

CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD

Note of Meeting

19th January 2026

Present: - Shona Milne (SM), Graeme Simson (GS), Nicola Graham (NG), Emma McPherson (EM), Graeme Dale (GD), Julie Warrender (JW), George Nixon (GN), Margaret Stewart (MS) Georgette Cobban (GC), Tracy Davis (TD), Phil Mackie (PM), Paul McNamee (PMcN)

Apologies: - Eleanor Sheppard (ES), Robin McGregor (RM)

Others Noted: Grace Milne (GM), Anaelle Giroux-Arcella (AG), Brian Webb (BW), Carol Porter (CP)

Agenda item		Actioned by:
1. Welcome and apologies	GS welcomed GM to CSB covering Item 8 re the Carers Strategy and AG as a guest observer from Public Health	GS
2. Note of previous meeting	<u>Note of Meeting 17th November 2026</u> Proposed by: NG Seconded by: GN	
3. LOIP 2026/36 <u>CFLI Final Logic Model</u> <u>CFLI System Change</u> <u>Resourcing</u> <u>CFLI System Change</u> <u>Resourcing</u>	GS presented the final draft of the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Logic Model from the LOIP and the System Change resourcing table, to confirm CSB leads were satisfied with the content: Logic Model Overall, the CSB approved the progression of the Model to CPMG and beyond for inclusion in the LOIP. The following points were identified for further discussion/action: Case Worker: testing of the model will begin through Homestart and the full pathway delivery for developmental milestones for identifying those in need/tracking and monitoring progress of the work	GS JW

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Co-Created Safespaces: Definition ‘Safe Space’ needs clarification to ensure consistency in policy and practice Supporting 12–18-Year-Old Boys to Become Positive Citizens: the programme will have a two-phase approach: reviewing the PSE curriculum and developing targeted interventions. Awaiting national guidance on defining what constitutes a misogynistic incident in schools, this will determine how the young people are identified and the incident data used in the project to track progress. Bespoke programmes for young people at risk of disengaging from education: a number of locations will be identified to use as temporary spaces and partnership buildings for short-term educational support, with the goal of reintegrating the young people into school over time. Work Experience Programmes: Efforts to enhance employability through sustained work experience opportunities will be offered through ABZ campus. Neuro Divergent Pathways Programme: Existing resources are currently being reconfigured in order to carry out renewed testing and implementation of the programme Overall Stretch Outcome: NG requested clarification on whether the Sustained Positive Destinations data or the Participation Measure would be used to track progress. It was agreed that the Follow Up Destination data would likely remain the KPI for the Stretch Outcome, with the Participation Measure used to supplement this figure, providing interim data on progress throughout the year.	GN GS/SM SM SM TD

