

# Children Services Q3 23/24 Performance report

***All children, young people, adults and families in Midlothian are supported to be the best they can be. This is achieved through a nurturing, respectful and collaborative approach that promotes wellbeing, equity and inclusion.***

## Community Priorities

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) draw together public, voluntary and private sector bodies, and local communities to deliver a shared 'plan' to improve the lives of local people based on evidence. In Midlothian, the plan is called the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP). This is a shared partnership plan of how we will meet the needs of our local communities and brings together all the priorities for Midlothian into one place. Our outcomes for the next five years are:

- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes,
- No child or household need live in poverty,
- Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

In Midlothian the Getting It Right for Every Child Board (GIRFEC) is one of the sub groups of the SMP, and one of the main drivers for the effective delivery of services to children. The GIRFEC Plan also known as the Integrated Children's Service Plan 2020-2023, is a statutory three year plan devised by the local authority and health. The plan develops key outcomes and priority actions which are designed to improve the lives of children, young people and families. The plan is coming to an end and a new three year plan 2023-2026 is currently being drafted.

The GIRFEC outcomes for the final year of the three year plan for 2022-23 are:

1. More children and young people are safe, healthy and resilient
2. More children and young people receive timely and effective mental health support when they need it
3. Inequalities in learning are reduced

We are fully committed to realising a children's rights approach to all of our work and ensuring that we embed the principles of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) alongside our Promise commitments.

# Progress and Achievements

## The Promise

The Promise work continues to drive forward our children’s service improvements.

Plan 21-24: Priority Areas

19 A Good Childhood

23 Whole Family Support

26 Supporting the Workforce

29 Planning

32 Building Capacity

## Referrals:

Work is being progressed and is almost complete around gaining a clearer understanding on how all referrals come into the service.

This has been a significant piece of work involving many stakeholders. Within Q3 there is a 29.0% decrease compared to last year at this time and a 39% decrease in referrals from Q1. The impact of this piece of work is already evidencing positive results. This said the complexity of the referrals coming into the service remains high however it is hoped that we shall offer a much improved service

22/23				23/24		
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
2155	2212	2023	2626	2353	2067	1436

**All referrals reported by quarter 2022/23-2023/24**

## Family Wellbeing Service

The service has had a significant amount of training on offer to the new workforce to ensure they have a good understanding of their role going forward. They are already working with 100 families and 177 children and young people. We are awaiting the arrival of a permanent new team leader for the service which shall help consolidate the learning and training staff have undertaken. We continue to work with our 3<sup>rd</sup> sector colleagues to agree how we can offer funding to them to support this service to have a holistic overview of the work we are doing with families.

## Looked After away from home population

The data evidences that our looked after population is fairly static bearing in mind data changes on a daily basis. These stats are testament to the workforce ensuring that they support families to remain together, where safe to do so. The introduction of Family Group decision making, supports families to devise a plan which promotes families staying together with support from extended family. It is too early to advise if this is the reason for the consistent decline in numbers. Child Protection has reduced from last quarter however domestic abuse remains the main reason children’s names are on the CP Register.

### **Self-Directed Support**

We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that families had access to funding if assessed as in need. The summer period is often a challenge for families trying to identify sufficient resources for children with additional support needs. Our aim is to start planning for the summer period so that families are aware of what resources are available and have choice where their child(ren) can attend.

### **Trauma Informed Training**

We remain committed to ensure all our staff are trauma informed this includes our foster carers. A rolling programme of training is being rolled out across the directorate and Council.

## **Challenges and risks**

### **National Care Service:**

The 'Bill' which is currently in Stage 1 has been postponed again with an expected outcome on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. There remains no information around whether or not children's services and Justice will be included within the NCS.

### **Poverty**

As families continue to be impacted by the cost-of-living crisis this is expected to lead to an increase in the number of families experiencing poverty. This also applies to workers on low incomes. We are assessing all claims that come into children and families from the Scottish Welfare Fund for early identification of families who may need additional support.

### **Workforce:**

Midlothian continues to experience the same staffing issues encountered by other Councils. There is a general lack of experienced and skilled staff across the sector, and we are having to increasingly rely on locum workers. As reported in previous quarters, this is a national issue and discussions have started around A National Social Work Agency which would offer the same terms and conditions across Scotland, similar to that of Police Scotland and Education staff. This would benefit Midlothian if this approach were adopted. Workforce is a very live issue and impacting significantly on staff with higher rates of absence due to the stress this issue is causing. We are looking at a recruitment campaign over 3 days around June 2024 to try and attract social workers for children and adult services, social care staff, CLLE staff, teachers and learning assistants to try and bring new workers into Midlothian.

