

# “At Our Heart – The Next Steps”

The East Renfrewshire Approach to Children’s Services Planning

## East Renfrewshire’s Children and Young People’s Services Plan 2023-2026



Being safe Being equal Being healthy Having someone to trust Friendship Having hope

# Executive Summary

Welcome to **“At Our Heart – The Next Steps” The East Renfrewshire Approach to Children’s Services Planning for 2023-2026.**

Building on our successes with “At Our Heart” 2020- 2023 this new plan sets out our vision and priorities for children, young people, and family services over the next 3 years. We anticipate the next three years will be a challenging time for all public sector bodies providing services. Tighter financial settlements, ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the effect of the cost of living crisis on families, will result in increased need and demand. In order to achieve the greatest impact during these difficult times it is clear that creating strong working partnerships will be more important than ever.

All partners in East Renfrewshire are signed up to work together to achieve the vision and objectives detailed in the plan and it is their ongoing participation and support that will help turn the commitments of the plan into a reality for children, young people, their families and carers. Drawing on what children, families, staff, and partner agencies have told us our new plan commits us to continuously improve how we design and deliver our universal, preventative, and targeted services to ensure children get the help they need when they need it. Furthermore this will enable us to ensure that we provide services that are responsive, achieve better outcomes, and create opportunities for children, young people and their families.

As always the production of our plan has involved a process of extensive collaborative working between partners within East Renfrewshire Council, the Health and Social Care Partnership,

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, together with a range of other agencies including the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration, Skills Development Scotland, and partners in local and national third sector organisations. As the plan is an overarching document linking across a wide range of children’s services the strategic Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People’s Partnership will oversee its delivery and will publish progress annually in accordance with statutory duties.

On behalf of the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership I would like to thank all partners and stakeholders along with children, young people, and families, for their contribution to the completion of the new East Renfrewshire Children and Young People’s Services Plan for 2023-2026 and their ongoing participation in the implementation and delivery over the years ahead.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Quinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Steven Quinn**  
Chief Executive  
East Renfrewshire Council

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# Introduction

**“At Our Heart - The Next Steps” The East Renfrewshire Approach to Children’s Services Planning for 2023-2026** is the seventh integrated children’s services plan for children, young people, and families in East Renfrewshire. This plan encompasses the vision that children and families helped us create and represents the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People long established commitment to achieve better integrated service planning and delivery.

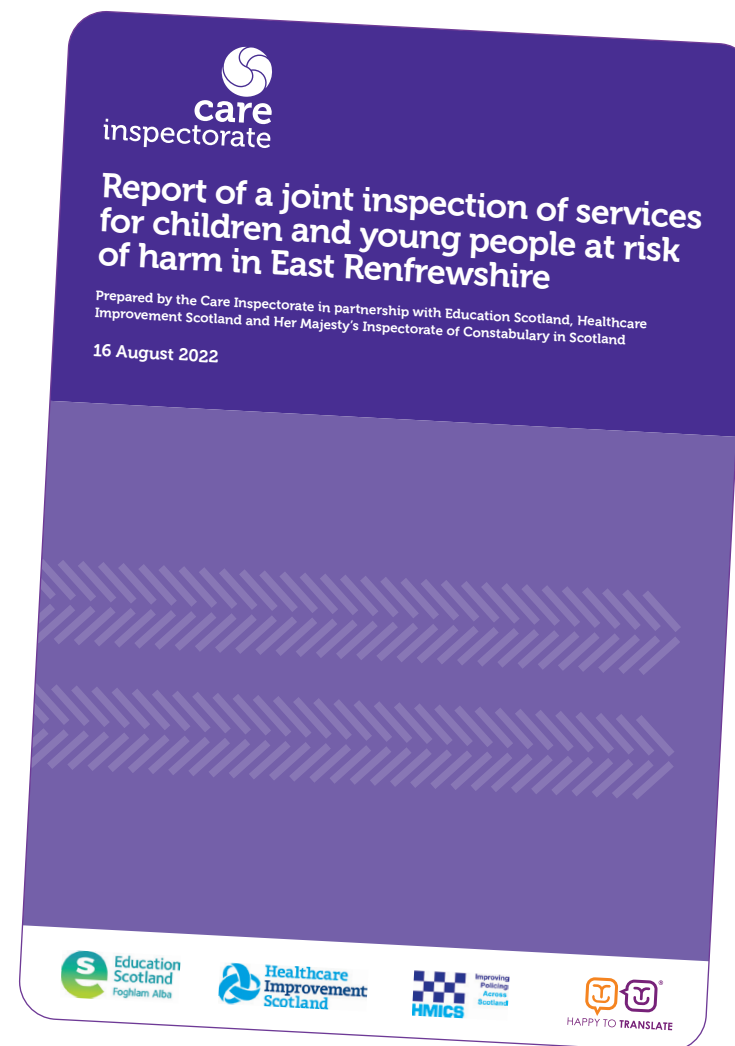
Although our last plan - covering the period 2020-2023 - was published during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, against the odds we made remarkable progress with implementation across the key priorities that we had identified. This is particularly true of how we responded to the publication of The Promise and also the emerging mental wellbeing needs of the local children and young people population. Emergency legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament during 2020 to temporarily suspend many statutory duties resulted in the publication of children and young people service plans covering shorter timescales than would ordinarily have been the case, leading to less time to achieve key agreed commitments. In addition to delivering our children’s plan our main priority during this extraordinarily difficult time was to respond quickly and divert our resources to identifying and protecting our most vulnerable families especially during the national and local lockdowns, and adapt practice due to the ongoing social distancing restrictions that posed a challenge to providing the type of services children and families needed.

In summer 2022 our considerable efforts to design and deliver the highest quality care and support was acknowledged when we were inspected by a team led by the Care Inspectorate. They observed the following strengths as a consequence of the East Renfrewshire partnership approach:

- Children and young people at risk of harm were benefiting from high-quality assessments, plans and support from a wide range of services.
- Children and young people were listened to and respected.
- The safety and wellbeing of children and young people who were at risk of harm was improving as a result of the caring relationships they had with key members of staff.
- Children and young people at risk of harm and their families were actively participating and influencing service planning, delivery and improvement.
- The partnership was successfully using data and quality assurance information to inform and support decision making, service planning and delivery.

