# North Lanarkshire Children’s Services Partnership

**Our landscape- summary and description of contents**

**Updated April 2021**

## Introduction

To support us to make sense of the complexities and relationships impacting on our children’s services planning and priorities, North Lanarkshire Children’s Services Partnership brings together information about the key legislative, policy, planning and improvement areas. This is reviewed and updated at least annually and made available for reference.

We have grouped these into four main categories:

* **National drivers** – these are Scottish pieces of legislation which place a responsibility on partners either individually or together
* **Local links** – these are the main North Lanarkshire Partnership strategic plans and policies
* **Improvement programmes** – these are the key pieces of work we have identified and are involved in which we believe will improve our services and supports
* **Planning, delivery and ongoing work** – this is how we currently plan for and deliver our existing services and supports.

N.B. Those written in bold have been added since August 2020

**Summary**

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| 1. **National drivers**    1. Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (CYP Act)    2. Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017    3. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations (2013)    4. Developing the young workforce: Scotland’s youth employment strategy (2014)    5. Children’s Hearings (Scotland) 2011    6. Equality Act 2010    7. Carers (Scotland) Act 2015    8. Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy 2016 – 2026    9. Fairer Scotland Action Plan (2016)    10. **Independent Care Review (Scotland 2020) The Promise**    11. **National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan (2018)**    12. **Scotland Mental Health Strategy (2017)**    13. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Scotland’s route map through and out of the crisis (2020)**    14. **UNCRC (Implementation) (Scotland) Bill 2020**    15. **The National CAMHS specification**    16. **Child Protection Improvement Plan 2016**    17. **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019**    18. **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019**    19. **The Promise Plan 2021-24**   **\***2019 changes to Named Person provision in 2014 CYP Act and revision of information sharing guidance | 1. **Local links**    1. The Plan for North Lanarkshire    2. Local Outcome Improvement Plan    3. NHS Children and Young People’s Health Plan    4. Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire Strategy and Commissioning Plan    5. Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24    6. NL Tackling Poverty Strategy and Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019    7. Community Justice Plan    8. North Lanarkshire Equality Strategy    9. **Local Housing Strategy (2016-2021)**    10. **North Lanarkshire Youth Work – Interim Recovery and Renewal Plan 2020 -2022**    11. **NLP Act Now – Climate Action Together** |

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| 1. **Improvement Programmes**    1. Realigning Children’s Services    2. Scottish Attainment Challenge    3. Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborative    4. Permanence and Care Excellence    5. Transforming Pathways    6. Child Protection Improvement Programme    7. **CSP and NL Young People – Partnership Agreement**    8. **Contextual Safeguarding**    9. **Principles into Practice- multi agency transition work** | 1. **Planning and delivery of ongoing work**    1. Children’s Services Partnership    2. Child Protection Committee    3. Task Groups, working groups and networks    4. Children’s Services Annual Action Plan    5. Child Protection Annual Report and Business Plan    6. Getting it Right for Every Child Implementation    7. Continuous Improvement    8. Workforce Development    9. **North Lanarkshire Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2019-2023: Shared Parenting – Families and Professionals Together**    10. **North Lanarkshire Champion’s Board**    11. **Our Approach to Family Support**    12. **Empowering Clusters**    13. **North Lanarkshire Partnership: Act Now, Climate Action Together** |

## Description of contents

The following pages offers a short explanation of what is contained in each of the categories.