### **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

We continue to work with our Home Office colleagues to try to find a fairer way to share the distribution of UASC who arrive mainly in Kent on small boats. Most local authorities in Scotland are at capacity with regard to having no more foster or residential capacity to accommodate these young people. We therefore have to think differently around how we are all going to manage this ever-increasing demand.

### **Increased numbers of children impacted by the delay in neurodevelopmental waiting times:**

There is a significant delay in families waiting for an appointment with CAMHS regarding neurodevelopment concerns. Not all cases will require clinical input from CAMHS however we are looking at how we can work together to consider how we best support families whilst on the waiting list. We continue to work with partners to explore how

best to meet the current demands and pressure whilst making sure we future proof our services to deliver sustainable options locally for children and young people with ASN and Complex and Enduring Needs. A neurodevelopmental pathway is in the early stages of development.

#### **Foster Care**

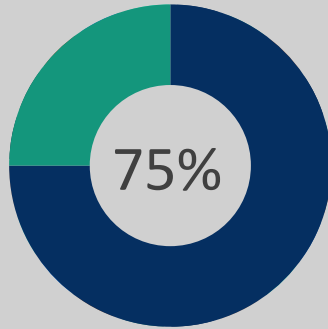
Given the local and national foster care crisis we are planning a major advertising campaign in March 2024 to hopefully generate prospective carers for teenagers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.

#### **Financial Pressures**

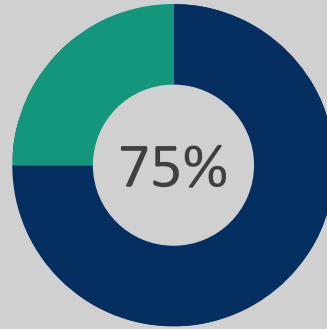
Finance is an ongoing challenge although at Q3 we continue to have a small underspend across the whole of the service.

# Service Priority 1 - Ensure the Midlothian Wellbeing Service is aligned with other family supports across Midlothian

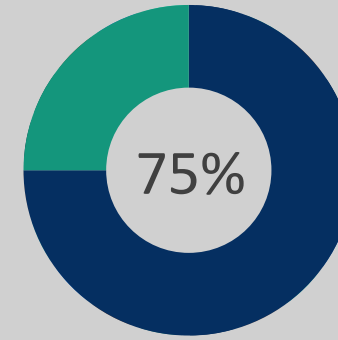
## Progress of actions to achieve priority



Ensure funding and resources are in place for 23/24



Implement a formal launch of service across Directorate



Develop process to understand family supports commissioned across Midlothian

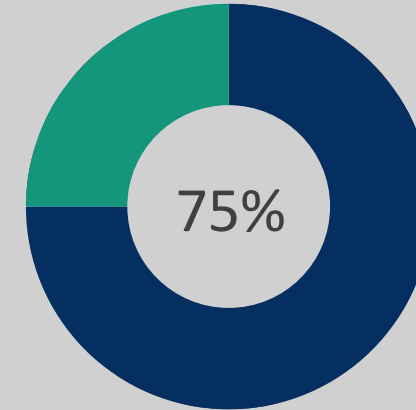
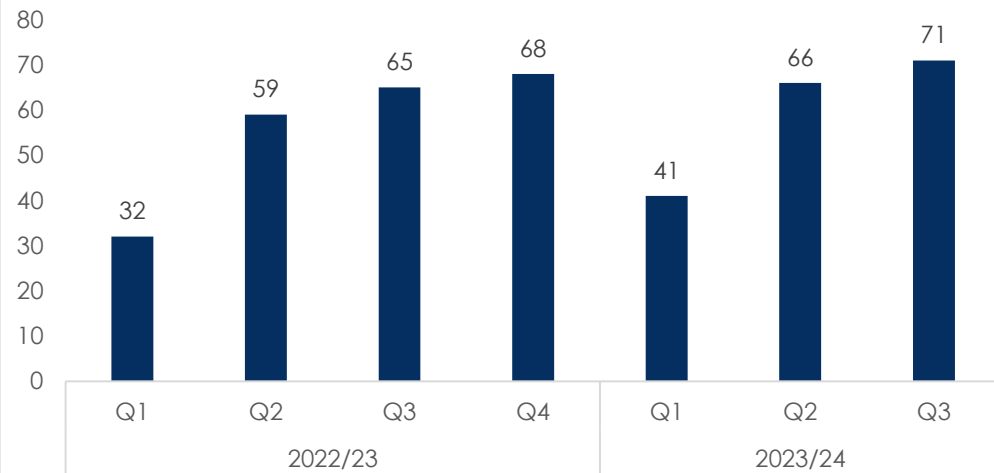
## Key achievements this quarter:

- Work is well under way, the funding is in place and there has been a soft launch of the service with our partners. We continue to drive forward the work around the commissioning of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services.

