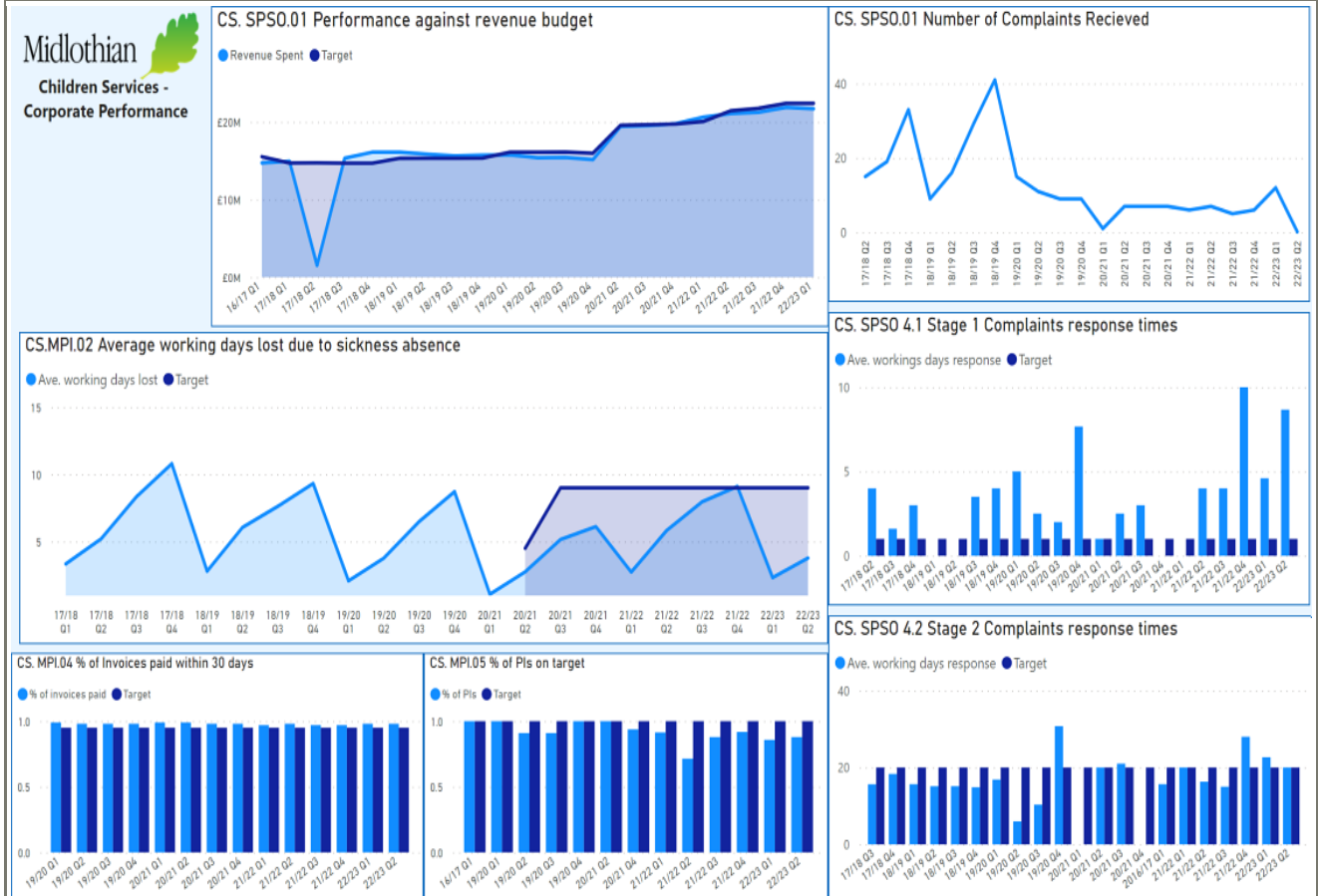


Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Performance Report Quarter Two 2022/23



Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes



GIRFEC Service Priority: More children and young people are safe, healthy and resilient

Priority Action 1: Develop a Midlothian Whole Family Support Service

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- Funding is being concluded and this will inform final costings and structure. We have now recruited a team leader (x1), social worker (x1) and the majority of children’s practitioners (x10).