In their assessment, the inspection team found the work of our Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership to be excellent which means that East Renfrewshire is the first in the country to receive an evaluation of Excellent for this quality indicator. The full report can be accessed on the Care Inspectorate website at [careinspectorate.com](https://careinspectorate.com)

Nevertheless we believe that there is much more to be done and as part of the development of **“At Our Heart - The Next Steps” 2023-2026**, the local partnership has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of our achievements to date along with an analysis of current need and demand. With an outstanding education system, a fully integrated Health and Social Care Partnership, sector leading council services, innovative third sector partners, and recognition by the Care Inspectorate of excellence, we are confident of achieving our ambitious vision that our children and young people have set for us.



# “At Our Heart – Next Steps” The East Renfrewshire Approach to Children’s Services Planning 2023-2026

## Our Vision, Outcomes and Priorities

The Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership has agreed “**At Our Heart – Next Steps**” **The East Renfrewshire Approach to Children’s Services Planning 2023-2026** as set out in the illustration below on page 8. We are immensely proud of our vision which has been adopted from work undertaken with children, young people, and families, and we want to ensure it drives delivery of the new plan over the next three years. As is clear the **Getting it right for every child wellbeing framework** continues to underpin all that we do in East Renfrewshire strategically and operationally, and along with our revised **priorities** and **success criteria measures** will help us judge how well we are doing across the partnership and the impact we are having on the lives of children and young people, and their families.

Over the last six months in line with statutory duties we have conducted a wide ranging assessment of children and young people’s needs stretching back over one year. In addition to the needs assessment we compiled a comprehensive report to reflect children and families’ feedback which had been received by local agencies over the last eighteen months. The assessment profile and the service user feedback report was then analysed and discussed by partners during a series of workshops to support the development of the new plan. From this exercise the partnership concluded that our priorities for the following period would focus on prevention and early help, transitions and complex needs, mental wellbeing, our care experienced population, and holistic family support. This is now represented in our approach model on page 8.



## Community Planning in East Renfrewshire

Progress on achieving our approach will also contribute towards the delivery of key outcomes in the East Renfrewshire Community Plan and the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework. The Community Plan was agreed in 2018 and sets out the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) vision for East Renfrewshire for the next ten years. The plan is structured around five outcomes, two of which are closely aligned to the children’s plan. These are: **Early Years and Vulnerable Young People**, and **Learning, life and work**. The Community Plan also includes “**Fairer East Ren**” the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, which sets out the priorities across the CPP to make the area fairer and with fewer inequalities. A key objective of the plan is to **Reduce Child Poverty** along with other commitments that are expected to positively affect children and families. Additionally in line with the Christie Commission, East Renfrewshire has taken a **place based approach** to tackle inequalities specific to some geographical communities, and where poorer outcomes are more prevalent. The **locality plans** co-produced with local residents in these areas broadly echo the new children’s plan approach and commitments.

### FIVE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



EARLY YEARS AND VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE



LEARNING, LIFE AND WORK



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY



SAFE, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES



OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

## National Performance Framework

Scotland’s National Performance Framework (NPF) provides a clear vision of the national outcomes we all work towards to improve Scotland’s individual and collective wellbeing. To help achieve its purpose, the framework sets out National Outcomes with the key one for children being: **We grow up loved, safe, and respected so that we can realise our full potential**. This national outcome has also informed our local children’s plan vision and the wider content of the new plan. Similarly the Scottish Government’s Children and Young People’s Outcomes Framework, developed to assist with strategic multi agency planning, has supported our decision making in this area.



We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential

*In our children we see the best and worst of ourselves now and in the future. They are the measure of our worth as a nation. In this Outcome we are dedicated to providing the essential conditions of love, respect and understanding through which our children can become the happy, fulfilled and successful adults they all have a right to be.*

National Performance Framework > National Outcomes > Children and Young People

## Our Vision

We want East Renfrewshire's children to grow up loved, respected and given every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

We want them to be safe, equal and healthy, have someone to trust, have friends, but most of all HOPE.

## Our Approach

East Renfrewshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2023-26

## At our heart

Keeping children and young people safe  
The mental and emotional wellbeing of children  
Care experienced children and care leavers  
Families  
Children with complex additional needs

## 7 Outcomes

1. Safe
2. Healthy
3. Active
4. Nurtured
5. Achieving
6. Respected/Responsible
7. Included

## Our Priorities

1. Help families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable home environment
2. Protect our most vulnerable children, young people, and families
3. Ensure children and young people with complex needs are supported to overcome barriers to inclusion at home, school, and communities
4. Deliver on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to our care experienced children and young people by fully implementing The Promise
5. Respond to the mental and emotional wellbeing, and physical health needs of children and young people
6. Upskilling our children's services workforce
7. Reducing the impact of poverty on children and families

## Our Vision is underpinned by

Relational based practice

Listen to children, promote their participation, and uphold rights

A focus on the strengths and assets of families

A trauma informed workforce

## How we will measure our success

1. Parents/carers accessing holistic family support indicate improvement in wellbeing (increase)
2. Percentage of 0-2 year olds registered with a dentist (increase)
3. Percentage of children reaching all of the expected developmental milestones by 27-30 month child health review (increase)
4. Percentage of children reaching developmental milestones start P1 (increase)
5. Percentage of primary 1 children at risk of overweight and obesity (decrease)
6. Diversionary activity reduces risk and promotes inclusion
7. Percentage of young carers reporting satisfaction with support services
8. Number of unallocated children with 2 or more IRD's in the last 2 years (decrease)
9. Parent satisfaction level on supports for children with complex additional support needs
10. All young people in transition will have a plan in place by age 14 years
11. Percentage of Looked After Children with more than one placement within the last year (decrease)
12. Attendance rate for Looked After Pupils (Primary & Secondary) (increase)
13. Number of Looked After Young People gaining achievement awards (increase)
14. Average number of insight tariff points for care experienced school leavers
15. Percentage reduction in the number of repeat presentations to GP's for young people referred to the Family Wellbeing Service 6 months post closure (in relation to emotional wellbeing) (decrease)
16. Children accessing Healthier Minds Service report improvements in their mental wellbeing
17. Percentage of children and young people (P5-S6) who agree or strongly agree that their school offers them the opportunity to take part in activities in school beyond the classroom and timetabled day (increase)
18. Percentage of children and young people (P5-S6) who answer that their (physical) health is good or excellent (increase)
19. Learn Well measure
20. Proportion of pupils entering positive destinations (increase)
21. Workforce learning and development opportunities increase knowledge, skills and confidence