# Service Priority 2 - Promote the use of Self-Directed Support amongst families to empower them to have choice and flexibility

## Progress of actions to achieve priority

Number of families who take option 1 to organise their own support

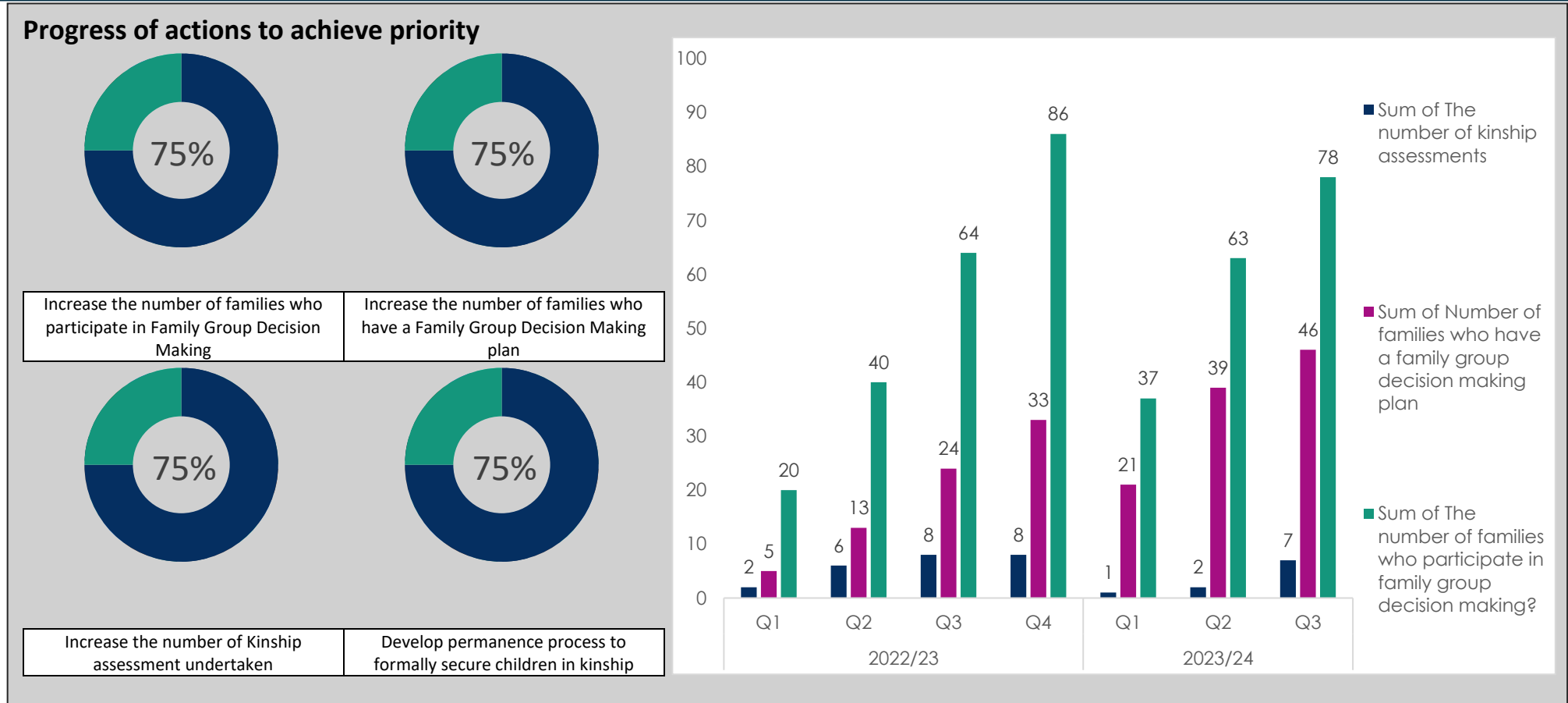


Increase by 10% the number of families who take Option 1 to organise their own support

## Key achievements this quarter:

- In total there has been an increase of 30 families using SDS since Q1, which is a 73.2% increase and is the highest number now than at any point last year. There has also been a 7.6% increase in families from Q2, which was slightly lower compared to the same period last year (10.2%).
- This is a great achievement over the quarter and year with numbers continuing to increase. The issue we are facing is the lack of resources within the community to support families who want to access respite or clubs for their children who have additional support needs. Many organisations do not offer a service to children with additional support needs due to the increase costs in staffing but also finding suitably skilled staff is an ongoing issue.

