

01. Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes

Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes

'Our vision is to improve families' lives by giving them the support they need, when they need it'

Children's Services have shown improvement throughout 2018/19 and it is our intention to improve on this. Inspection reports and performance data evidence improvement in many areas of work which in turn is improving the outcomes for most of our children and young people within Midlothian.

Permanence and Care Excellence Programme (PACE):

Scottish Government and the Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children view the level of change and improvement for Midlothian's most vulnerable children as a great achievement and have requested that we continue to be part of the PACE programme; and continue to share our learning with other Councils. We have already identified 4 further aims which are:

Aim 1 – Children who are looked after at home for more than 2 years will have a looked after review looking at their whole period of time being looked after at home.

Aim 2 – Children who become looked after and accommodated will have a recommendation for Permanence (including a permanent return home) within 30 weeks of becoming looked after and accommodated.

Aim 3 – Children who have had recommendation for permanence away from home will have the decision ratified by the ADM within 14 weeks of the LAAC review recommended permanence.

Aim 4 – Court submissions will be lodged within 16 weeks of the ADM sign off.

Mental Health:

The Midlothian Early Action Partnership (MEAP) project started in January 2019, to effect system change so that children, young people and young adults get timely and appropriate mental health support. To kick-start the project, three cross-system teams spent 100 days experimenting and testing their ideas. The teams continue to progress ideas since the 100 Day review in June, with six-month follow-up surveys planned for December, involving both Leadership group and the teams involved.

The next stage of the MEAP project was to commission a scoping study to inform a planned mapping of the social and public mental health services for children and young people. This latter piece of work will both inform the focus for project activity and form a baseline for future evaluation. The scoping study involved desk-based research, focus sessions with the Steering Group and young people, the output of which will be a tender document for the main mapping research. This tender document is expected to be completed by end October, ready to publicise in November 2019.

Participation:

The Champions board continue to be a big success and were successful in winning a national award. Despite Midlothian having commissioned the application later than many other Councils across the UK, our usage was highest.

Kinship Care:

Midlothian's Kinship Care were recently presented with the prestigious "Queens Award" for all their hard work and effort – a well-deserved success.

Child Protection:

At the end of Q2 reporting we had 52 children (27 families) on our child protection register which equates to 3.0 per 1000 of the population compared with the national rate of 2.9. This figure has increased from the last quarter and is slightly above the national average. Nationally there has been a 3% increase in the number of child protection registrations from 2017 (latest figure), however within Midlothian there has been a 7% decrease compared to September 2018.

The implementation of the Safe and Together model continues with training of all staff being rolled out.

Looked after away from Home:

There are 159 children and young people looked after away from home both in and out-with Midlothian. This number is higher than the previous quarter (150 children & young people). The current rate per 1,000 of young people looked after in Midlothian is 8.2 which remains well below the national of 10.6. Nationally there has been a 1% decrease from 2017 to 2018 (latest figure) in the number of children and young people looked after away from home, within Midlothian there has been a 8% increase from September 2018.

Looked after at home:

There are 61 children and young people looked after at home. This is the same number as Q1. They have all been reviewed by the Interim Independent reviewing officer. The current rate per 1,000 of young people looked after at home in Midlothian is 3.1 which is lower than the national rate of 3.7. Nationally there has been a significant reduction of children looked after at home (26% reduction from 2008 – 2018 – latest figure) Within Midlothian this number has also decreased by 27% from September 2018.

Our LAC reviewing Officer's post has now been extended for a further year which will help to continue to embed the LAC reviewing process into practice and ensure a consistent approach for all our LAC children in Midlothian.

The CEYP funding received from Scottish Government is continuing to support our LAC population's attainment and the recruitment of an Educational Psychologist to work specifically with this group alongside increasing outreach support capacity will help to support this priority.

Whole Systems Funding:

We have secured funding from Scottish Government to strengthen our existing early intervention approach to youth offending with a focus on training. The funding will also be used to continue to develop supports and interventions.

02. Challenges and Risks**Young People with complex Needs:**

Children's Services budget continues to remain a significant and ongoing challenge. This is as a result of several factors, such as secure care, young people who require a high level of specialised care and who have severe and complex needs and those young people who are 16+ and require somewhere to live. These 3 work streams are complex and difficult to plan for and all of them require significant amounts of funding.

Young people with severe and complex needs often come into care around 14/15 years of age when their parents despite their best intentions can no longer offer them adequate care due to their increased needs. To date we have opened two additional houses to accommodate 5 young people who cannot live independently and shall require ongoing support. We have commissioned two different agencies to provide their package of care and support. As a result of continuing care legislation this means that the 5 young people will have the right to reside in these houses until the age of 21.

