

CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD

Note of Meeting

17th November 2025

Present: - Graeme Simpson (Chair) (GS); Emma McPherson (EM); George Nixon (GN); Gette Cobban (GC); Graeme Dale (GD); Julie Warrender (JW); Nicola Graham (NG); Paul McNamee (PN); Phil Mackie (PM); Robim McGregor (RM); Shona Milne (SM); Tracy Davis (TD)

Apologies: - Eleanor Sheppard (ES); Margaret Steward (MS)

Others Noted: Alasdair Condie (AC)

Agenda item		Actioned by:
1. Welcome and apologies	GS welcomed introduced EM (Allied Health Professional Lead, NHS Grampian), who will be taking on responsibility for the workstreams of the Stretch Outcome 8 Subgroup	GS
2. Note of previous meeting	Note of Meeting 1st September 2025 (Approved) Proposed by: TD Seconded by: GC	GS
3. LOIP/ Refresh 2026/36 CFL Next Steps-Submission Templates.docx PHS LOIP Estimating Impact Table.xlsx	GS led a discussion on the proposed LOIP System Changes and Next Steps for the Children's Services Board in the drafting process: GS reflected on the ongoing refresh of priorities, referencing the August Beach Ballroom event and recent management group feedback, noting the need to: • Address gaps in the data. • Identify resource within the constraints of delivering changes within existing budgets. • Identify lead partners/target population/s • And identify opportunities to consolidate the proposed system changes	JS/CSB Leads

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Key Discussion Points and Actions: Named Worker for Vulnerable Families/Family Support Model Proposal to provide vulnerable families (especially under-fives) with a named worker, leveraging third sector involvement, in order separate the services from perceptions of families who may have had negative experiences of statutory services. It was also recognised that this would create additional resource implications due to funding to Third Sector partners • GC to consult with third sector representatives and facilitate wider discussion within the third sector forum. • JW/BSiL to clarify resource requirements and sustainable funding models. City Centre Safe Spaces and Substance Use Prevention for Young People It was recognised that there was a need to join up city centre safe space proposed through CSB, and substance misuse prevention initiatives proposed by ADP, avoiding duplication and ensuring cross-collaboration. It was also recognised that there were a number of opportunities across partners to provide activities for young people and co-locate key services. As with the Named worker System Change, working to ensure that association with statutory services is supportive rather than off putting to young people • GN to coordinate joint planning and explore integration with existing substance misuse pathways with ADP representatives. • GN to lead on connecting with: youth work, sports, public health, and employability services, including Alcohol and Drugs Action representatives including	GC JW GN GN

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	GD/SM/MS/RM/NG to establish initial discussion on what services and supports can be provided. Information Portal for Reporting Child Criminal Exploitation Concerns Development of a portal for partners to submit intelligence on exploitation, with a staged approach to workforce upskilling. This is intended to support services and public to recognise and share information regarding activity that may involve or lead to Child Criminal Exploitation in the community so this can be addressed before any concerns escalate: • GN to lead on further development through the Youth Justice Subgroup Programme to Address Misogynistic Behaviour (12–18-year-old Boys) CSB agreed on the need for a targeted, staged programme to reduce misogynistic behaviour and peer sexual assault, learning from current pilots and involving sports and education sectors such as schools and NESCol. Work to address gender-based violence has been shared in schools through PSE, but outcomes have been inconsistent. • A multi-agency team is to be convened to develop the further programme, review existing initiatives, and identify gaps over the next few months. • Learning should also incorporate lessons from pilots in Northfield, Dyce, and Peterhead. GS/SM /RM to meet to discuss further Supporting Young People Disengaged/At Risk of Not Gaining a Positive Destination SM noted the need to keep the two attainment and transitions System Changes separate as they were two distinct groups of young people that required different types of support 1. Integrated work experience offer and linking with business to provide a more comprehensive offer was seen as primarily for those young people who were engaged but at risk of not gaining a positive destination.	GN GS/RM/SM