# Service Priority 3 - Strengthen supports offered to Family Group Decision Making and Kinship supports to maintain children with birth/kin families

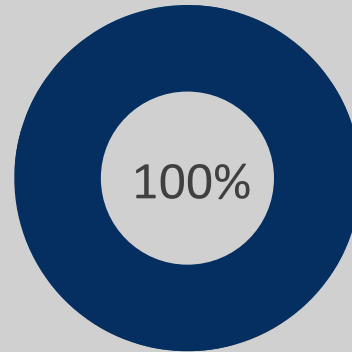


## Key achievements this quarter:

- The number of families participating in family group decision making is now higher than it was at this point last year (78), and the number with a family decision making plan is higher, by almost double than compared to this period last year.

# Service Priority 4 – Implement the National Child Protection Guidance locally

Progress of actions to achieve priority



Contribute towards the development of Lothian wide Child Protection Procedures

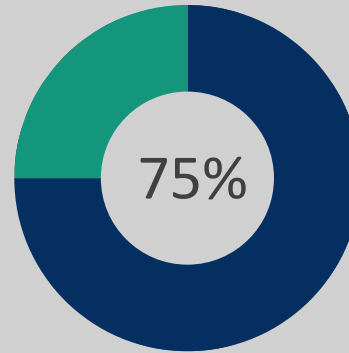
## Key achievements this quarter:

- We have launched the new Child Protection Procedures across Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian and East Lothian with on going training in place for all staff.



# Service Priority 5 - Develop a pathway for children and families to navigate mental health services in a timely manner

## Progress of actions to achieve priority

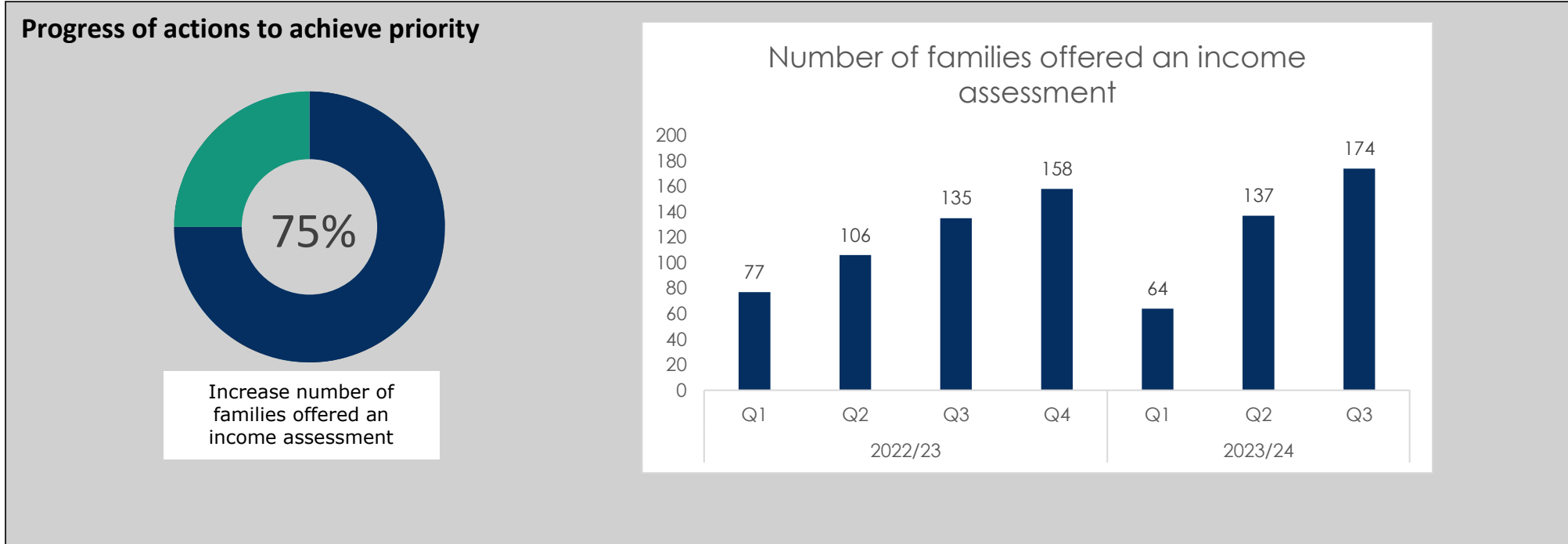


Develop a Single Point of Access across the directorate

## Key achievements this quarter:

- Work is progressing on this matter. Funding has been agreed with CAMHS to fund a part time worker to take this work forward. This is being progressed via the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub Group.