### National Drivers

* 1. **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014(CYP Act)**: This act strengthens the rights of children and young people in Scotland by encouraging Scottish Ministers and Public Bodies (such as local authorities and their partners) to think about these rights and how they relate to their work. It has also provided legislation to support Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and created new systems to support children and young people and to help identify any problems at an early stage, rather than waiting until a child or young person reaches crisis point. In 2019 there were changes to the Named Person provision in the 2014 CYP Act and revision of information sharing guidance.
  2. **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017**: Is Scottish Parliament legislation that aims to substantially reduce child poverty. It sets out four statutory income targets, to be met in the financial year beginning 1 April 2030; four interim income targets, to be met in the financial year beginning 1 April 2023; and that a statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission would be established from 1 July 2019, with functions related to the child poverty reduction targets. The Act also states: Scottish Ministers must publish child poverty delivery plans in 2018, 2022, and 2026, and report on those plans annually. Local authorities and health boards must report jointly every year on activity they are taking, and will take, to reduce child poverty.
  3. **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** The act provides a legal framework that will promote and encourage community empowerment and participation. It creates new rights for community bodies and places new duties on public authorities.
  4. **Developing the young workforce: Scotland's youth employment strategy (2014):** Sets out how the Scottish Government plan to implement the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce recommendations. It has specific sections on ‘Colleges – a valued and valuable choice’, ‘Apprenticeships - Access to Work Based Learning for All Young People’, ‘Employers - Their Investment in the Young Workforce’, and ‘Equality - Developing the Talents of All Our Young
  5. **Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011** outlines children’s hearings and the includes the process, grounds for referral, statutory duties and roles of relevant agencies.
  6. **Equality Act 2010**: legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It sets out the different ways in which it’s unlawful to treat someone.
  7. **Carers (Scotland) Act 2015:** This is a key piece of legislation that will promote, defend and extend the rights of adult and young carers across Scotland. It includes: the identification of carers’ needs for support through the development of adult carer support plans and young carer statements; the provision of support to carers; the enabling of carer involvement in certain services; the preparation of local carer strategies; and the establishment of information and advice services for carers.
  8. **Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy 2016:** This national strategy sets out actions needed to tackle the cycle of deprivation associated with many cases of pregnancy in young people and provides extra support for young parents. It aims to help young people develop the appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence in making decisions around pregnancy and parenthood through a partnership approach between professionals and young people.
  9. **Fairer Scotland Action Plan (2016):** Is a Scottish Government plan which is based on five ambitions for 2030: A Fairer Scotland For All; Ending Child Poverty; A Strong Start For All Young People; Fairer Working Lives; A Thriving Third Age. It also lists 50 selected actions to be completed during that parliamentary term with report on their progress published in December 2019. The plan aims to help build a better country - one with low levels of poverty and inequality, genuine equality of opportunity, stronger life chances, and support for all those who need it.
  10. **Independent Care Review (Scotland 2020) The Promise:** Is an independent care review report that reflected what over 5,500 care experienced children and adults, families and the paid and unpaid workforce told the Care Review. It outlines what Scotland must do to make sure its most vulnerable children feel loved and have the childhood they deserve. The Promise has 5 foundations: voice – that children must be listened to; family – that where safe and feel loved, children must stay with their families; care - where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed; people - children must be supported to develop relationships with staff and the wider community, who in turn must be supported to listen and be compassionate in their decision-making and care; scaffolding - Children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed.
  11. **National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan (2018):** The framework sets out activity the Scottish Government and partners will take to drive improvement for children and young people. It has two aims, 1. of excellence and equity; 2. galvanising efforts and aligning collective improvement activities across all partners in the education system to address our key priorities. The priorities are: Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy; Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people; Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing; Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people.
  12. **Scottish Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027** The vision for the Mental Health Strategy is of a Scotland where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma. The strategy aims to achieve parity between mental and physical health. Part of the approach is prevention and early intervention, recognising the importance of attachment, parenting and positive responses in settings, and from services that support children and young people and their families.
  13. **COVID-19 Scotland’s Strategic Framework Update (February 2021**): Outlines where we are in the pandemic, and the 6 strategic approaches: vaccination, test and protect, protective measures and levels approach, measures to reduce importation, support to adherence of measures, and providing care and support to mitigate the harms of the crisis.
  14. **UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill 2020:** will make it unlawful for public authorities to act incompatibly with the incorporated UNCRC requirements, giving children, young people and their representatives the power to go to court to enforce their rights.
  15. **The National CAMHS specification:** The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) NHS Scotland national service specification outlining provisions young people and their families can expect from the NHS.
  16. **Child Protection Improvement Programme 2016:** aims to ensure that Scotland's child protection system puts children's wellbeing first and keeps them safe from abuse and neglect. It intended to make improvements in all areas of child protection, including: neglect; child sexual exploitation; trafficking; data and evidence; systems; children's hearings; leadership and workforce development; inspections; internet safety.
  17. **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019:** The purpose of the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act is to help bring to an end the physical punishment of children by parents and others caring for or in charge of children by abolishing the common law defence of “reasonable chastisement”. A person charged with assault of a child will no longer be entitled to claim that a use of physical force was justifiable on the basis that it was physical punishment administered in exercise of a parental right (or a right derived from having care or charge of a child). This will give children the same protection from assault as adults.
  18. **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019:** Is legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years old. However, supporting work is required before all sections of it are enacted.
  19. **The Promise-** **The Plan 2021-24:** Following on from the Independent Care Review, ‘The Plan’ sets out key areas organisations must focus on to create a Scotland where the most vulnerable children feel loved, respected, listened to and heard in decisions that affect them.

