



Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	LOIP Improvement Project 6.2 “to increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by Health and Education by 2024”
Lead Officer	Eleanor Sheppard – Chair of Children’s Services Board
Report Author	Allison Horne – Quality Improvement Manager
Date of Report	05.02.25
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 26 th February 2025

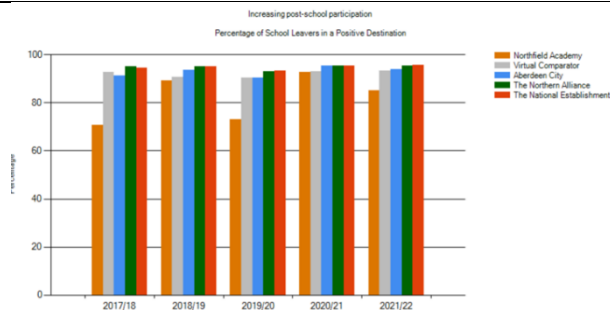
Purpose of the Report

This report presents the results of the LOIP Improvement Project 6.2 which aimed to increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by Health and Education by 2024.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 National and local research identifies that those living in areas of deprivation have been most impacted by the pandemic and that their wellbeing has been most adversely affected. At the time of establishing the Project Charter, there was a co-located and delivered service at The Links ELC (Early Learning & Childcare) Hub. The service had been evaluated as ‘very good’ and ‘excellent’ by the Care Inspectorate due in part to the additional benefits a co-located and delivered service can realise through increased prevention and early intervention.
- 1.2 From a review of the success of this targeted partnership integration and delivery model, a need to establish other co-located/co-delivery models was agreed as a priority. It was thought that delivering more integrated services with partners would support children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, to achieve the same health and education outcomes as their peers. Feedback from families reinforced the value of agencies delivering integrated services and support.
- 1.3 In addition to having a general pursuance of further opportunities for Co-location, it was agreed that the project team would work with young people in a single community to see what might be realised by giving young people a voice in the shaping of services for their communities in the longer term.
- 1.4 Northfield was identified as an initial test area for this exploration with young people. Data for Northfield showed:
 - 90% of young people at Northfield Academy were categorised as being in SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) quintiles 1 and 2.



- Educational outcomes across Northfield were lower than their virtual comparator. In S4, 49% of learners achieved at least one SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) Level 5 award compared to the city average of 80%. Only 13% of young people at Northfield achieved at least one Level 6 award in S5 compared to the 57% average across Aberdeen City.
- Positive destinations at Northfield sat at 85% compared to the city average of 94%.
- SHINE (Scottish Health Improvement Research Network) data confirmed that only 59% of young people surveyed at Northfield Academy self-reported positive health compared to 73% of secondary pupils across the city.
- The uptake of the HPV vaccine in S3 girls was 74% in Northfield, lower than the city overall figure of 80%.
- There was a high proportion of younger mums (14% first time mums under 19) and older people in the community.
- Life expectancy at birth for Northfield was 78.9 for females and 74.8 for males compared to 81 for females and 76.9 for males citywide.

2 **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AIM**

- 2.1 Against this background, the CPA Board approved the project charter for the initiation of an improvement project which aimed to increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by Health and Education by 2024.
- 2.2 It was hoped that this co-designed approach would help develop a co-delivery model to promote healthy lifestyle choices to support physical and mental wellbeing and help support young people through a (vocational) pathway (in hospitality or care for example) and into a positive and sustained destination.