Image owned by East Renfrewshire Council



# Local Context to the Approach

## Holistic Whole Family Support

We know that the last 3 years have been challenging for families in a range of different ways. The lockdown periods, school closures, access to services, changes in the way people work and cost of living have all had a significant impact on children and families. Our new plan for 2023-2026 takes account of the lasting impact of these challenges but acknowledges the important role that local services can play in promoting family wellbeing and supporting families to lead safe, happy and healthy lives.

In East Renfrewshire we know that families are generally the best source of care and nurture for their children but from time to time many parents and carers across the authority might need some help. When this happens we want them to be able to access the help they need, where and when they need it, for as long as it is needed, in order to protect and promote their children's wellbeing. Ultimately we want to prevent crisis and keep families together where it is in the best interests of the child. In fact services for families in East Renfrewshire are primarily based on prevention and early help. This includes the universal services of health visiting, early year's settings, and schools. There is also a range of more targeted or specialist support available for those who need it, from health, social work, education and local third sector providers. Our support for families is integrated within our services through the **Getting it right for every child** and **Signs of Safety** approaches. This means that we focus on strengths and work in partnership with parents and children as we help them to identify and achieve their goals.

**The Promise** clearly identified the need to significantly upscale family support services and identified whole family support as a priority in the Promise Plan 21-24. Going forward we will be using the **Supporting Families: A National Self-Assessment Toolkit For Change** to evaluate our current supports for families to ensure they meet emerging local needs and address any that come to the fore over the next three years. Scottish Government assistance through the **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund for Holistic Family Support and Families in Recovery** will provide additional resource to support families with more complex needs as well as those who require early help at preventative stages.



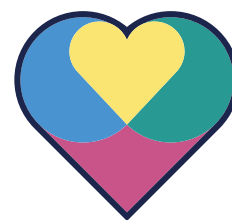
## Keeping The Promise and delivering on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities

On 5th February 2020 a promise was made to the infants, children, young people, adults and families who have experience of the care system in Scotland. The Promise and its commitments were clear that by 2030 the following would be delivered:

- ✓ Love will no longer be the casualty of the 'care system,' but the value around which it operates
- ✓ Wherever safe to do so, Scotland will make sure children stay with their families and families will be actively supported to stay together
- ✓ Children, young people, and their families will be listened to, respected, involved and heard in every decision that affects them.

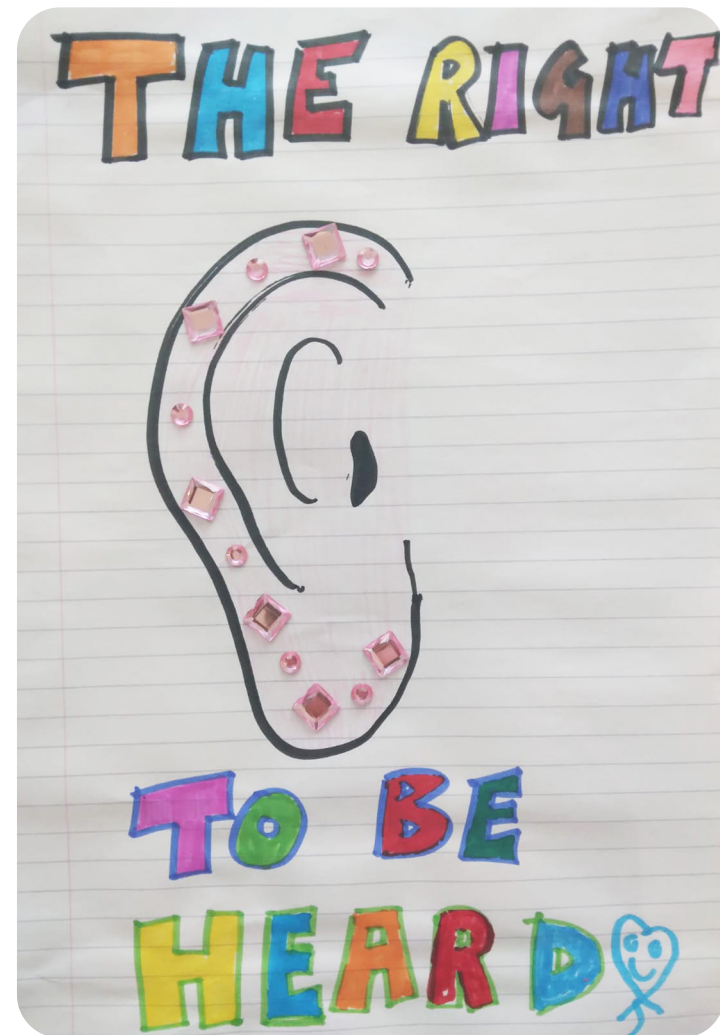
The Scottish Government and the national Promise Team reinforced that this work is **“immediate and urgent work - what can change now must change now”** and that implementation of The Promise must not be delayed. In East Renfrewshire we have made the same commitment to our current looked after children and young people, those who we previously looked after, and for those who will experience care in the future. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic we sought opportunities to drive forward The Promise believing that during this extraordinarily challenging time children and young people in our care needed to be loved, safe, and listened to more than ever.