### 2. Local links

* 1. **The Plan for North Lanarkshire:** This is the strategic plan which identifies the key priorities for North Lanarkshire Council and informs the work of North Lanarkshire services. It has five priorities, one of which relates directly to children and young people - supporting all children to realise their full potential. It identifies the key actions the council will take to achieve this priority.
  2. **Local Outcome Improvement Plan:** This is the strategic plan which identifies the key priorities which all the community planning partners will deliver together for North Lanarkshire’s residents. It has four priorities – looked after children and young people, homelessness, poverty and resilient communities. It will also include local plans at a locality/neighbourhood level which identify local priorities.
  3. **NHS Lanarkshire Children and Young People’s Health Plan:** NHS Lanarkshire’s vision is for all children and young people to have the best start in life and reach their full potential, regardless of their starting point. Ensuring a joined-up partnership approach to the planning and delivery of services for children and young people across all agencies and service providers is key to delivery. The plan reflects GIRFEC, recognises the UNCRC and has a focus on improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.
  4. **Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire Strategy and Commissioning Plan** (2020-2023): It is a three-year plan to support the 10-year plan written in 2016. It highlights the role of partnership working in the aim to ensure the people of Lanarkshire can live longer, healthier, more independent and happier lives.
  5. **Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy -** ‘**Getting It Right For Every Person’ (GIRFEP) 2019-2024**’**:** Is a shared vision developed by Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire (H&SCNL), NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL), South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (SLH&SCP), members of the public, third sector organisations, and staff groups. The strategy advocates a holistic approach towards mental health and wellbeing, and is about achieving better mental health and wellbeing for all, and a Lanarkshire where every person can live a full life free from stigma and discrimination. The strategy highlights four core priority areas to be taken forward to redesign supports and services and put in place new ways of working over the period of GIRFEP: good mental health for all; improving access to mental health supports and services; children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing; specialist mental health services.
  6. **North Lanarkshire Tackling Poverty Strategy and Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019:** The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 places a duty on Local Authorities and NHS Boards to jointly develop and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Plan (LCPAR), with the first to be published by June 2019.
  7. **Community Justice Plan:** Within this plan, the North Lanarkshire Community Justice Partnership has identified the need to develop links across current systems to address domestic abuse and to consider the role of community justice in early intervention and prevention, to intervene in the lives of perpetrators of domestic abuse and support victims. This objective has clear links and will support the wellbeing of North Lanarkshire’s children, young people and their families.
  8. **North Lanarkshire Equality Strategy 2019-2024**: The strategy has five objectives for success to make sure equality and human rights becomes a normal part of North Lanarkshire Council’s work: 1. To know and understand all our communities, 2. To involve our communities effectively, 3. To demonstrate leadership in equalities and human rights, both within the council and amongst partners, and organisational commitment to excellence, 4. To ensure that local public services are responsive to different needs and treat users with dignity and respect, 5. To develop and sustain a skilled and committed workforce able to meet the needs of all local people.
  9. **North Lanarkshire Council Local Housing Strategy (2016-2021):** The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare a Local Housing Strategy supported by an assessment of housing need, demand and provision. Its vision is to assist people to achieve their potential, and be safe, healthy and included, by providing access to high quality housing and support. In achieving this there are six priorities: 1: Promote supply of good quality affordable housing across all tenures, 2: Contribute to regeneration and sustainability of places, 3: Homelessness is prevented and appropriate housing support provided to sustain living arrangements, 4: Ensure there is a range of housing solutions and appropriate support to meet the needs of older households and those with other specific needs, 5: Tackle Fuel Poverty and contribute to meeting Climate Change Target, 6: Improve stock condition across all tenures.
  10. **North Lanarkshire Youth Work- Interim Recovery and Renewal Plan 2020 - 2022:** This plan for delivering youth work aims to meet three priorities: : Support all children and young people to realise their full potential; Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities; Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities.
  11. **Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire Strategy and Commissioning Plan:** This strategy and plan have an overarching ambition to set in motion an approach to delivering health and social care that will lead over time, to achieving the national health and wellbeing outcomes prescribed in the Public Bodies (Scotland) Act 2014 and the outcomes linked to the Children and Young People’s (Scotland) Act 2014. Part of this plan’s vision is to ensure that North Lanarkshire is the best place in Scotland to grow up with the mission that children and young people will realise their potential and grow to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
  12. **Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership - Strategy and Business Plan** A key aim in this plan is safeguarding and promoting the interests of children and young people affected by substance misuse. The plan has a focus on improving the lives of children and young people affected by substance misuse, supporting parents and prospective parents with drug or alcohol problems and overseeing the delivery of a range of programmes and supports that are preventative or target children, young people and families affected by substance misuse.