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Develop and conclude the whole family support service strategy and plan with a view to going ‘live’ operationally in January 2023

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Funding and resources are in place for 23/24	31/03/23	New Measure	0		12 staff recruited

Priority Action 2: Increase the number of family who benefit from Family Systemic work

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- 19 families referred in Q2

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Second family systemic worker now in post.
- One worker has completed the NVR (Non Violent Resistance) foundation training and Hybrid parenting group training to follow. The plan is to have both family systemic workers trained in this approach and set up parenting groups that provide this form of coaching to parents and carers.
- We will also be facilitating another set of awareness raising workshop which will be set up for the beginning of 2023 to support other practitioners with the various methods and techniques used with systemic approach

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Number of families who benefit from Family Systemic Work	31/03/23	17	12		17

Priority Action 3: Promote the use of Self-Directed Support (SDS) amongst families using services

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- Q2 figure is 46

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Guidance has recently been updated and refresher training across the service will follow.
- Self Directed Support practice Standards being developed
- Transitions work has been re established
- Beginning to prepare for holiday provision next year and looking at opportunities to expand options locally

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Increase by 10% the number of families who organise their own support	31/03/23	75	68		46

Priority Action 4: Further develop the supports offered to Family Group Decision Making and Kinship supports

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- Three family group decision making workers now in post
- Lifelong links work underway
- Kinship worker has been seconded into team
- Kinship carer engagement event had been planned with a focus on trauma. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to low numbers

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Consolidate links both with whole family support and statutory service
- Consult with kinship group in order to strengthen relationship and in turn achieve improved attendance

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Number of families who a referred to Family Group Decision Making	31/03/23	increase 21/22 figs by 15%	79		32

Number of families who participate in Family Group Decision Making	31/03/23	Increase 21/22 figs by 10%	32		16
The number of assessments by kinship worker	31/03/23	increase 21/22 fig by 15%	14		7
Percentage of kinship carers who attend engagement sessions	31/03/23	80% of Kinship carers one event	New Measure		0
Reduce the number of CEYP who enter homeless accommodation vs other suitable accommodation	31/03/23	2			Data available March 2023
Number of CEYP living with Foster Carers on After Care arrangement post 21 years	31/03/23	3	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Increase number of young people in the National Housing Project	31/03/23	10-12	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Average age of young people in Continuing Care	31/03/23	Age 18	New Measure		Data available March 2023

Priority Action 5: Develop a pathway for children and families to navigate mental health services

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- This is still to be developed

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Single point of Access to be developed

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
1 x Single Point of Access in place (SPOA)	31/03/23	New Measure	0		N/A

Priority Action 6: 6.0

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- Referrals: 10
- Cases progressing: 25
- Financial Gain for the quarter: £34, 908

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- CAB are still making attempts to recruit into the Early Intervention Income Maximisation post
- Once above worker is in post development sessions will be undertaken across the service to upskill workers on income maximisation support

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Number of families offered an income assessment	31/03/23	90	60		27

Priority Action 7: Children, young people and their families experience high quality services

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- No Inspections have been completed post COVID

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Improvement plans in place

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Local Adoption Service will provide high quality care and support	31/03/23	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Local Fostering Service will provide high quality care and support	31/03/23	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Local Continuing Care/Adult services will provide high quality care and support	31/03/23	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Hawthorn Family Learning Centre will provide high quality care and support	31/03/22	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023
Young People's Care Homes will provide high quality care and support	31/03/22	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023

Priority Action 8: Children and young people are supported to develop a strong sense of their own identity

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- X3 workers have started the Diploma in Life Story Work qualification

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Internal life story work training due to be delivered in October 2022

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
Staff are trained and understand Life Story work	31/03/23	20	16		N/A at this time

Priority Action 9: Children and young people are supported by staff who understand the importance of trauma informed practice

Progress and Achievement in Q2

- A trauma informed practice worker has very recently been recruited

Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Trauma Informed Practice worker will start in post and develop a work plan

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2
staff are trained in using a trauma informed approach	31/03/23	20	15	N/A	N/A at this time

Challenges and Risks

National Care Service: The 'Bill' which is currently in Stage 1 of the process is currently being considered with an expectation that the lead committee will provide a report on the Bill at the start of 2023. CELCIS have been commissioned to undertake research around the inclusion of children's services within the NCS. This work should be concluded by August 2023.