Over this time local partner agencies have demonstrated a commitment to improving the life chances of our looked after and care experienced children and young people but are aware we have more work to do to enable us to achieve our goal of being the best possible parent we can be in line with The Promise. We all understand that when a child or young person becomes looked after – at home or away from home - the local authority, health board, and a number of other public bodies take on the role of Corporate Parent. Corporate Parenting is the collective responsibility of the council, elected members, employees, and the other key partner agencies, to provide the best possible care and protection for our looked after children. This also means that each specified public body has the statutory responsibility to act for a looked after child in the same way that every parent wants to act. In East Renfrewshire this has meant we want the best for our children, to see them flourish with good health, to be safe and happy, to do well in education and enjoy healthy relationships. Similarly we want them to make the most of the available cultural and leisure opportunities, and to develop towards adulthood fully prepared to lead independent lives. Importantly, we want young people to progress into a positive post school destination, whether this be further or higher education, or employment, and to be financially secure.



the  
promise

We are now over three years into the Promise's ten year plan with the current plan focusing on the period from 2021 until 2024 which is broadly running parallel with our previous and our new Children's and Young People's Services Plans. Our priorities over the next three years are to ensure we deliver on a **Good Childhood** and **Holistic Whole Family Support**. Culture, systems, and practice change will be needed for us to be successful in these areas but with children and families at the centre of service redesign programmes we are confident that we can achieve the high expectations we have set ourselves. This will include working closely with our local Champions Board and our Mini Champs to ensure that their unique experiences shape future provision. Later this year, The Promise Scotland team will embark on the work to develop Plan 25-27 to cover the second three-year phase before Plan 28-30 is laid out to finalise Scotland's commitment. By which time, the Promise in East Renfrewshire will have been kept.



## Mental Health and Wellbeing

For the most part, children and young people will experience good mental health along with the normal challenges and stresses of growing up. They will benefit from positive and helpful support for their wellbeing from their family at home, in early years settings and at school, and they will not require any extra help over and above that from the people they see on a daily basis. There will of course be a proportion of children and young people who will need extra help at some point, some of whom may even require additional or specialist services intervention. This may be because of factors relating to their development or health profile or because of the impact of adverse experiences on them, their family or community.

However the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the circumstances of many children, young people and families, and we have seen a significant rise in the number of those experiencing challenges with their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Referrals to child and adolescent mental health services have increased by 50% and within this increase analysis highlighted an even higher increase in atypical eating disorders and complex neurodevelopmental conditions.

In response CAMHS staff have strengthened their links with local community services to provide an alternative and a speedier response to support families and reduce the need for specialised input. It is envisaged that the implementation of the single neurodevelopmental pathway within the current mental health structure, in line with national recommendations, will provide timely consistent support to children and young people with neurodevelopmental presentations.



The multi-agency Healthier Minds Service established in 2020, provides mental and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people and their families. The support is identified and aligned through the multi-agency screening hub, which meets weekly and is attended by regular representatives from Educational Psychology, CAMHS, Social Work, RAMH Youth Counselling service, Children 1st and Community Learning & Development. This service works alongside the existing Family Wellbeing Service which links to GP practices.

Improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people will continue to be one of the highest priorities for East Renfrewshire Council, Education Services and our Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) as we go forward, over the next three years. Together all partners in East Renfrewshire will continue to develop the integrated approach to mental and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people and families that will ensure they receive the right care and interventions at the right time and in the right place. More information on our local services can be found on the Healthier Minds Website for children, young people, families and practitioners. The site outlines ways to support mental and emotional wellbeing in a holistic way, providing information and resources that can help at different stages of children and young people's development.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/healthierminds/>



### Complex and additional needs

East Renfrewshire children's planning partnership continues to prioritise the wellbeing of children and young people with complex additional support needs. Although in East Renfrewshire just over a quarter of school pupils are recorded as having an additional support need, which is lower than the national average of around a third, a smaller proportion require multi agency care and support during their childhood. The range of needs that children can present with however is increasingly diverse and complex in nature and as a result of this all services have required to adapt and become more creative in how they support families and carers.

As a direct consequence of the pandemic and the social isolation experienced by families caring for children with additional needs, we have seen an increased demand for services across the area and a higher degree of children and young people requiring multi agency assessment and support. Education, health, social work, and other services are experiencing increased demand for assessments and care planning for children and young people with conditions including neurodiversity/autism, sensory impairments - visual and hearing, physical disability, learning disability, and significant social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Children's services are also strengthening links with local adult services providers to build capacity in this area and improve the post school transition planning arrangements for young people as they move on into young adulthood. It is anticipated that this will be an area requiring more focus as the population of young people with additional support needs grow in their development from childhood through adolescence, and into being adults. Developments in relation to the Promise and holistic family support will improve how children and families access information and local resources that help to reduce barriers to inclusion at home, school and in the community.

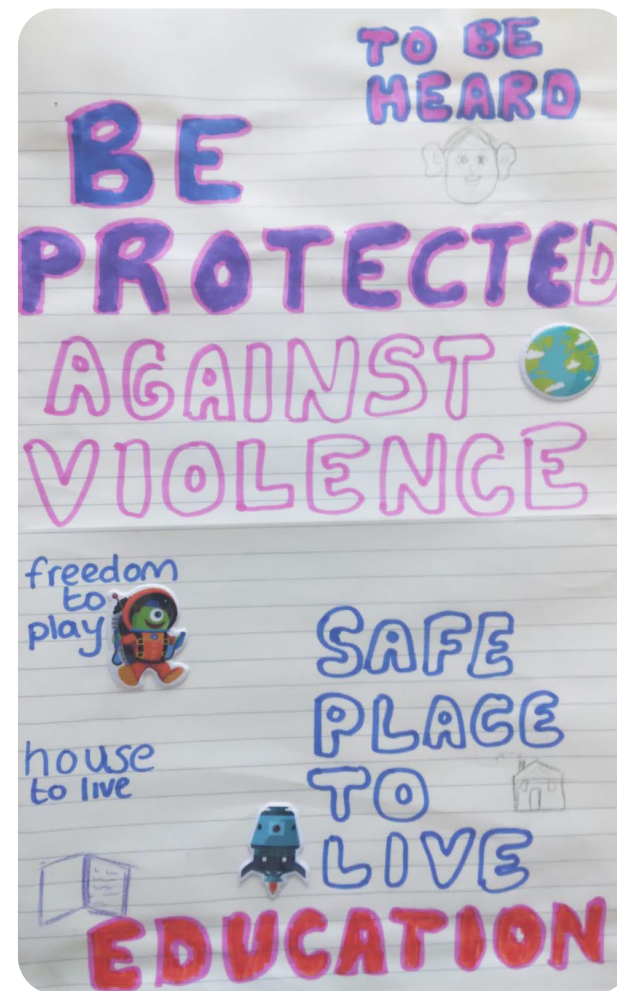


## Keeping children and young people safe - Our commitment to working with children, young people, their families and carers

