

2024/25 Children's Services Directorate Plan

Priority 1: Supporting stronger and healthier communities. Communities that are empowered, inclusive, resilient, and safe.			
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure	Target
Support and safeguard children and adults where protection concerns have been raised	Safe and Together domestic abuse training will be delivered to increase staff skills and confidence in working with families impacted by domestic abuse	100% of practitioners report feeling more confident to work with families experiencing domestic abuse following attendance at the Safe and Together training	100%
	A multi-agency Child Protection Planning meeting will be held to assess whether the risk to the child meets the threshold for a child protection plan	Percentage of Child Protection Planning Meetings held within 28 days	85%
	All children placed on the child Protection Register will have a multi-agency protection plan	100% will have a child protection plan in place	100%
Shift the balance of care for those children who need to be looked after away from home, from residential care to family-based care	Increase the number of local foster carers per year through continual advertising, recruitment and timely assessments of new carers	Balance of care for 'looked after children': % of children being looked after in the community rather than in residential care (LGBF)	87%
		Increase the number of new foster care placements	6
	Kinship carers will have the financial resources required to care for children, rather than children being placed out with the family and potentially the Falkirk Council area and/or in residential care	Percentage of Kinship Carers offered benefit maximisation assessment	100%

Priority 2: Promoting opportunities and educational attainment and reducing inequalities Educational excellence, reduce poverty & inequality, and improve wellbeing			
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure	Target
Tackle poverty by offering financial health-checks to improve access to services/benefits to help with the cost of living. Support school attendance by reducing the financial barriers in the cost of the school day.	Anyone approaching social work services for support will be offered sign posting to income maximisation and debt advice services, with the aim of reducing the impact of poverty in communities.	100% of service users contacting the Social Work Initial Response Team (IRT) seeking financial support will be provided with contact information for welfare benefits and debt advice services	100%

The Success Measures within the following table currently have not targets applied. Targets will be confirmed by Autumn due to staff changes during May 2024.

Priority 2: Promoting opportunities and educational attainment and reducing inequalities Educational excellence, reduce poverty & inequality, and improve wellbeing		
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure
Ensure children will meet their individual developmental and attainment targets and school leavers will transition into positive, sustained destinations	Increase attainment for all – including those living in the most deprived areas	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 5 (LGBF)
		Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6 (LGBF)
		Percentage of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5 (LGBF)
		Percentage of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 6 (LGBF)
	Increase attendance of pupils by 4% by 2027	School Attendance Rates (LGBF)
	Increase P1/4/7 Literacy and Numeracy in our Primary Schools	Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy (LGBF)
		Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy (LGBF)
	Increase the percentage of children (including Looked After Children) entering positive destinations	Percentage of pupils entering positive destinations (LGBF)
		Schools Leavers entering positive destinations
		Care experienced attendance - overall
		Care experienced attendance - Primary
		Care experienced attendance - Secondary
		Care experienced Leavers (Home & Away) entering positive destinations (CE)
Percentage of Looked After Children entering positive destinations		
Maintain the current performance of 100% educational provisions rated as good or better	HMIe Inspection Report evaluation/ gradings of Good or better	
Support school aged care experienced children to fully engage in education	Care Experienced (CE) Attainment Lead Officer and CE Support worker will continuously monitor attendance and engagement and support carers as appropriate	Increase the educational attendance of all school aged looked after and accommodated children
Develop family learning programmes with all school areas that target families who would most benefit from family learning		Increase the number of young people completing & receiving national awards or wider achievement awards through CLD activity
		Increase the number of children/young people/adults with improved mental health & wellbeing outcomes through CLD activity

Enabler 1: Financial Sustainability			
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure	Target
Have short, and long term, financial stability.	Deliver 100% of the Children's Services COTF identified savings	Savings identified as part of the CS COTF change programme	100%

Enabler 2: Transformation and Improvement – Council of the Future			
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure	Target
Deliver the COTF change programme	Deliver the Service Redesign programme of projects	The projects are delivered against time and budget	80%
	Deliver the Education Learning Estate programme of projects	The projects are delivered against time and budget	80%

Enabler 3: Valued Sustainable Workforce			
Council Plan we will...	Directorate Plan Action	Success Measure	Proposed Target
Have a valued sustainable workforce	Deliver the Children's Services workforce action plan	The Children's Services Workforce Plan will be delivered on time	100%