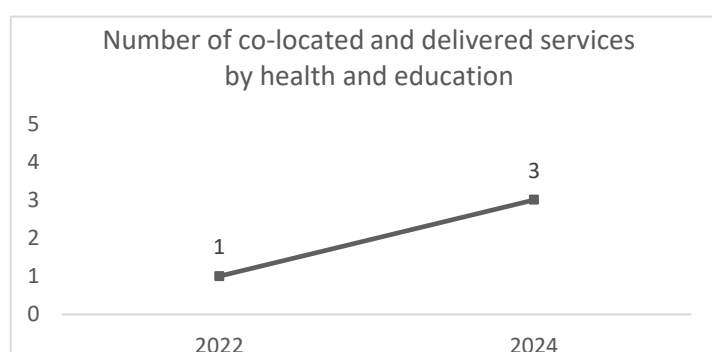
3 **WHAT CHANGES DID WE MAKE?**

- 3.1 The project team had an on-going role in enabling and planning further co-location opportunities. In furtherance of this, the team has been involved in supporting the establishment of a co-located models at Kaimhill School (a children's social work team being based within a primary school), helping with the early development of the Bairns Hoose Pathfinder and helped contribute to the development of the Future Libraries Model by sharing lessons learned. This aspect of the work of the team was less focussed on testing changes, more so on being alert to opportunities, supporting and enabling others and sharing learning.
- 3.2 The change ideas explored through the Co-Design with young people at Northfield were initially set as to:
 - Co-design with young people and partners a Healthy Hub model to be located within Northfield Academy.
 - Work with young people to explore community data in order to identify target groups and the support required.
 - Co-design a programme of support for the target groups, which is supported by professionals but delivered in part by young people at Northfield Academy who are working on a vocational qualification.

- 3.3 Following approval of the Project Charter in April 2023, a group of S5/S6 pupils were convened in June 2023. Whilst the general consensus was that promoting positive health would be beneficial, the young people were insistent that those we would most like target most would be very unlikely to attend a school setting (this learning fed into the Future Libraries Model). Pupils felt strongly that a focus should be on current and future S1/2 pupils and encouraging good school attendance habits.
- 3.4 Pupils relayed that they believed that work to encourage more positive school attendance at an earlier stage (in primary school) would help develop positive habits and help young people achieve more positive long-term outcomes throughout their time at secondary school. As a result, the focus on the test was narrowed (with the first change idea set aside) to focus on co-delivery to realise improved attendance over the primary stages with a view to better habits being established earlier in life and these healthy habits transitioning with young people from primary into secondary school.
- 3.5 A small test of change in relation to attendance in P.6 and P.7 was established at Manor Park. This saw a school nurse (SN) in training working with 10 families with low attendance (attributed to health/medical reasons) over 10 weeks. Following consultation with the School Leadership Team and Home School Liaison Officer to identify target families, the SN in training made initial contact with parents/carers to establish potential health barriers to attendance. Subsequent support was need-dependent and specific. It included regular phone contact, support to access further health interventions, for example, referral to other health services, and signposting to access support from other agencies, for example, housing, where the barriers identified were not solely health related.

4 **HAVE OUR CHANGES RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT?**

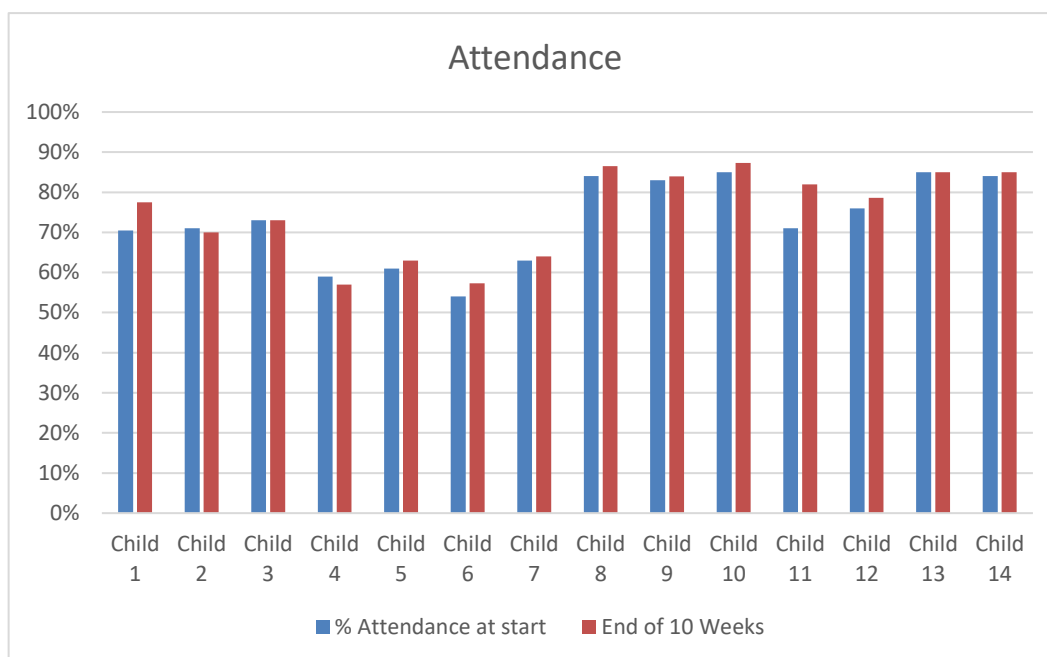
- 4.1 Yes, the aim has been achieved. As a result of the team raising awareness and promoting opportunities for co-location and supporting and enabling others to progress and sharing learning, there are now 3 co-located and delivered services by health and education.
- 4.2 At the start of the project there was 1 Co-located service at the Links Hub where a Health Visitor is based two days per week. The second service (around attendance) has seen health and education colleagues collaborate at Manor Park School (our second collaboration). In addition, the project team has worked to ensure successful planning for the successful integration of a Children's Social Work team at Kaimhill School (our fourth collaboration/co-location). As a result, the aim of the project has been achieved.