Young People in Secure Care:

We continue to have one young person in secure care.

Continuing Care::

We have now developed and launched new guidance to support children's services staff meet the Continuing Care requirements as contained in the Children and Young People's (Scotland) 2014 Act. It is important to note that the additional duties do impact on our current services and will require Midlothian to dual register a number of foster cares foster (both adult and children). The implementation also requires that the Family Placement Team also be registered as Adult Service too.

As stated previously the challenge of having to additionally accommodate 16-21 year old young people in both residential care and foster care is ongoing. The impact on resources in terms of meeting the needs of younger children who require to be accommodated whilst making sure our young people are 'staying put' continues to pose a professional dilemma. However, we wholly support the 'spirit of the act' and are currently looking at more creative and innovative ways of delivering services to this group of young people.

After Care:

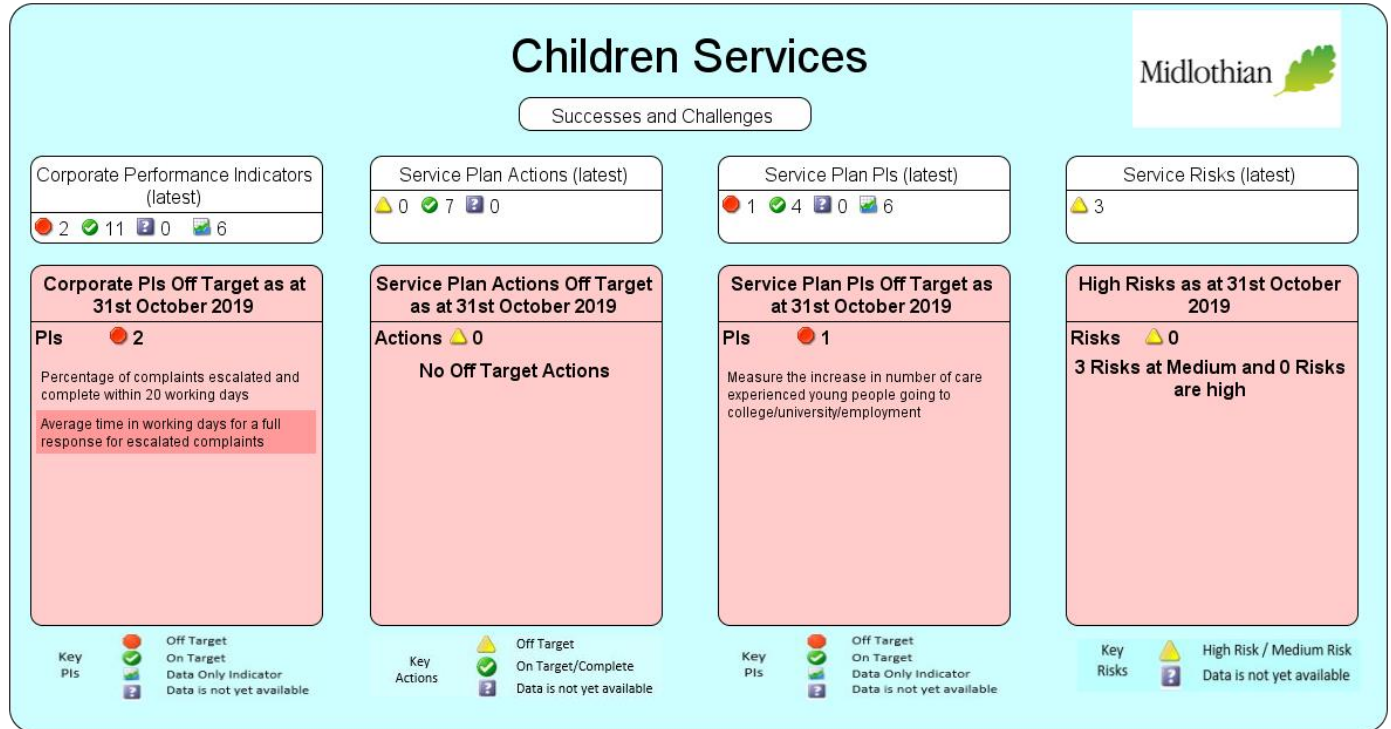
Similarly to Continuing Care, the challenges of delivering services to those leaving the care system continue to be significant. We continue to liaise with our own housing department, other local authorities and Scottish Government to identify a model that supports young people who are 16+ however, as a result of their chaotic lifestyles are unable to continue residing with their foster carer, in their residential house or in homeless accommodation. Whilst legislation through the 2014 Act promotes continuing care the reality of 'after care' is very different. We are looking at various different models.