When a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm, it can be a very difficult time for them and their family/carers. Keeping children at the centre of everything we do is very important to us. The East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2023-2026 will focus on how we can continue to work with children, young people and their families as well as our partners to ensure that children are kept safe in their families and communities. We recognise adjusting to life after Covid-19 and the lockdown restrictions continues to have an impact on our children, young people and their families. We will continue to work with them and our partners to ensure that they receive the right support at the right time to minimise any risks as they continue to adjust to life following the pandemic.

We will continue to ensure that children, young people and their families are involved in every step of the process and, where we need to do an assessment of their needs and circumstances, that they are part of this. We also want children, young people and their families to be part of meetings so that they can contribute to their plans for keeping them safe. Our ongoing implementation of the Signs of Safety approach allows us to do this in a meaningful way.

Furthermore we also want children, young people and their families to tell us what is working well and what we can do to improve our services. The inspection of joint services for children who are at risk of harm indicated that we do all this very well and we received a grading of excellent. We will continue to build on this good practice. The new National Child Protection Guidance for Scotland was published in 2021 and we are working hard to adapt our local guidance and processes to reflect this national guidance.



## Child Poverty and the Cost of Living

The ongoing and cumulative impacts of COVID-19 and the Cost-of-Living Crisis has seen families in East Renfrewshire, like others across Scotland, facing more financial pressures than ever before. Those previously experiencing poverty have seen this worsened and many who were previously 'just about managing' are now finding themselves in poverty. We are fortunate in East Renfrewshire to have one of the lowest levels of child poverty in Scotland at 14.4%. Average wages are high for those living in the area, unemployment rates are low and our residents are traditionally less likely to receive social security benefits. However, more recently, we have seen uptake rates for benefits, Scottish Welfare Fund and Money Advice Support. East Renfrewshire's Money Advice and Rights team and our local Citizens Advice Bureau have seen a 33% increase in the number of referrals received. This suggests an increase in the number of families experiencing financial vulnerability.

We have also noted a change in the demographics of the people accessing advice services. There has been a rise in the number of in-work families seeking assistance. There has also been a change to individuals' debt profiles, with personal debt for consumer goods decreasing, while debt for basic household expenditure is increasing. The demand for financial support is still primarily from the most deprived areas, however, there has been a significant increase from the more affluent areas who have not traditionally accessed advice services.

The challenges faced by families who do experience poverty are the same regardless of demographic or location. So, we continue to focus on tackling the drivers of poverty whilst also mitigating the impacts of those who are in poverty.

We recognise the impact of poverty on the health and wellbeing of children and young people and that the damaging effects can have a long-term impact into adulthood. We want all children in East Renfrewshire to experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed. We will continue to tackle child poverty to create a fairer future with all and make people's lives better. East Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership is committed to reducing child poverty. Tackling child poverty is at the core of Fairer East Ren's focus to minimise inequalities of outcomes across East Renfrewshire and is in line with the Scottish Government's Fairer Scotland Action Plan taking into account the new duties required under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act.

Our Local Child Poverty Action Report details our local actions focussing on maximising incomes, reducing costs and improving the wellbeing of families facing poverty. Our Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026 will compliment this work.

**The Scottish  
WELFARE FUND**





## Children and Young People's Rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a core international human rights instrument which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by the UK Government in 1991. The UNCRC sets out the human rights of every person under the age of 18 and has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It makes clear how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 further strengthens children's rights and places duties on local authorities, health boards and partner agencies to plan, develop and deliver services in this policy and legal context.

Our new Children's Services Plan 2023-26 has been developed using a rights based approach and directly links to our commitment to promoting and protecting children and young people's rights. In preparation for incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law, East Renfrewshire Council, the HSCP along with the wider partnership, established a UNCRC Implementation Group to ensure that all agencies and their staff are supported to consider the implications for how we deliver council services. This group are progressing three main themes linked to participation of children and young people, promotion of rights across all services and publicising children's rights to children and families.

Underpinning this work is a commitment to improving outcomes for all of our children and young people. We respect each child's right to family life and to grow up loved, safe and respected so that they can reach their potential. However we understand our additional responsibility to protect the rights of particular groups of children and young people who experience barriers to success and achievement or whose rights are threatened by abuse or poverty. For those children who need additional support, we work with them to assess their circumstances and make decisions with them and their families too. We seek children's views on a wide range of issues using appropriate and inclusive tools and we routinely consult with them when new policies and services are being developed and reviewed.

In line with statutory duties a joint report which sets out the progress we have made and the achievements we can build upon over the next three years will be published separate to the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2027.