1. **Improvement programmes** 
   1. **Realigning Children’s Services:** Realigning Children’s Services is a programme we are involved in with the Scottish Government. We are involved in mapping, research, analysis and learning that will lead to improvements in how the CSP jointly identifies need, plans, delivers and resources services. This is also known as joint commissioning.
   2. **Scottish Attainment Challenge:** To improve outcomes, we are involved in the Scottish Attainment Challenge, a national programme to reduce the gap in attainment between children and young people in the least and most deprived areas. In Scotland, children living in poverty are less likely to reach their potential and the Scottish Attainment Challenge seeks to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed through the promotion of equity and excellence. In support of this the Scottish Government have also funded the Pupil Equity Fund providing individual head teachers in primary, secondary and additional support needs schools with access to individual funding based on the level of need in their school.
   3. **Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative** (CYPIC) The CYPIC is supporting the government’s drive to make Scotland the best place to grow up by putting the needs of children and families at the centre in line with GIRFEC and the Early Years Framework. The approach uses the Improvement Methodology that enables organisations to deliver stronger, more effective services that are built on robust evidence of what works in improving outcomes and life chances and to learn from each other about the approaches that are most effective. This approach supports practitioners to test, measure, implement and spread new and better ways of working to make services more effective and responsive to the needs of children and families.
   4. **Permanence and Care Excellence:** Evidence shows that children and young people want and benefit from permanent, loving and nurturing relationships. Permanence and Care Excellence is a programme that looks closely at the journeys for looked after children and young people to identify how these can be improved to achieve better outcomes.
   5. **Transforming Pathways:** This programme, in partnership with Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and the Robertson Trust, will support the redesign of local services and make changes so that children and families get the right support at the right time. The focus is on early intervention to reduce the potential for escalation of problems later on in children’s lives.
   6. **Child Protection Improvement Programme:** The Child Protection Improvement Programme was launched in February 2016. Following a review of child protection in Scotland, nine interconnected work strands have been identified that help deliver the national vision for child protection system, one that keeps children safer from abuse and neglect by placing the wellbeing of Scotland's children at the heart of everything it does. There are also 12 recommendations within the report, which have been accepted by the Scottish Government and the North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee will work with this programme, detailing the actions in the annual Business Plan.
   7. **CSP and NL Young People- Partnership Agreement** Representatives from the CSP and young people worked together to reach and agreement on how to ensure that children and young people are active partners and their voices are included in all aspects of the work of the CSP.
   8. **Contextual Safeguarding:** to ensure that all children and young people are protected from harm or abuse within their peer groups, at school, and in their communities.
   9. **Principles into Practice:** This national initiative aims to improve transition from child to adult health services for people with complex learning disabilities. It is multi agency, seeks to improve coordination and will be based on principles that underpin improvements in transition care and management.

National initiative, based on the interviews with families, nurses and other practitioners, five main principles underpinning improved transition care and associated elements of transition management were identified.