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

The most recent Section 21 is a significant piece of work that requires both skilled and knowledgeable staff to undertake this task. The request to identify all foster carers back to the 1930's and analyse the data to identify any allegations made and report on this by the end of January 2020 is challenging.

Integrated Children's Services Plan A new 3 year plan must be ready by March 2020. Work is progressing with our partners on this project however it is a significant piece of work that requires a commitment to engage with service users and communities to deliver a plan that improves outcomes for our children and young people across Midlothian.

Published Children's Service Service Plan





Children's Services PI summary 2019/20

01.1 Making the Best Use of our Resources



Priorities	Indicator	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20				Annual Target 2019/20	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
01. Manage budget effectively	Performance against revenue budget	£15.722m	£15.846m	£15.753m	£15.374m		Q2 19/20: On Target				
02. Manage stress and absence	Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence (cumulative)	9.32	6.05	2.08	4.30		Q2 19/20: On Target 4.30 is Children's services lowest Q2 since recording began. Managers are committed to supporting staff at work and adjusting workload as and when appropriate. Absence management is undertaken by all managers to support staff to return to work with relevant supports in place.		9.00	Number of days lost	523.56
										Number of FTE in service	121.69

01.2 Corporate Health

Priorities	Indicator	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20				Annual Target 2019/20	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
03. Complete all service priorities	% of service priorities on target / completed, of the total number	100%	100%	100%	100%		Q2 19/20: On Target		90%	Number of service & corporate priority actions	7
										Number of service & corporate priority actions on tgt/completed	7
04. Process invoices efficiently	% of invoices paid within 30 days of invoice receipt (cumulative)	98%	99%	99%	98%		Q2 19/20: On Target		95%	Number received (cumulative)	5,430
										Number paid within 30 days (cumulative)	5,348
05. Improve PI performance	% of Service PIs that are on target/ have reached their target. (does not include Corporate PIs)	80%	80%	100%	90.91%		Q2 19/20: On Target		90%	Number on tgt/complete	10
										Total number of PI's	11

06. Control risk	% of high risks that have been reviewed in the last quarter	100%	100%	100%	100%		Q2 19/20: No high risks identified in Service		100%	Number of high risks reviewed in the last quarter	0

01.3 Improving for the Future

Priorities	Indicator	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20				Annual Target 2019/20	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
07. Implement improvement plans	% of internal/external audit actions progressing on target.	0%	100%	100%	100%		Q2 19/20: On Target		90%	Number of internal/external audit actions on target or complete	2



Children Services Complaints Indicator Summary

01.4 Commitment to valuing complaints



Indicator	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20			Annual Target 2019/20
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	
Number of complaints received (quarterly)	42	16	15	11			
Number of complaints closed in the year	42	15	12	10			
Number of complaints upheld (quarterly)	6	3	5	1			
Number of complaints partially upheld (quarterly)	18	4	2	2			
Number of complaints not upheld (quarterly)	18	8	4	5			
Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 1	4	0	5	2.5		Q2 19/20: On Target	5
Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 2	15.36	15.13	16.86	6		Q2 19/20: On Target	20
Average time in working days for a full response for escalated complaints	17.94	18.43	13.25	20.71		Q2 19/20: Off Target	20
Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working days	75%	100%	100%	100%		Q2 19/20: On Target	95%
Percentage of complaints at stage 2 complete within 20 working days	77.27%	75%	71.43%	100%		Q2 19/20: On Target	95%
Percentage of complaints escalated and complete within 20 working days	62.5%	71.43%	100%	71.43%		Q2 19/20: Off Target 5 of 6 escalated complaints dealt with within timescale.	95%
Number of complaints where an extension to the 5 or 20 day target has been authorised (quarterly)	5	0	0	1			

Children's Services Action report 2019/20



01. All care experienced children and young people are being provided with quality services

Code	Action	Due Date	Icon	Progress	Comment & Planned Improvement Action
CS.P.1.1	To ensure that we communicate the role as corporate parents to CPP, Councillors and partners	31-Mar-2020		50%	Q2 19/20: On Target A new 3-year plan is being developed for March 2020 which will measure the number of corporate events and training sessions rolled out over the next 3 years which shall promote the role of Corporate Parent. Champions board meeting biannually and Corporate parenting plan out for consultation.
CS.P.1.2	Implement alternative care arrangements for those young people who are at risk of secure care	31-Mar-2020		50%	Q2 19/20: On Target Children's Service are identifying potential plots where we could build whilst also considering other vacant premises.


