our Families Project is a public and third sector partnership approach to working with families who are experiencing disadvantage in the Musselburgh East, Wallyford and Whitecraig areas. The delivery of the Musselburgh Total Place project had been a key priority for the Children's Services Partnership for some years.

Summary of Progress

At the end of November 2019 we were in a position to deliver on that priority through the establishment of the Our Families Project. The Our Families Project provided us with the basis for our specification for the delivery of the Intensive Family Support Service to be developed through ESESCRD funding. Following the procurement process led by Capital City Partnership, Children 1st were awarded the contract and now lead on the implementation and delivery of Our Families. Being part of the City Region IFSS brings not only the benefits of an enhanced staff team but also rigorous evaluation and shared learning across all 6 projects through a Community of Practice. Phase 1 of the City Deal IFFS brings £170k over 2 years directly into the Our Families Project.

The work of the team will be overseen by the Project Oversight Group which draws membership from partners including ELC (Connected Communities, Children's Services, Education, and East Lothian Works), NHS and the third sector. Capital City Partnership also participate to provide a governance role for the City Region Deal aspect of the project.

This is truly a collaborative multi-agency approach to addressing challenges and adversity within Musselburgh East. It will not only address poverty and employability but will support families to effect the changes they want to see in their lives using a systemic approach

5. What's ahead for children's services in 2020/21

Developing a strategic partnership approach to family and parenting support and improving young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing are strong themes that emerged within 2019/20. In addition a third theme became apparent - the need to reduce inequalities for our children and young people within and between our communities. These themes were set to become our priorities going forward as we developed our new plan for 2020-2023

Towards the end of the last year of the 2017-2020 plan, two hugely significant developments occurred which will have vast implications not just for our Plan going forward but for all our services for many years to come. Firstly, the Independent Care Review published its report entitled 'The Promise' which calls for a major redesign of the whole care landscape over a ten-year implementation period. Secondly, the challenges of the Covid pandemic were just starting to become apparent. We are yet to see the full impact of it on our children, young people and families but are very aware that its effect will be considerable on them as well as on our staff for a long time to come.

These two developments (The Promise and the pandemic) confirmed the wisdom of three themes we had already identified, but gave an added urgency to the work required to address them. These themes are now being prioritised within the new children's services plan 2020-3.

Appendix 1 – useful documents and links

- East Lothian Poverty Commission Report - [Challenging perceptions. Overcoming poverty](#)
- Link to East Lothian LOIP
- [The East Lothian Plan 2017-27](#)
- Link to Children and Young People Services Plan 2017-2020
- [Children's Services Plan 2017-2020](#)