

Children's Services, Partnership and Communities

Quarter Two Performance Report 2021/22



01. Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes

Our Vision: All children, young people, adults and families in Midlothian are supported to be the best they can be. This is achieved through a nurturing, respectful and collaborative approach that promotes wellbeing, equity and inclusion.

Within children's services Q2 has continued to be impacted by Covid and some restrictions, including the increase in number of staff who have had to self-isolate. Staff continue to work on a rota basis within Eskdaill Court until such times that Scottish Government guidance allows for a return of all staff.

There has been a 35% increase in the number of referrals in Q2 in comparison to the same time last year. 20/21 (2761) to 21/22 (3794). Police referrals into the service accounted for 37% of all referrals which is a 6% reduction from last year at this time. 21% of the referrals were for financial assistance a 12% increase from last year. Further work on this area is being undertaken.

CLLE

The Communities, Lifelong learning and Employability Service (CLLE) in Q2 have had success with:

- Grants report and new council 3 year funding programme has been launched with successful surgeries
- Summer family learning was well attended and the adult learning programme now offers increased qualification opportunities and more face to face learning blended with online.
- Community groups have responded well to the support and awareness sessions of reopening groups safely.
- Adult family employability support progressing well and digital devices secured through the Connecting Scotland Programme.
- Targeted summer support programme consistent numbers and outcomes
- DOE awards completed
- Youth work offer re-opened in all clusters
- FA all courses started and extra places obtained
- Croft Street Hub partnership work commenced/garden complete
- Young Carers additional funding sourced, allowing additional young people to attend
- 12 plus Marg prevention have secured funding to provide youth club activities for 12 months.
- Kickstart induction process recognised as good practice

Overall the CLLE service is making good progress in reaching our recovery targets and increasing the number of local people we are supporting to improve their skills for learning, life and work.

UNCRC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday 6th October 2021 [handed down judgment](#) that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was unlawfully made. The Supreme Court rules that the Scottish Parliament did not have the power to pass such legislation. The UNCRC Bill will now return to the Scottish Parliament so the Supreme Court's concerns can receive further consideration. Hopefully, we will see the revised bill make its way through the Scottish Parliament again soon so children's rights across Scotland can be upheld through the UNCRC

National Child Protection Guidance

The new National Child Protection Guidance has been published. There is a national implementation group which Midlothian are part of and we have between 18-24 months to fully implement all the actions. Across the Lothian's and with Scottish Borders we are commissioning a person to write local procedures.

Equity and Inclusion

The Equity and Inclusion GIRFEC subgroup is well established and a plan has been approved with key areas of work identified: ASN review, attendance and engagement in education; nurture; poverty and attainment and family learning.

Reducing Poverty

The income maximisation project has demonstrated that this was a successful pilot which shall continue to be a part of children's services work going forward. This early intervention approach of supporting families to ensure they access the benefits they are entitled to, is a key support in helping families get out of the poverty trap. Covid-19 has

impacted hugely on families financial position and therefore the need to ensure that we continue to offer this service is required to try and reduce the impact of poverty.

02. Challenges and Risks

National; Care Service Consultation. This is taking up a significant amount of time to ensure that everyone has the information they require to make an informed decision.

Impact of Covid-19

Additional kinship placement and without additional support a risk some placements may break down. The need to prioritise earlier intervention by including families at the earliest point of contact. Family Group Decision Making service requires additional workers to make a difference and improve outcomes that are aligned to the Promise, by ensure all children and young people remain Midlothian with their family and local community.

Additional issues around children and young people having access to early mental health support is an area of work being prioritised.


CLL

Covid recovery and increasing our engagement with local people is a continual challenge although good progress is being made. Supporting staff to operate within changing circumstances with isolation, etc. is a key priority for the service. Two main barriers exist in terms of increasing our face to face provision for youth work and adult learning these include access to appropriate accommodation with good wifi access. We have identified a new delivery space but this will require additional financial support to make it viable. In addition there are disability access and other practical issues with Penicuik Town Hall which requires a financial investment to address.

Instrumental Music Service

Staff have worked creatively to adapt the service to offer remote learning. Whilst SG have made a pledge to ensure that all instrumental music is delivered free and funding has been offered for the first year, a service review will take place in January 2022 to re design a service that meets the needs of the increasing number of children who wish to access this service.

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Midlothian 

Successes and Challenges

Corporate Performance Indicators (latest)

Pls  2  10  0  8

Corporate Pls Off Target

Pls  2

% of Service Pls that are on target/ have reached their target. (does not include Corporate Pls)

Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working days

Service Plan Pls (latest)

Pls  3  12  3  15

Service Plan Pls Off Target

Pls  3

Qualifications achieved through CLL

Amount of funding gained to meet income/external funding target of £650,000

Number of CHs deferred

Service High Risks (latest)

 1



Workforce capacity

All Risks - CSPC

Risks  13  14

Key
Pls  Off Target
 On Target
 Data Only
 Data Not Yet Available

Key
Pls  Off Target
 On Target
 Data Only
 Data Not Yet Available

Key
Risks  High Risk/Medium Risk
 Low Risk