- 4.3 Considerable work continues to be undertaken to establish a new integrated service, our Bairns Hoose, on the Links ELC site. Building work is currently underway and the new integrated provision should be operational by the end of 2025. The opening of this provision will see colleagues from NHSG, Police Scotland, the Third Sector and Courts all co-located to support families who have experienced, or perpetrated harm. At this point, (late 2025) there will be 4 co-located operational services.

Co-Delivery Test at Manor Park

- 4.4 The small test of change in relation to attendance in P.6 and P.7 at Manor Park saw a school nurse (SN) in training working with 10 families with low attendance over 10 weeks. Over the course of the 10 weeks attendance rates rose for all learners as shown below. The learners who were involved in the test of change and who returned to Manor Park in August 2024, continue to maintain attendance rates above that recorded at the beginning of the test of change.



5 HOW HAVE OUR COMMUNITIES/PROTECTED GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT AND THE IMPACT OF THIS

- 5.1 Young people participated when the project charter had been approved. When the project team engaged with young people in the targeted community, they provided rich insight that helped shape the project. Young people continue to drive the attendance project across Northfield Associated Schools Group. Lessons learned include the need to convene young people before establishing the initial project charter to ensure that their insights are captured at the point a project is initiated.
- 5.2 The House Captains at Manor Park led their peers in promoting attendance activities and information sharing with their families. This peer led learning has helped support the improvements noted at 4.4.
- 5.3 Moving forward, targeted children and families at Bramble Brae will be invited to collaborate with the school nurse to identify barriers to and solutions for improving and sustaining positive attendance. The Bramble Brae Pupil Council will promote attendance activities and information sharing with all families.

6 HOW WILL WE SUSTAIN THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

- 6.1 The Manor Park team continues to monitor the Manor Park data so that any concerning trends can be quickly identified and addressed.
- 6.2 Co-Location and collaboration continues to be a key focus of the Children's Services Board and is being driven now through our Fairer Futures Pathfinder (including our Future Libraries Model).

7 HOW WILL WE MONITOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

7.1 The attendance data is monitored at school level and by the education Quality Improvement Team during routine quality assurance visits. This data will be routinely shared with the Transitions to Positive Destinations Subgroup.

7.2 Wider Fairer Futures Partnership data (including co-delivered and community-based services) will be monitored through the Fairer Futures Steering Group with progress towards the detailed Implementation Plan shared through the Community Planning Aberdeen Board.

8 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCALE UP AND SPREAD

8.1 The test of change around attendance at Manor Park will be mirrored at Bramble Brae. If successful again the approach will be spread to all primary schools in the ASG. This could lead to the approach being adopted on a city-wide basis in the longer term.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the CPA Management Group:

- i) Agree to recommend to the CPA Board in March 2025 that testing is concluded and that this Improvement Project is ended on the basis that the figures to date show that the aim has been achieved.
- ii) Recommend that the approach to improved attendance be replicated at Bramble Brae School and thereafter spread across all Northfield feeder primary schools and wider (subject to successful testing); and
- iii) Note that co-location will be further developed through the Fairer Futures Partnership (and associated Future Libraries Model) with progress reported to the CPA Board in due course; and
- iv) Note that the dataset for the overall aim will continue to be reported via the Children's Services Board and through the annual outcome report to ensure progress is monitored

Opportunities and Risks

Opportunities:

- Improvement in attendance of children whose families are supported by the school nurse at Manor Park School and other primary schools in the Northfield Associated Schools Group

Risks:

- Families do not engage with the school nurse to support improving attendance

CONSULTATION

- Northfield Academy SLT
- Northfield Academy Pupil Focus Group
- Health: Lead Nurses, School Nurse, Health Practitioner
- Manor Park SLT
- Manor Park House Captains
- Attainment and Transitions Group
- CSB

Allison Horne, Quality Improvement Manager
Education and Lifelong Learning
Contact details: ahorne@aberdeencity.gov.uk