### Planning, delivery and ongoing work

* 1. **Children’s Services Partnership (CSP):** The Children’s Services Partnership is the term used to refer to the agencies, organisations and individuals who participate in the structures and work of partnership to plan, organise and deliver services and supports for children, young people and families. Those engaged in the work of the partnership range from those whose work relates directly with children, young people and families to staff at a senior level and elected members. Children, young people and families are key partners in this structure and have an important role in influencing priorities and developments. The Children’s Services Partnership Board brings together representatives at a senior level to meet every quarter to oversee the work of the Children’s Services Partnership. This is chaired by an elected member.
  2. **Child Protection Committee:** This partnership supports all agencies to work together to help keep children and young people safe and protected from abuse and neglect.
  3. **Task groups, working groups and networks**: Short term working groups are established with relevant partners to lead on discrete programmes of work. There are also working groups shared with the Child Protection Committee to progress continuous improvement and workforce development.
  4. **Children’s Services Annual Action Plan**: This action plan is produced and reported on each year. It links to the aims of the Children’s Services Plan 2021-23 and brings together the work of the task groups and working groups.
  5. **Child Protection Annual Report and Business Plan**: most recent were published Committee Annual Report (2017/2018) and Business Plan (2018/2019), they outline the work the Child Protection Committee/services have done in the previous year and their priorities and plans for that year.
  6. **Getting it Right for Every Child Implementation** - Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is the national policy framework for supporting children and their families in Scotland. An example of it within North Lanarkshire is the North Lanarkshire Youth Work- Interim Recovery and Renewal Plan 2020 – 2022, noted above.
  7. **Continuous Improvement**: To further embed self-evaluation activity across the Children’s Services partnership (and elsewhere) to inform and shape strategy and practice which improve outcomes for children and their families.
  8. **Workforce Learning and Development Group**: This group oversees all multi-agency training on behalf of the child protection committee. They decide where there is need to develop learning packages in response to new policies/procedures or changes in national guidance and legislation or where training needs to be commissioned from a subject matter expert. The group is made up of representatives from the Talent and Organisational Development team, Child Protection Co-ordinator, Health, Education, Police and the third sector.
  9. **North Lanarkshire Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2019-2023: Shared Parenting – Families and Professionals Together:** The strategy describes how partners will improve the lives of the children and young people who are looked after through the joint development of priorities and the delivery of associated services. It brings together the range of activity across the Children's Services Partnership and members of the council at all stages of the care journey. Crucially, this strategy was developed in partnership with young people, partner agencies and carers.
  10. **North Lanarkshire Council Champions Board:** gives Care Experienced People a platform to ensure their voices are heard and aims to change the care change the care system 'Today Not Tomorrow'.
  11. **North Lanarkshire Our Approach to Family Support:** This paper complements our Children’s Services Plan. It provides information about the principles and values that are the foundation of family support in North Lanarkshire.
  12. **North Lanarkshire Empowering Clusters:** Empowering Clusters is an essential driver for change in North Lanarkshire. It is a model for working that ensure that schools and school leaders, supported by central staff, work together to enable real change on behalf of the families and communities they serve.
  13. **North Lanarkshire Partnership, Act Now, Climate Action Together:** This plan outlines the commitment of partners and actions to support achievement of net-zero carbon emissions in NL at least by 2045 – but earlier if possible. It aims to strengthen climate action and net-zero leadership across North Lanarkshire and the partners.

## Further references:

**Education (Scotland) Act 2016** The act introduces measures to improve Scottish education including: improving the attainment of pupils from poorer backgrounds; widening access to Gaelic medium education; giving children a voice in matters that affect them, and extending the rights of children with additional support needs. It will also streamline the process of making a complaint to Scottish Ministers.

**Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014** This act sets the framework for integration adult health and social care, to ensure a consistent provision of quality sustainable care services for the increasing number of people in Scotland who need joined – up support and care, particularly people with multiple, complex and long-term conditions.

### Additional descriptions

**North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP)** This is the partnership where agencies and organisations come together to plan, develop, organise and deliver services and supports for all people across North Lanarkshire.

**Improving Children’s Services Group (ICSG)** The Improving Children’s Services Group brings together the chairs of the various groupings in the children’s services partnership structure and staff who link to the wider networks. The focus is on delivery of the annual action plan.