The earliest years of a child’s life represent the single greatest chance to make a lasting impact on their future. We now know that the period before birth and in their early years has a profound impact on a child’s life. It affects physical, mental and emotional development and, in turn, their life chances.

Because of this we are improving all we do to support children and families and deliver services to help them secure better outcomes.

To help us do this, we are making continual improvement part of our day to day practice. We also share our learning with others across Scotland.

The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is about driving forward real and lasting improvements to improve children’s outcomes and life chances.

Our Vision is:

To make North Lanarkshire the best place to grow up in by improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families to ensure all children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
We are using a simple and effective approach to making early years improvements called the Model for Improvement. It has two parts:

Firstly, working through the three fundamental improvement questions.

1. **Ensuring that women experience positive pregnancies which result in the birth of more healthy babies (as evidenced by a reduction of 15% in stillbirths and infant mortality).**
2. **Ensuring that 85% of children reach all expected developmental milestones at the time of the child’s 27-30 month health review.**
3. **Ensuring that 90% of children reach all of the expected developmental milestones at the time the child starts primary school.**

We share this vision and the stretch aims with the Scottish Government. Our partners include NHS Lanarkshire, Police Scotland and communities will play an important role.

Three Work streams are leading on improvements to help deliver these aims. Another provides the leadership to support and deliver improvement.

The Early Years Collaborative builds on our other improvement activities and will accelerate the delivery of our commitments including: ensuring prevention and early intervention; implementing GIRFEC (Getting it Right For Every Child).

To make sure these changes are the right ones and result in improvement, and to make sure the improvements last, we are using a process proven to work. This is called the Model for Improvement. Community Planning Partners across Scotland are involved and learn from each other - we will work in collaboration.

The Early Years Collaborative is about driving forward real improvements - and using the Model to make sure those improvements work. This in turn will improve children’s outcomes and life chances.

**Practitioners and frontline workers are critical to achieving improvement through change.**

**Your input is vital. Please get involved in suggesting, testing and embedding.**

- You may have an idea for a change to make something better - or to make sure the service is delivered reliably each time as intended. You may already have made a local improvement which works. The EYC gives an opportunity to share that idea with others so children and families in North Lanarkshire can benefit.
- You may be asked to help test a change and find out whether it works in your team. Your help in planning a test, recording results and feeding back the learning will help ensure the proposed change will work in different environments.
- As time goes on, you may be asked to help implement a new way of working developed and trialled through the Early Years Collaborative.
- We also need you to be a champion - to encourage improvement and maintain the momentum.
- We need to capture your knowledge, experience and creativity. A process is now in place for feeding in your ideas so they can be trialled and tested. If you have an idea, speak to your Manager or contact your service representative on our leadership group. More information is available from your Manager.
- It’s not only practitioners who have good ideas about what works and what needs changed - many parents and communities do too. So, through the EYC, we will also explore ideas, work with them and get feedback on changes being tested. We’ll also work with communities so they can build their community assets.

For more information and to find out how you can become involved contact Lesley Ann Henderson, EYC Programme Manager, email: hendersonles@northlan.gov.uk.