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	System Change Resourcing The CSB approved the Resourcing paper, with the following discussion points raised: • Funding for the case worker initiative is currently supported by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, sustainability beyond the funds expiry date need to be considered. JW to explore further. • Funding/partnership arrangements for support to young people at risk (e.g., defining safe spaces) remain fluid, with pending decisions (e.g., CashBack for Communities) and ongoing partner alignment. GN to continue to review and update CSB on progress. • Existing resources are being used for the PSE curriculum review, with uncertainty around funding for subsequent intervention phases. SM to continue to review and update CSB on progress. • Sustainability of bespoke education support programmes will require reallocation of Scottish Government funds and ongoing partnership expansion. • The ABZ campus work experience strand has secured ACC funding and robust partnership arrangements. • Neurodivergent pathways is funded for two years by NHS Grampian Charity, with an expectation that service reconfiguration will enable sustainability post-funding. TD to update the Board on progress in securing sustained funding when this information can be provided.	JW GN SM SM TD
4. Children's Services Plan Refresh 2026-2031 Draft Children Services Plan 2026-31 Template.docx	JS presented and overview of the draft Children's Services Plan 2026-31 which will be presented at CPMG on the 21st of March for approval to go to public consultation on the 16th of February. The Plan will be published alongside the LOIP 2026/36 on the 11th of June: • The Plan will run for five years (2026–2031) to reduce frequent changes. The plan will share the priorities for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning section of the LOIP as well linking the Child Poverty Plan, Corporate Parenting Plan, and incorporate requirements under the UNCRC Implementation Act.	JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	• The Plan aims to be summary in nature, whilst retaining essential information and statutory requirements. Summary data, contextual information on key demographic groups, and areas for improvement have also been included covering the same areas as the Previous Plan. • An easy-read/child-friendly version will be produced to support the consultation; initial focus will be on summary highlights and clear communication rather than a full simplified version, which will be drafted for final publication in June. • Governance arrangements, including the role of the six current Children's Services Board improvement groups, will be reviewed in February/March alongside the wider CPA Governance review; an update on this will be provided to the 18 March CSB. • Due to the enhanced children's rights reporting duties under new legislation, the current draft may need a more clear, forward-looking action plan to satisfy ministerial expectations. Actions: • CSB Members: Review and provide feedback on the draft Children's Services Plan, particularly regarding format, content, and any omissions or errors to JS. • JS: Governance structure to be reviewed and updated in line with new priorities, with further discussion at the March Children's Services Board meeting • MS/JS: Consultation documents and process to be finalised, including consideration of an accessible summary or easy-read version. • TD/JS: Identify named contacts for each local authority for the joint strategic needs assessment process. • TD/JS/MS: Consider strengthening the forward-looking action plan section in the draft to meet enhanced reporting requirements for children's rights. • CSB Members: Draft questions for inclusion in the in the LOIP/CSP consultation were presented to CSB for approval GS asked that CSB members review these questions and provide any feedback or suggestion to JS by COP Wednesday 21 January	CSB Leads JS MS/JS TD/JS TD/JS/MS CSB Members/ JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
5. Children's Services Plan 2023-26 Annual Report Draft Children's Services Plan Annual report 2025/26 Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2025-26 Timelines and Expectations.pptx	JS Provided an overview of the content of the Draft Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2025/26. The report this year published in June alongside the Children's Services Plan 2026/31 and LOIP 2026/36. JS Provided a presentation outlining the timelines for production of the Annual Report and the asks of CSB Leads to contribute to the draft: For the COP Friday the 20th of February CSB Leads tagged in the draft report area asked to: • White Text Data: Ensure that all white text data are the most current and accurate figures. Replace with up-to-date data where necessary. • Red Text Data: This data has not been updated please revise this data and replace with the most current statistics, turning this white to confirm it has been edited. • Red Text Narrative: Review and replace the red text narrative and data in the Annual Report with detail on current activities in the area(s) identified, please change this to black when complete and confirm this has been updated via comments. • Black Text Narrative: Narrative currently in black text is placeholder information, please review and edit, confirming via the comment box that you are happy with the updated content. • Add New Content: where examples of new programmes underway exist or new analysis/evaluation is required please add additional the narrative in relevant sections and add a comment to identify where these have been added. A Final Draft of the Annual Report will be presented to CSB on the 18th of March for approval	JS CSB Members