# Service Priority 6 - Strengthen mechanisms to support families maximise their income

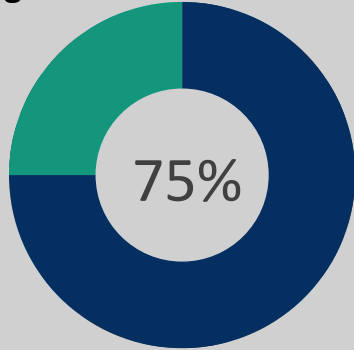


## Key achievements this quarter:

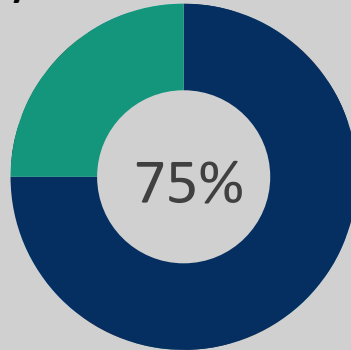
- The number of families offered an income assessment is higher for Q3 (174), than at any point last year. There was also a 27.0% increase in families from Q2.

# Service Priority 7 - Children, young people and their families experience high quality services

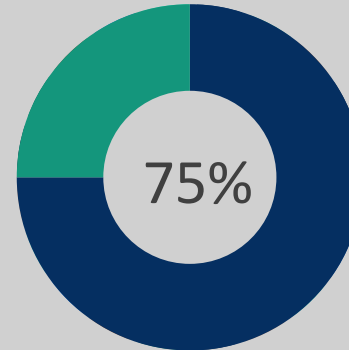
## Progress of actions to achieve priority



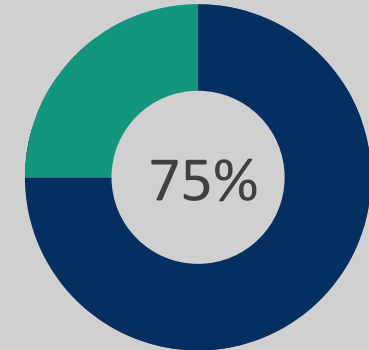
Ensure local Adoption Service will provide high quality care and support



Ensure local Continuing Care/Adult services will provide high quality care



Ensure Hawthorn Family Learning Centre will provide high quality care and support



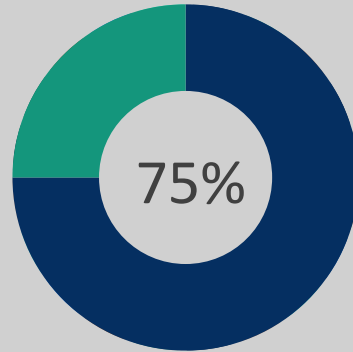
Ensure 2 x Young People's Care Homes will provide high quality care

## Key achievements this quarter:

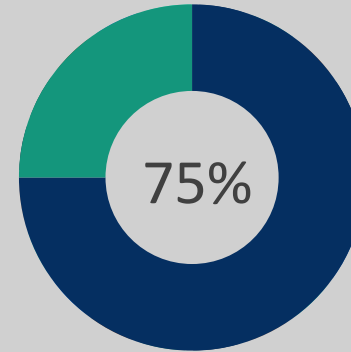
- An inspection took place in September 2023 for Fostering/ Adoption and Continuing Care – an improvement plan has been developed on the back of this and is closely scrutinized and monitored by Social Work Assurance Group (SWAG) to ensure the recommendations are being actioned and improvements being made.

# Service Priority 8 – Strengthen the number of staff who understand the importance of trauma informed practice

## Progress of actions to achieve priority



Develop a timetable of events that offer training opportunities and development for all CS staff



Increase the number of staff trained in using a trauma informed approach

## Key achievements this quarter:

- Work is continuing in this area with a continued programme of rolling training events for all staff that undertake the trauma informed practice training.

# Pentana Performance Dashboard

A full review of quarterly performance data is available via Pentana (Browser login link - <https://midlothian.pentanarpm.uk/login>)

## Quarter 3 - Children's Services Partnership and Communities-



### Quarterly Reporting PIs - Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Next Update Due	Last Update	History
BS.CSPC.LPI.05 Child Protection: % of Core Group meetings held within 15 days fo...		83%	100%	01 Apr 2024	Q3 2023/24	
CS.SPSO.04.1 Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 1		5.5	5	01 Apr 2024	Q3 2023/24	
CS.SPSO.05.1 Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working days		50%	95%	01 Apr 2024	Q3 2023/24	

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# Childrens Services, Partnership and Communities PI summary

## 01. Manage budget effectively

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
01. Manage budget effectively	Performance against revenue budget	N/A	£23.950m	£21.244m	£21.002m	£21.487m		Q3 23/24: On Target				