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	2. Separately for the group of young people disengaging from education the concern was primarily about finding ways for them to develop and maintain qualifications and skills. Not necessarily directly in a school environment. With a further aim of re-engaging them with school • Shona Milne to lead on alternative pathways and work experience integration, with input from third sector and employability partners. (SM/GC) • Explore cross-boundary collaboration with the Shire. Neurodevelopmental Pathways TD/EM noted the link to the Pan-Grampian approaches to piloting neurodevelopmental pathways with schools and with support from Third Sector partners. Funding and development is already in place to move forward with an initial pilot FM/ES have been in discussion with NHSG about the location of an initial pilot GS reiterated the need to ensure that this work was piloted in a school/s that served SIMD1 communities. • TD/EM to continue to develop planning on this pilot and report updated to the CSB • TD/EM to provide updates an information on strategic planning and development of the project to ensure relevant details are included in the LOIP and CSP	SM/GC SM/GC/ RM/NG TD/EM TD/EM/JS
4. Children's Services Plan Refresh 2026-2031 CSP Data Template.docx	James Simpson to provide an overview of the format and overall progress of the development of the Children's Services Plan: Overview • Although the government requires a three-year plan, a five-year plan is in development align with the timelines of refreshed LOIP 2026-36. • The Children's Services Plan content will be broader than the LOIP, incorporating UNCRC, child poverty, and other statutory requirements. Including Incorporating/aligning with multiple other plans (e.g., NIF, CLD, corporate parenting, community policing, health and social care) which will feed into the plan.	JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	• A more concise, visually engaging format is planned, rather than a text-heavy document, similar to the recent CLD Plan. • The CSP will be submitted to the government in the first quarter of 2026/27. Draft Content • The first deadline for content is Friday, 28th of November, with any follow up/additional data to be provided no later than 15th December. • JS has been in touch or has scheduled meeting with all relevant leads to discuss draft content for the 28th of November and will be available for follow up discussions should leads wish to clarify/review current output. • A Draft plan will be circulated to the Children's Services Board in early January (Date TBC), with approval of the draft on 19th January CSB ahead of circulation for stakeholder engagement in February Child Poverty The Child Poverty Action Plan will be embedded in the CSP, a number of points were raised regarding provision of this content: • Responsibility for providing content, especially on child poverty, needs to be clarified between the anti-poverty group and local leads. JS/TD to clarify • Awaiting feedback from Public Health Scotland on previous child poverty plans, which will inform the new content. GS/JS to share feedback once available. • NHS Grampian's child poverty lead is temporarily unavailable; Tracy Davis will cover this role in the interim.	CSB Leads JS/GS
5. CYP Participation in Governance and Planning	The following item was postponed due to MS absence from the meeting	MS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	JS informed CSB that a National UNCRC Network meeting regarding expectations for UNCRC content in Children's Services was to be held on 18 November. JS to report output to CSB	JS
6. Mental Health in Aberdeen Reports Mental Health of Children and Young People in Aberdeen.pdf Mental Health of Adults in Aberdeen.pdf	Phil Mackie to provide an overview of the Mental Health Aberdeen Reports outlining considerations for the CSB in addressing the mental health needs of children and young people in the next CSP and LOIP: - The detail in the report emphasises the importance of public mental health and expectations for organisational collaboration with health and social care partnerships. - Our current data on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing is useful however the report also highlights the challenges in maintaining up-to-date data for planning. - Key areas from the children and young people's mental health report, included stressing the significance of early adversity, behavioural risk, and socio-economic factors in health inequalities. - Mental health and wellbeing was also impacted by poverty and household affordability, including effects on education, nutrition, and increased risk of anxiety and trauma. - The data in the report suggests that behavioural indicators such as substance use, youth crime, and early pregnancy as markers of difficult early experiences, show a complex relationship with well-being. - There is a real need to work in partnership to address and improve the socio-economic needs of Children, Young People and Families.	PM
7. Progress update from each Subgroup LOIP Overview Report November 2025 CSB Progress Tracker	JS provided a brief update on the actions relating to the CSP Tracker/LOIP Project Overview and ongoing Subgroup actions: All projects are progressing as intended with many now having met their aim. Except for a number of red statuses that have been reported to CSB at previous meetings, these are intended to be folded into the actions of the next LOIP.	JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	There is no longer a requirement to produce an end report for each project. Instead, a summary report will be collated for the CPA Board based on content provided by the Project End Reports. To this end Project Leads are asked to make sure their project updates are current, detailed and include proposed activity that will continue after the LOIP.	JS/CSB Subgroup Leads/ Project Managers
8. The Promise Framework Aberdeen City Tracker	James Simpson to provide an update on the development of the Promise Tracker - JS has been in touch with AC and is now familiar with the proposed format of the PowerBI Promise Tracker - JS is now identifying Education and School Leaver data that can be used to provide up to date tracking and reporting information on Care Experienced Young People from SEEMiS and the SDS Datahub. JS to discuss further with NG/SM - Further areas will be identified for inclusion in due course. - JS to share National Promise Tracker Report with CSB when this becomes available.	JS JS/SM/NG JS
9. Governance and Assurance CSB Progress Tracker (QAF Audits Tab)	James Simpson provided a brief update of outstanding actions from Quality Assurance Framework Audits All audits have completed their actions or continue to progress against ongoing actions satisfactorily. With the exception that Audit 6 re Transitions still remains with a number of amber statuses: Health colleagues have provided an update of ongoing actions and assurance that work is progressing. This has been added to the Tracker and will continue to be updated on an ongoing basis	JS JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
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 Board members
11. Key messages from other groups:	Child Protection Committee: No Update Chief Officers Group: Currently reviewing the format and content of the Risk Register, the approach will be placing more emphasis on the physical harm and the prevention agenda, linked to key activities that will be being undertaken by CSB. GS will share an update at the March CSB Champions Board: No Update Aberdeen Young Movement: No Update	GS GS GS MS
12. AOB	None Noted	GS
13. Date of Future Meetings	Date of Next Meeting: 19th January Future Meeting Dates: <u>CSB Meeting Dates 2026 (Approved)</u> 19 January 18 March 1 June 17 August 5 October 7 December	