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Actions: • JS: Circulate the PowerPoint outlining timelines and specific asks; coordinate collection and review of updated data and narrative; reshare the annual report link and schedule meetings with individual members to provide further guidance. • CSB Members: Review and update data and narrative in relevant report sections by 20 February; ensure all contributions from respective areas are included and accurate. • CSB Subgroup Leads: Ensure that Project Managers of current LOIP Projects provide their final updates of their LOIP 2016/26 improvement projects as this narrative and data will be used to populate elements of the annual report (the original deadline for this was 6 January) • PM/JS: To clarify which health data sets should be included, ensuring outdated information is overwritten; facilitate interpretation of data by engaging colleagues in public health and NHS where appropriate. • CSB Members: Share the draft report with other relevant staff as needed, ensuring all shared content is updated and submitted by the deadline • JS: Provide ongoing support and guidance, particularly on process and template use, and be available for questions and clarification.	JS CSB Members CSB Subgroup Leads/JS PM/JS CSB Members JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
6. CYP Participation in Governance and Planning	MS provide a verbal update on the development of Children and Young Peoples Participation in the Children's Services Board/Shadow Board: • Feedback from children and young people regarding their involvement the planning, development and implementation of the Children's Services Plan has been gathered from various universal participation groups, including Aberdeen City Council and third sector providers. • A number of gaps in the representation of key groups of children and young people has been identified and are being addressed, particularly with children's social work. Meetings arranged with CP and her team to learn from the Champions Board experience. Plans are in also in place to engage further with NHSG and police volunteer groups to enhance mechanisms for meaningful youth participation. • Workshops are being organised with the Youth Work Team, Aberdeen Youth Movement, and other young people to explore differences and unique aspects of participation groups. Efforts underway to ensure that the Proposed Children's Services Plan priorities are mapped effectively, with good coverage and recognition of areas needing improvement. • An Upcoming meeting in February scheduled with Professor Lundy to share learning and plan next steps for youth engagement. • The CSB acknowledged the complexities and importance of capturing a broad range of young people's voices, ensuring meaningful and non-repetitive engagement. There was also recognition of the need for sensitive, valuable opportunities for young people to share their views, via multiple mediums and stages for engagement.	MS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Actions: • MS/BW: Continue mapping participation groups and developing the shadow board. • MS/CP: Share insights from the Champions Board to inform future engagement strategies. • TD/GN/MS: Arrange catch-up meeting to discuss police/NHSG volunteer involvement in youth participation • MS: Organise workshop with youth movement and other young people to refine participation mechanisms.	MS/BW MS/CP TD/GN/MS MS
7. The Promise – The Story So Far Building the Promise, Story of Progress Keeping the Promise: A Local Perspective	GS Provided an introduction to the recently published The Promise – The Story So Far and Keeping the Promise: A Local perspective The document provide a comprehensive review of the work undertaken in Scotland to date in working towards Keeping the Promise. GS encouraged Leads to read the report as there were a number of useful and informative examples of work across the country. A more substantive item on the associated documents will be provided to the March CSB	GS CSB Members GS/JS
8. Carers Strategy A City for all Carers - 2026-30 Appendix C .pdf Carers Strategy - Consultation and Engagement Summary.docx Carers Strategy 26-30 IIA P&R.docx	[The following Item was presented at the start of the meeting] GM presented the Carers Strategy for Aberdeen City: • The strategy encompasses support for all carers, including young carers and children in caring roles. Developed through a co-production process involving carers, staff, service providers, and partners, with extensive engagement events and one-to-one interviews. The strategy aims to increase carer engagement in service development and decision-making over the next four years.	GM

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	• There has been a substantial increase in identified young carers and adult carers, although numbers are still low compared to the population, particularly among young people. Challenges remain in self-identification among young carers; some do not recognise their caring role or prefer not to be formally identified. • Peer support has become a significant element, with positive feedback from participants. Aberdeen City is one of few areas with a Carer Reference Group, representing diverse carer experiences; efforts are ongoing to include more young carers. • Barnardo's contract for carer support services was renewed in April 2025, this contract will cover the life course of the strategy, potentially to a total of seven years to help ensure stability and offer deeper opportunities for collaboration. • The strategy is due for approval at the Integrated Joint Board on the 3rd of February 2026, with opportunities for feedback and amendments before the end of the week. • The associated Implementation Group & Carers Reference Group will begin to plan specific actions for the next four years following approval at IJB. With additional work planned to help increase representation of young carers within the Carer Reference Group and explore further engagement opportunities. Actions: • CSB Members: Review the draft Carers Strategy and provide feedback or suggestions by the end of the week. • GM/JS: Ensure ongoing connection and integration of the Carers Strategy with the Children's Services Plan.	CSB Members GM/JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
9. Governance and Assurance	JS provided a brief overview of the Quality Assurance Framework Tracker, noting that actions were still on track and health colleagues were continuing to contribute updates on progress regarding ongoing actions CSB Progress Tracker (QAF Audits Tab)	JS
10. Funding and awards tracker	Leads were asked to consider the opportunities available in the various trackers a) CPA Funding Tracker b) CPA Award Tracker c) CPA Comms Tracker	CSB Members
11. Key messages from other groups:	Child Protection Committee: Work is ongoing on audit of looked after children, which will form part of the self-assessment, should Aberdeen City be selected for a Joint Inspection. This will be conclude soon, the outcome will be shared with CSB in due course. Chief Officers Group: Care Inspectorate have announced a national Thematic Inspection regarding Grooming Gangs; this will involve input from all 32 local authority areas and is likely to last several months. This will also include a Deep Dive into several LA areas. GS to discuss with COG weather Aberdeen should volunteer to be part of this process Aberdeen Young Movement: The AYM has been looking to diversify its members, with several new members now in place. The group continues to support and inform the development of the new Children's Services Plan and LOIP	GS GS MS
12. AOB		GS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
13. Date of Future Meetings	Date of Next Meeting: <i>18 March 2026 (moved to the 24th of March)</i> Future Meeting Dates: 24 March 1 June 17 August 5 October 7 December	