## 02. Manage stress and absence

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
02. Manage stress and absence	Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence (cumulative)	10.17	8.27	3.15	5.23	8.87		Q3 23/24: On Target		9.00	Number of days lost	1,477.91
											Number of FTE in service	166.61



## 03. Process invoices efficiently

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
03. Process invoices efficiently	% of invoices paid within 30 days of invoice receipt (cumulative)	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%		Q3 23/24: On Target		95%	Number received (cumulative)	11,564
											Number paid within 30 days (cumulative)	11,284



## 04. Improve PI performance

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
04. Improve PI performance	% of Service PIs that are on target/ have reached their target. (does not include Corporate PIs)	91.89%	94.74%	100%	0%	91.67%		Q3 23/24: On Target		90%	Number on tgt/complete or Data Only	11
											Total number of PI's	12

05. Control Risk

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
05. Control Risk	% of high risks that have been reviewed in the last quarter	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>		100%	Number of high risks reviewed in the last quarter	2
												Number of high risks

06. Implement Improvement Plans

Priorities	Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24	Feeder Data	Value
		Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend			
06. Implement Improvement Plans	% of internal/external audit actions progressing on target or complete this quarter.	100%	60%	100%	69.23%	100%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>		90%	Number of internal/external audit actions on target or complete	13
												Number of internal/external audit actions

# Childrens Services, Partnerships and Communities Complaints Indicator Summary

Commitment to valuing Complaints. Outcomes and Customer Feedback

Indicator	2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24				Annual Target 2023/24
	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value	Status	Note	Short Trend	
Number of complaints received (quarterly)	55	12	8	7	7		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of complaints closed in the year	34	7	4	4	5		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of complaints upheld (quarterly)	3		0	2	0		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of complaints partially upheld (quarterly)	12	1	2	0	0		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of complaints not upheld (quarterly)	4	4	2	2	1		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of complaints Resolved (quarterly)	8	1	0	0	4		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 1	5.09	3	0	6.5	5.5		Q3 23/24: On Target Improvement in time to respond to complaints		5
Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 2	18.45	24	16	0	13.5		Q3 23/24: On Target Improvement in time to respond to complaints in Q1 and same period last year		20
Average time in working days for a full response for escalated complaints	20	36	18.33	14.5	17		Q3 23/24: On Target Improvement in time to same period last quarter		20
Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working days	72.73%	100%	100%	0%	50%		Q3 23/24: Off Target Reduction due to resource issues and complex cases		
Percentage of complaints at stage 2 complete within 20 working days	72.73%	33.33%	100%	100%	100%		Q3 23/24: On Target		
Percentage of complaints escalated and complete within 20 working days	50%	0%	66.67%	100%	100%		Q3 23/24: On Target		
Number of complaints where an extension to the 5 or 20 day target has been authorised (quarterly)	2	1	0	2	1		Q3 23/24: Data only		
Number of Compliments	2	1	0	0	0		Q3 23/24: Data only		



# Children's Services, Partnership and Communities

## Action report







### 01. Ensure the Midlothian Wellbeing Service is aligned with other family supports across Midlothian

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.1.1	Ensure funding and resources are in place for 23/24	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> Funding in place for 2023/24
23/24.CSPC.1.2	Implement a formal launch of service across Directorate	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> Work is well under way, the funding is in place and there has been a soft launch of the service with our partners.
23/24.CSPC.1.3	Develop process to understand family supports commissioned across Midlothian	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>


### 02. Promote the use of Self-Directed Support amongst families to empower them to have choice and flexibility.

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.2.1	Increase by 10% the number of families who take Option 1 to organise their own support	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> In total there has been an increase of 30 families using SDS since Q1, which is a 73.2% increase and is the highest number now than at any point last year. There has also been a 7.6% increase in families from Q2, which was slight lower compared to the same period last year (10.2%). This is a great achievement over the quarter and year with numbers continuing to increase. The issue we are facing is the lack of resources within the community to support families who want to access respite or clubs for their children who have additional support needs. Many organisations do not offer a service to children with additional support needs due to the increase costs in staffing but also finding suitably skilled staff is an ongoing issue.


03. Strengthen supports offered to Family Group Decision Making and Kinship supports to maintain children with birth/kin families

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.3.1	Increase the number of families who participate in Family Group Decision Making	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> The number of families participating in family group decision making is now higher than it was at this point last year (78)
23/24.CSPC.3.2	Increase the number of families who have a Family Group Decision Making plan	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> The number of families who have a family group decision making plan has nearly doubled since this time last year (24) to 46.
23/24.CSPC.3.3	The number of assessments by kinship worker	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>
23/24.CSPC.3.4	Develop permanence process to formally secure children in kinship	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> Kinship and permanence policy remain in draft however are on target to be completed and embedded into practice by March 2024


04. implement the National Child Protection Guidance locally

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.4.1	Contribute towards the development of Lothian wide Child Protection Procedures	31-Mar-2024	100%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> We have launched the new Child Protection Procedures across Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian and East Lothian with ongoing training in place for all staff.