02. Inequalities in learning outcomes have reduced

Code	Action	Due Date	Icon	Progress	Comment & Planned Improvement Action
CS.P.2.1	Improve educational outcomes of our looked after children (LAC/LAAC & Kinship) through joint work with Education	31-Mar-2020		50%	H1 19/20: In relation to the earlier fact finding and review of cases we have now devised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular Tracking - LAC Team in place from Inclusion And Wellbeing Service - Gathering views from Kinship Carers Group - Advocacy and scrutiny work with HT's over Exclusions - Roll out of Inclusion Policy
CS.P.2.2	Develop a strategy that supports care experience young people into further education and independent living.	31-Mar-2020		50%	H1 19/20: This is linked to the 2nd iteration of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and above targets

03. Children and young people are supported to be Healthy, happy and reach their potential









Code	Action	Due Date	Icon	Progress	Comment & Planned Improvement Action
CS.P.3.1	Improve early intervention actions for Children & Young people accessing support for Mental Health issues	31-Mar-2020		50%	Q2 19/20: On Target This is linked to the dedicated Mental Health and Wellbeing Group and 100-day challenge recommendations. Test of Change is focusing on supporting the development of Trauma informed schools.
CS.P.3.2	Working in partnership increase early intervention activities for Children 0-11	31-Mar-2020		50%	Q2 19/20: On Target This is linked to other developments such as:- - Future of Hawthorn - LAC attainment - Team around the child development

04. Disability













Code	Action	Due Date	Icon	Progress	Comment & Planned Improvement Action
CS.P.4.1	Establish a transition policy for children and young people who have severe and complex needs	31-Mar-2020		50%	Q2 19/20: On Target Children service, education and adult services meeting to gather data and analyse finding to ensure we have a provision/service for young people who have severe and complex needs post 16.

Children's Services PI Report 2019/20



01. All care experienced children and young people are being provided with quality services

PI Code	PI	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20			Annual Target 2019/20	Benchmark	
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Short Trend			Note
CS.P.1.1a	Provide corporate parenting training events			1	2			Q2 19/20: On Target Training events scheduled throughout the year.	4	
CS.P.1.1b	Ensure ongoing scrutiny of Life Changes Trust Plan and anything off target is reported to GIRFEMC	100%	50%	25%	50%			Q2 19/20: On Target	100%	
CS.P.1.2a	Monitor the number of Young People issued with a Movement Restriction Order Target	1	1	1	1			Q2 19/20: On Target	2	
CS.P.1.2b	Monitor the number of young people in secure care over the year	1	1	1	1			Q2 19/20: On Target		


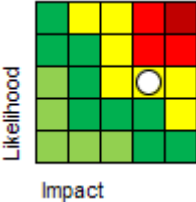

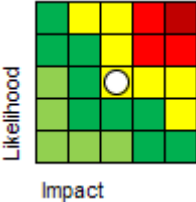
02. Inequalities in learning outcomes have reduced


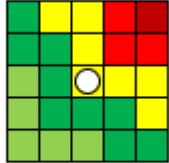
PI Code	PI	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20			Annual Target 2019/20	Benchmark
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Short Trend		
CS.P.2.1d	CEYP exclusion rate (per 1,000) over the school year	7.3%	7.3%	7.4%	7.2%			Q2 19/20: Data Only	
CS.P.2.1a	Average tariff score each Care Experienced Young Person (CEYP) gains	169.4	169.4	169.4	185.3			Q2 19/20: Data Only S4 average - 111.4 S5 average - 228.8 S6 average - 549.4	
CS.P.2.1b	Measure number of CEYP continuing into 5th & 6th year	13	13	N/A	14			Q2 19/20: Data Only Information from School Roll shows 14 CEYP continuing into S5 & S6.	
CS.P.2.1c	Reduce the number of CEYP are on part time timetables	13	13	N/A	4			Q2 19/20: Data Only Information from School roll shows 4 CEYP on part-time timetables in 2019/20.	
CS.P.2.2a	Reduction of care experienced young people going into homeless accommodation	27	N/A	N/A	N/A			Q2 19/20: Annual Data	
CS.P.2.2b	Measure the increase in number of care experienced young people going to college/university/employment	72.78	76.92	72.78	72.78			Q2 19/20: Off Target Baseline data shows 72.28% of Care Experienced Young School leavers were in a positive destination in 17/18. Update information is available in Q3. Virtual comparator of 82.72 added as Target for year.	