## Creating a Trauma Informed Workforce

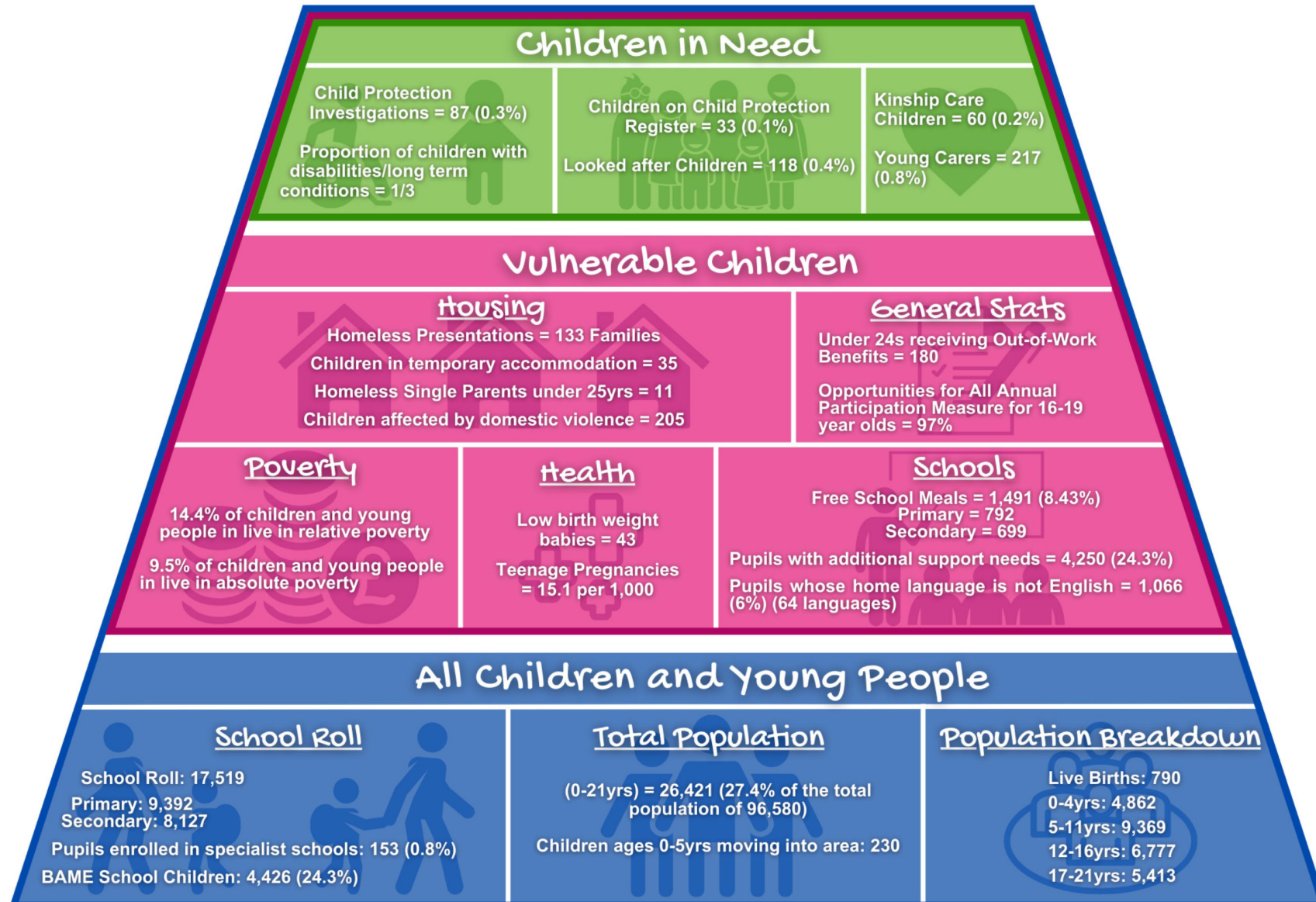
Within East Renfrewshire we continue to recognise the impact that adverse and distressing experiences can have on individuals and the importance of services responding in ways that help promote recovery and prevent further re-traumatisation. We continue on our journey of change to develop services that understand these challenges and a workforce that responds in a sensitive and responsive way.

The local partnership to drive the implementation of our “Trauma Informed Services” strategy is well established and our partners in transformational change are leading experts in the field. Having recently developed our pool of accredited trainers in line with the National Trauma Training programme, we will now build on the rollout of the programme across the wider workforce. In addition, we will introduce learning opportunities in order to ensure all our staff become aware of the extent of trauma in our communities and respond in ways that are supportive and promote recovery and wellbeing.

The meaningful involvement of people with lived experience of trauma is an essential part of this development and their contribution will be critical to its success. They will work in partnership with our new Trauma Implementation Co-ordinator to raise awareness of the strategy across East Renfrewshire and help us to identify specific services and environments where need for change is greatest. This will help target our efforts to ensure the greatest effect on the systems, cultures and organisations for those who use our services. We will aim to measure the impact of our work against the new national Quality Improvement Framework.



## East Renfrewshire's Children's Population at a Glance 2021-22/2022-23



## Children's Services Plan – Priorities, Contributions, and Measures

### PRIORITY 1

We will help families and carers give their children the best start in life in a nurturing, safe and stable home environment	
Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Holistic whole family support</b> will be available across the area to families needing to access it.</li> <li>2. The national <b>Getting it right for every child programme refresh</b> will be rolled out across the local children's services partnership</li> <li>3. The <b>Universal Health Visiting Pathway</b> now implemented will be evaluated and impact on families analysed</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/carers accessing holistic family support indicate improvement in wellbeing (increase)</li> <li>• % of 0-2 year olds registered with a dentist (increase)</li> <li>• % of children reaching all of the expected developmental milestones by 27-30 month child health review (increase)</li> <li>• Children reach developmental milestones start P1 (increase)</li> <li>• Percentage of primary 1 children at risk of overweight and obesity (decrease)</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY 2

We will protect our most vulnerable children, young people and families	
Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <b>Signs of Safety</b> approach to keeping children safe will be rolled out across the local children’s services partnership</li> <li>2. Local partners will collaborate with young people to design and <b>deliver diversionary programmes</b> and opportunities that promote inclusion, responsibility, and improve wellbeing.</li> <li>3. <b>Housing and accommodation support services for young people</b> will be evaluated in partnership with young people using a co-production approach to redesign and commissioning</li> <li>4. <b>Recovery and mental health services for 16-26 year olds</b> will be evaluated to determine options for the best model of delivery for this age group in transition to adulthood</li> <li>5. Prepare for the passing of the <b>Children’s Care and Justice (Scotland) Bill</b> and new statutory duties that local authorities will be required to adhere to.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversionary activity reduces risk and promotes inclusion</li> <li>• % of young carers reporting satisfaction with support services</li> <li>• Number of unallocated children with 2 or more IRD’s in the last 2 years</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY 3