05. Develop a pathway for children and families to navigate mental health services in a timely manner

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.5.1	Develop a Single Point of Access across the directorate	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> Work is progressing on this matter. Funding has been agreed with CAMHS to fund a part time worker to take this work forward. This is being progressed via the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Subgroup.



## 06. Strengthen mechanisms to support families maximise their income

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.6.1	Increase number of families offered an income assessment	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> The number of families offered an income assessment is also higher for Q3 (174), than at any point last year. There was also a 27.0% increase in families from Q2.


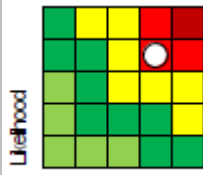

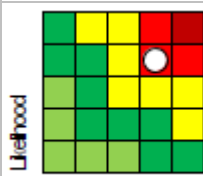
## 07. Children, young people and their families experience high quality services


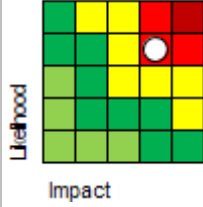
Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.7.1	Ensure local Adoption Service will provide high quality care and support	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>
23/24.CSPC.7.2	Ensure local Continuing Care/Adult services will provide high quality care and support	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>
23/24.CSPC.7.3	Ensure Hawthorn Family Learning Centre will provide high quality care and support	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>
23/24.CSPC.7.4	Ensure 2 x Young People's Care Homes will provide high quality care and support	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>

## 08. Children and young people are supported by staff who understand the importance of trauma informed practice

Action Code	Measure or sub-action	Due Date	Progress	Status Icon	All Notes
23/24.CSPC.08.1	Increase the number of staff trained in using a trauma informed approach	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b> There have been 30 Children's service staff members trained in trauma informed practice in 2023/24, further training planned for Q4 and rollout of Level 2 training.
23/24.CSPC.08.2	Develop a timetable of events that offer training opportunities and development for all CS staff	31-Mar-2024	75%		<b>Q3 23/24: On Target</b>

# Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Risks

Code & Title	Risk Control Measure	Risk Identification	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score	Service
LEP5.6 Ensure staff levels for the operational delivery of employability programmes is sufficient including funded programmes						 <p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	16	Childrens Services, Partnership and Communities
MC43-08 Workforce capacity		Availability of people that can be recruited to fill posts required by the legislation, both during training regarding the legislation and in the longer term as a result of the additional duties, e.g. additional health visitors, teaching and administrative staff, early learning and childcare. There is a lead-in time between recruiting staff and them fulfilling their duties, while they are learning their				 <p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>	16	Childrens Services, Partnership and Communities

Code & Title	Risk Control Measure	Risk Identification	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score	Service
		role and/or studying for qualifications. Failure to recruit new employees or cover training could disrupt preparations and delay implementation/compliance. Potential impacts include additional pressures on existing staff, corners being cut, reduction in quality of care, warning signs being missed. Delay in implementing could result in judicial review.						
SRP.RR.14.1 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry	<p>The Council have set up an Abuse Inquiry Project Team to support the Council to prepare for information requests to support the Inquiry. In addition, we have a Claims Project Team who have mapped out how we shall manage any future claims reported against the Local Authority.</p> <p>The Inquiry Team have established a Project Plan covering: 1. Residential establishments, List D Schools and Foster Carers: identifying Children's homes, Foster Carers and any List D Schools in Midlothian over the last 100</p>	<p><b>Risk Cause:</b> Midlothian Council and its legacy organisations, predating the creation of Midlothian Council in 1996, have been involved in the provision of care of children going back to living memory. During this time there is the likelihood that the care children received fell below standards of care now in place. There is the further potential that some people in the care of Midlothian Council and its legacy organisations were subject to abuse by those who were employed to care for them.</p> <p><b>Risk Event:</b> The Scottish Government began an Inquiry into cases of Child Abuse occurring prior to 17 December 2014, the intention</p>		Foster Care and Residential Care File Review	<b>Q1 23/24:</b> Inquiry has heard all the evidence for the Sect 21 submissions around foster care. We continue to await the findings by Lady Smith. The redress system is in place and there is a lot of activity around this area of work which requires significant input from our social worker within the Scottish Child Abuse team.		16	Childrens Services, Partnership and Communities