03. Children and young people are supported to be Healthy, happy and reach their potential

PI Code	PI	2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20			Annual Target 2019/20	Benchmark	
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Short Trend			Note
CS.P.3.1a	Working in partnership to increase participation of children, young people, parents/carers and families in Mental Health programme developed in Midlothian			25%	50%			Q2 19/20: On Target The main objective of the test of change is that, by December 2021, "ten local primary schools will have been supported to become trauma informed communities able to support positive mental health and wellbeing in Midlothian's children and young people". This test of change involves a three-pronged trauma-informed approach in primary schools, namely support to staff, families and the communities.	100%	

Children's Services Service Risks

Code & Title	Risk Identification	Risk Control Measure	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score
C.RR.01 – 23 GIRFEC Children & Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014	Lack of suitable accommodation for those 16+ who are unable to reside with previous foster carers, or in residential houses due their chaotic lifestyle choices. Financial impact upon children’s services budget is significant.	Working with Midlothian housing and homeless depts. To consider alternative housing options. Liaising with other LA’s to try and identify new ways of working and meeting the demands and needs of this group of young people.		Looking at alternative forms of accommodation for 16-21 year olds who often don’t engage well with services.	Q1 19/20: This is an ongoing piece of work that requires support across the council and beyond to ensure we are all meeting our responsibility in relation to corporate parenting		12
C.RR.01-09 RESOURCES – High costs of external accommodation	The risk relates to the high costs incurred as a result of using external residential or educational placements or external fostering agencies. High risk group are those children and young people with severe and complex needs..	01 - Head of Service is the Chair of MARG -tighter control over referrals and robust scrutiny of all placements. 02 - Ongoing recruitment campaign to recruit new foster carers, respite carers, adopters etc to try and meet the new demands being made upon the service Commission services to provide care and support in houses owned by Midlothian Council		Progress alternatives to External residential accommodation. Ensure joined up working between services ie health, education and children’s services to ensure we offer creative local options of support.	Q1 19/20: Liaising with education and adult services around how we better meet the needs of those young people who have severe and complex needs aged 16-21.		9

Code & Title	Risk Identification	Risk Control Measure	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score
C.RR.01-10 Mental Health	CAMHS waiting list continues to grow therefore we require alternative solutions which offer support to children and young people at an earlier stage	5 year funding for the Early Action Group for Mental Health which is working with children and young people to consider tests of change which will support those with mental health at an earlier point of contact		Big Lottery Funding bid secured. Working with health, education, children's services, voluntary sector & young people to see what works and build on this	Q1 19/20: 100 day challenge now complete and test of change identified which have worked and can be rolled out to other parts of the service/ community		9

Published Local Government Benchmarking Framework - Children's Services



Children's Services

Code	Title	2010/1	2011/1	2012/1	2013/1	2014/1	2015/1	2016/1	2017/1	External Comparison
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	
CHN8a	Corporate Indicator - The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week (LGBF)	£2,050.88	£2,656.15	£2,987.57	£2,621.66	£2,007.68	£3,074.23	£2,773.35	£3,735.35	17/18 Rank 22 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 8 (Top Quartile) 15/16 Rank 10 (Second Quartile) 14/15 Rank 1 (TOP Quartile)
CHN8b	Corporate Indicator - The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week (LGBF)	£286.59	£358.28	£292.72	£266.94	£329.68	£333.16	£333.33	£339.71	17/18 Rank 21 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 19 (Third Quartile) 15/16 Rank 21 (Third Quartile) 14/15 Rank 23 (Third Quartile)
CHN9	Balance of Care for looked after children: % of children being looked after in the Community (LGBF)	88.41%	87.32%	91.25%	91.91%	87.45%	90%	89.19%	90.99%	17/18 Rank 10 (Second Quartile) 16/17 Rank 15 (Second Quartile) 15/16 Rank 15 (Second Quartile) 14/15 Rank 20 (Third Quartile)
CHN22	Percentage of child protection re-registrations within 18 months			18%	14%	11%	14%	8%	7%	17/18 Rank 20 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 23 (Third Quartile) 15/16 Rank 29 (Bottom Quartile). 14/15 Rank 28 (Bottom Quartile).
CHN23	Percentage LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)		21.74%	20.2%	18.45%	24.71%	14.8%	26.25%	26.18%	17/18 Rank 22 (Third Quartile). 16/17 Rank 25 (Bottom Quartile). 15/16 Rank 4 (Top Quartile). 14/15 Rank 20 (Third Quartile).