**We will ensure children and young people with complex needs are supported to overcome barriers to inclusion at home, school, and communities**

Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Develop opportunities</b> for children and young people with additional support needs to be included in a wide range of <b>community activities and experiences</b> including mainstream and inclusive provision</li> <li>2. Improve access to inclusive opportunities <b>information</b> to ensure children and their families are aware of what services, programmes, and activities are available to them locally</li> <li>3. Arrangements for young people with complex needs to achieve and sustain a <b>positive transition</b> into young adulthood will be strengthened to ensure the experience is improved and the outcome in line with young people and families expectations</li> <li>4. Support the local implementation of the NHSGGC Specialist Children’s Services <b>Neurodevelopmental Service Specification</b></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent satisfaction level on supports for children with complex additional support needs</li> <li>• All young people in transition will have a plan in place by age 14 years</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY 4

**We will deliver on our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to our looked after and care experienced children and young people by fully implementing The Promise**

Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create settled, secure, nurturing and <b>permanent places to live</b> within a family setting for all care experienced children and young people in line with expectations from <b>The Promise Good Childhood</b></li> <li>2. Corporate Parents will provide welcoming, inclusive, supportive opportunities for children and young people and encourage them to <b>express their views</b></li> <li>3. Support young people to <b>remain in a positive care placement</b> until they are ready to move on and/or good quality accommodation with options to support their needs</li> <li>4. <b>Care experienced children and young people living outwith the local authority area</b> will be supported with improving their learning experiences and accessing community opportunities</li> <li>5. <b>Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people</b> will be supported by all Corporate Parents to integrate into local communities and access the care and support they need</li> <li>6. In partnership with children, young people and families develop a <b>Promise Board</b> to promote participation and decision making with service users</li> <li>7. Track the <b>achievement and attainment</b> of care experienced children and young people to ensure they are making the appropriate progress with their learning and school experience and taking up wider opportunities available to them</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of Looked After Children with more than one placement within the last year (decrease)</li> <li>• Attendance rate for Looked After Pupils (Primary &amp; Secondary) (increase)</li> <li>• Number of Looked After Young People gaining achievement awards (increase)</li> <li>• Average number of insight tariff points for care experienced school leavers</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY 5

**We will respond to the mental and emotional wellbeing, and physical health needs of children and young people**

Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Improve access to and awareness of the range of mental health</b> supports available in school and the community, to increase uptake and improve wellbeing</li> <li>2. <b>Promote the Healthier Minds Resource website</b> for children, families and partner agencies to increase knowledge and skills, and enhance support strategies</li> <li>3. Create learning opportunities and activities that provide accurate information to <b>support young people to make safer and informed lifestyle choices</b></li> <li>4. Respond to the needs of <b>pupils with very low school attendance</b> by creating the new Learn Well nurturing learning resource that will cater for their emotional wellbeing needs and ensure education experience is maintained</li> <li>5. Nurture the interest and talents of children and young people in <b>sports, arts, and leisure</b> to assist improve emotional wellbeing</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage reduction in the number of repeat presentations to GP's for young people referred to the Family Wellbeing Service 6 months post closure (in relation to emotional wellbeing) (decrease)</li> <li>• Children accessing Healthier Minds Service report improvements in their mental wellbeing</li> <li>• Percentage of children and young people (P5-S6) who agree or strongly agree that their school offers them the opportunity to take part in activities in school beyond the classroom and timetabled day (increase)</li> <li>• Percentage of children and young people (P5-S6) who answer that their (physical) health is good or excellent (increase)</li> <li>• Learn Well measure TO BE AGREED</li> <li>• Proportion of pupils entering positive destinations (increase)</li> </ul>



## PRIORITY 6

We will upskill our children's workforce	
Our contribution to making this happen	How we will measure our progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roll out the <b>National and Local Trauma Training Programme</b></li> <li>2. Develop a <b>skilled workforce who promote mental wellbeing</b>, support healthy relationships, tolerance, equity and inclusion</li> <li>3. Create new multi-agency workforce training on supporting children and young people with <b>communication and learning difficulties</b>.</li> <li>4. Enable the workforce to undertake <b>equality impact assessment</b> activity to ensure services are designed and delivered to promote equality and enhance rights in line with legislation and local and national policies</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce learning and development opportunities increase knowledge, skills and confidence</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY 7

We will reduce the impact of poverty on children and families
Our contribution to making this happen
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children's planning partnership will contribute towards the implementation and delivery of the Local Child Poverty Action Report</li> </ol>

## What we spend on children and families services in East Renfrewshire

A breakdown of expenditure in relation to children and young people's services is below. It should be noted that whilst Education, HSCP, and SDS, can better demonstrate how much they spend, other services are less able to provide this information comprehensively as their core business is not exclusively targeted children and young people. In view of this they proportioned their budgets in an attempt to illustrate how much of their overall budget is dedicated to services for children and young people.

<b>Expenditure on Children's Services 2023/2024</b>	
<b>East Renfrewshire Council</b>	£s
Education (Core – Recurring)	<b>172,404,000</b>
Education - Covid funding (from reserves – non recurring)	<b>544,200</b>
Community Learning and Development	<b>624,800</b>
Housing	<b>700,000</b>
Environment - Family Firm/Youth Employability Programme/ Parental Employment Support	<b>769,000</b>
<b>East Renfrewshire HSCP</b>	£s
Children and Families (Core – Recurring)	<b>10,459,600</b>
Children and Families – COVID funding (from reserves –non recurring)	<b>311,700</b>
Health Visiting and School Nursing	<b>2,155,700</b>
<b>NHSGGC</b>	£s
Specialist Children's Services	<b>990,100</b>
Speech and Language Services	<b>261,000</b>
<b>Community Planning Partners and Partner Agencies</b>	£s
Culture and Leisure Trust	<b>3,362,100</b>
Skills Development Scotland	<b>1,704,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£194,286,200</b>

## Evaluating Impact – How we measure and report on success

Evaluating the impact of the plan is a key responsibility of all children's planning partners. To support this task each year through the work of the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership (IOCYP) we will in line with our statutory duty publish an annual performance report to demonstrate progress towards us achieving the actions, outcomes, and targets set out on our plan on a page at page 7. All four of the children's planning groups will work to a delivery plan with clear actions and the co chairs of each group will report to the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership on what is being achieved and also any challenges that are being experienced. The latter will scrutinise performance reports and provide support to the children's planning groups to find solutions to any challenges they encounter.