Code & Title	Risk Control Measure	Risk Identification	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score	Service
	<p>years and researching historic records.</p> <p>2. Record Audit: reviewing the Council's existing paper and electronic recordkeeping systems to identify relevant records and map them to residential establishments. This also includes, where possible, noting the Council's historic recordkeeping policies, such as retention schedules.</p> <p>3. Cataloguing/Indexing: checking and updating existing recordkeeping systems for accuracy and consistency, enabling effective information retrieval when requested by the Inquiry. The Project Team have established a Project Plan covering:</p> <p>4. Ascertaining the succession and insurance position in relation to potential historic child abuse claims.</p> <p>5. Ascertaining and agreeing Midlothian Council's legal position/ approach in dealing with the potential historic child abuse claims.</p> <p>6. Identifying the need for guidance, protocol,</p>	<p>of this enquiry is to identify historic case of abuse which have to date gone unreported.</p> <p>The most recent Section 21 notice around the Foster Care Case Study is a significant piece of work. The request for information from 1930 to date is very challenging given the volume of files that require to be read and analysed.</p> <p><b>Risk Effect:</b> If the inquiry finds historic cases of abuse in Midlothian this could damage the reputation of the Council and could place doubt in the eyes of the public as to the safety of these currently in care. There is significant scope for a substantial financial impact arising from claims of historic abuse. Some existing employees may be affected by the inquiry and subsequent claims of abuse. We have requested an extension for Parts B, C &amp; D of the last Section 21 to April 2020, which has been granted.</p> <p>To date there has been no evidence from the extensive file read to suggest there has been systemic abuse within our foster care system.</p>						

Code & Title	Risk Control Measure	Risk Identification	Risk Evaluation	Related Action	Related action latest note	Current Risk Matrix	Risk Score	Service
	<p>templates etc. should/if any claims be made against the council.</p> <p>7. Consideration to identifying if additional staffing will be required as expected deluge of FOI's SARs in 2018 from solicitors of potential claimants.</p> <p>8. Project team is in place with project plan with a range of identified actions which are being progressed. Monthly meetings to progress project plan.</p> <p>9. The SCAI Social Worker is very competent and experienced in this area of work and provides quarterly updates on their findings from the file read. This is a real strength within this area of work. The CSWO and Principal Solicitor meet regularly with the social worker to discuss findings from the file read.</p>							

# Published Local Government Benchmarking Framework Children's Services



## Children's Services

Code	Title	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	External Comparison
		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)	£3,223.90	£4,356.23	£4,107.14	£4,517.21	£7,322.49	£6,943.79	Data not available yet	20/21 Rank 31 (Bottom Quartile) 19/20 Rank 19 (Third Quartile) 18/19 Rank 11 (Second Quartile) 17/18 Rank 22 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 8 (Top Quartile)
CHN8b	Corporate Indicator - The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week (LGBF)	£387.45	£396.23	£375.24	£383.43	£529.51	£497.70		20/21 Rank 26 (Bottom Quartile) 19/20 Rank 19 (Third Quartile) 18/19 Rank 17 (Third Quartile) 17/18 Rank 21 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 19 (Third Quartile)
CHN9	Balance of Care for looked after children: % of children being looked after in the Community (LGBF)	89.19%	90.99%	90.37%	91.12%	92.44%	92.44%		20/21 Rank 9 (Second Quartile) 19/20 Rank 10 (Second Quartile) 18/19 Rank 13 (Second Quartile) 17/18 Rank 11 (Second Quartile) 16/17 Rank 15 (Second Quartile)
CHN22	Percentage of child protection re-registrations within 18 months (LGBF)	7.75%	7%	8.93%	3.19%	2.41%	3.45%		21/22 Rank 10 (Second Quartile) 20/21 Rank 13 (Second Quartile) 19/20 Rank 8 (Top Quartile) 18/19 Rank 23 (Third Quartile) 17/18 Rank 23 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 24 (Third Quartile)
CHN23	Percentage LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July) (LGBF)	26.25%	26.18%	15.6%	16.82%	23.84%	20.3%		21/22 Rank 23 (Third Quartile) 20/21 Rank 29 (Bottom Quartile) 19/20 Rank 9 (Second Quartile) 18/19 Rank 6 (Top Quartile) 17/18 Rank 23 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 25 (Bottom Quartile)
CHN24	Percentage of children living in poverty (After Housing Costs) (LGBF)	23.4%	23.8%	22.5%	23.9%	19.99%	23%		21/22 Rank 13 (Second Quartile) 20/21 Rank 17 (Third Quartile) 19/20 Rank 17 (Third Quartile) 18/19 Rank 15 (Second Quartile) 17/18 Rank 17 (Third Quartile) 16/17 Rank 19 (Third Quartile).