Furthermore a suite of critical indicators has been agreed by the partnership to help us report on how well we are achieving our aims. These indicators reflect local priorities as well as those from the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. Although we are confident this set of measures will allow us to determine improvement and identify areas of strength we will regularly be engaging with children, families and communities to hear what they think about our progress as ultimately they are the most important source of information on how well we are doing to deliver on the vision they set for us; their experiences and views will be the final arbiter of whether we have got it right or not. Going forward we will be working even harder to ensure our services operate in a way that openly invites feedback and co design, and encourages frequent communication and dialogue with those who are using our services. This is especially important for children and families who are disadvantaged, or experiencing a range of more complex difficulties.



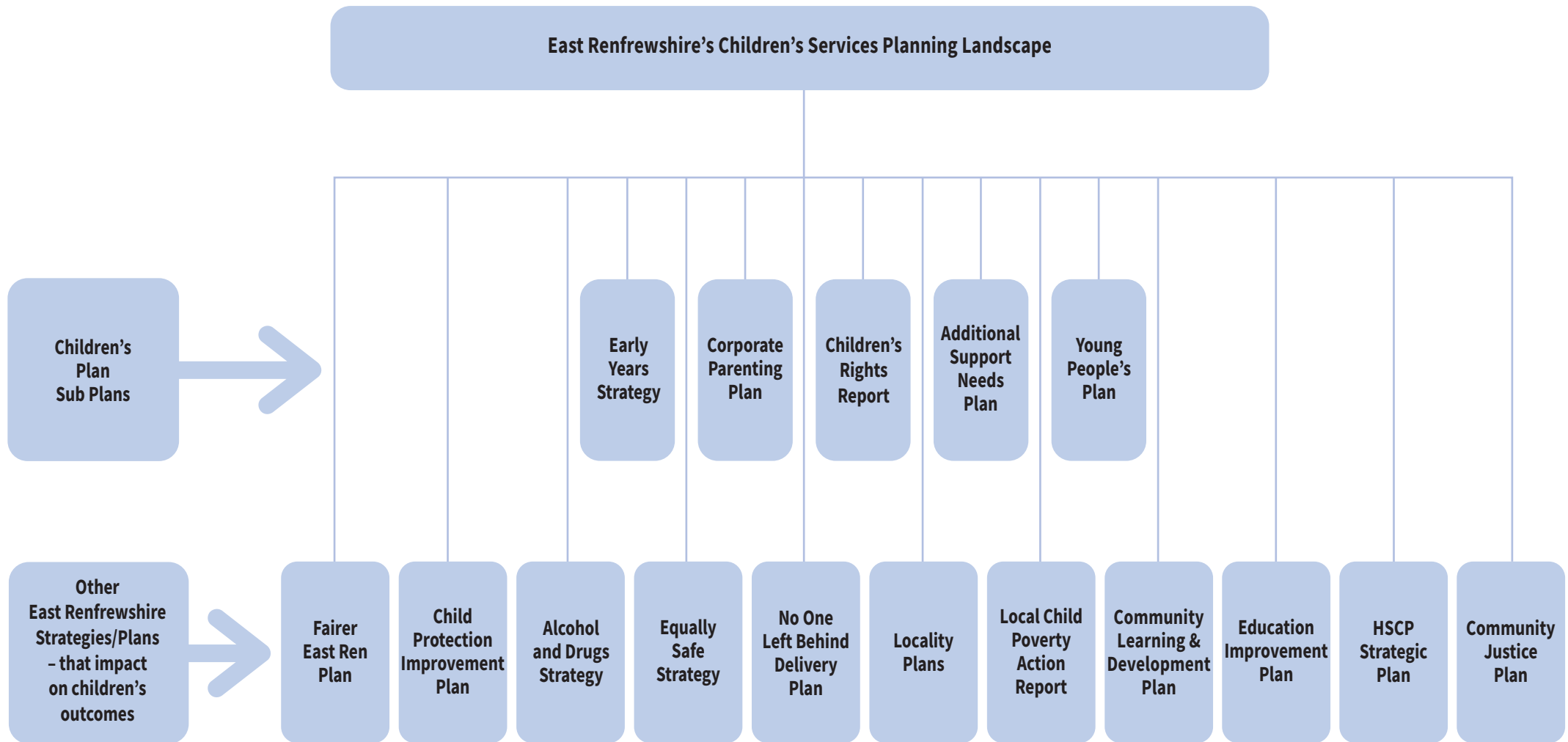
## Appendix 1

### Working in Partnership – East Renfrewshire's Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership



## Appendix 2

### East Renfrewshire's Children's Services Planning Landscape



## Appendix 3

### Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership – membership

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Email Address
Raymond Prior	Head of Children's Services and Justice, Chief Social Work Officer (Co Chair)	ER HSCP	<a href="mailto:raymond.prior@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk">raymond.prior@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk</a>
Siobhan McColgan	Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) (Co Chair)	ERC Education	<a href="mailto:siohan.mccolgan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk">siohan.mccolgan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk</a>
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Ruth Gallagher/ Alan Campbell	Chief Officer	Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire SCIO	<a href="mailto:ruth.gallagher@va-er.org.uk">ruth.gallagher@va-er.org.uk</a>
Brian Dunigan	Money Advice & Rights Team Manager	ERC Business Operations and Partnerships	<a href="mailto:brian.dunigan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk">brian.dunigan@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk</a>
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Clare Creighton	Quality Improvement Manager	ERC Education	<a href="mailto:clare.creighton@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk">clare.creighton@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk</a>

## East Renfrewshire's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026

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