Scottish Childhood Interview Model

Whilst the new model is beginning to evidence nationally improved outcomes for children and their families, the continued challenge within Midlothian is that we are unable to offer more staff the opportunity to undertake this training due to the lack of funding to replace those workers. As such we cannot future proof the delivery of the model moving forward.

Impact of Covid-19

We continue to prioritise resources to ensure there is adequate support in place to support our social work teams who are already at capacity. In line with the foundations of the Promise we have aligned staff to other areas of the service so that they ensure earlier support via Family Group Decision Making, Family Systemic Work and through the development of the Whole Family Support Service.

Children's Services Referrals

There remains a significant increase in referrals into Children's Services. A recent analysis continues to inform the requirement for a different approach to supporting the many families who are experiencing financial hardship. Work continues to be ongoing with partner agencies to consider how we address this from a holistic perspective. The analysis highlighted that poverty is a growing area of concern and this has led to additional pressures on work load capacity.

Over quarter 2, referrals into Children's Services have risen to 2212 in comparison to 1901 for the same period last year.

Workforce:

Midlothian is experiencing the same staffing issues encountered by other Councils. That there is a general lack of experienced and skilled staff across the sector and we are having to increasingly rely on locum workers.

Whilst not the only factor, the issue is exacerbated by our salaries not being as competitive as neighbouring local authorities. Furthermore, there is a view that many workers are leaving the profession due to increasing demands being placed on the social work role. We recognise that this is something that professional bodies are tackling nationally

Arrival of Ukrainian Families and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

We continue to welcome Ukrainian families into Midlothian adopting a holistic approach to the support on offer. We are confident that our steady and thorough approach to this work has ensured that we are robust in the work we are undertaking.

We also continue to ensure that we meet the agreed quota of unaccompanied children seeking asylum in Midlothian, arriving from other parts of the world as well as planning and welcoming families fleeing from Afghanistan.

Residential Care Homes/Complex Needs

Our care homes continue to ensure that children are placed within their local communities.

We continue to work with partners to explore how best to meet the current demands and pressure whilst making sure we future proof our services to deliver sustainable options locally for children and young people with ASN and Complex and Enduring Needs

Foster Care

While Midlothian Council's recruitment statistics remain encouraging, we continue to seek and explore other options to expand our foster carer population recognising the need to future proof this area of service. We continue to explore whether potential adopters would be interested in fostering.

Kinship Care

Our resources and kinship services are inextricably linked and rely on each other to rise to the pressure and demands of keeping our children and young people in the local community. Whilst challenging this is entirely in keeping with our local direction of travel and the Promise.

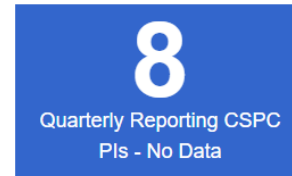
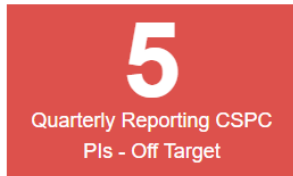
Instrumental Music Service

Providing free tuition to all pupils whilst having to meet a significant savings agreed within the Medium Term Financial Strategy will be challenging. We are undertaking an option appraisal which shall consider how we best deliver and design a service that is modern, implementing the learning during the pandemic, whilst also delivering a service that is equitable and sustainable.

Financial Pressures

- There is a financial challenge to deliver statutory services given the current budget gap.
- Due to the current financial climate there may be an impact on services as a result of the cost of living and increase in poverty.

Quarter 2 - Children's Services Partnership and Communities-



Quarterly Reporting PIs - Off Target							
...	Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Next Update Due	Last Update	History
	22/23.CSPC.4a Number of families who a referred to Family Group Decision Making		32	43	01 Apr 2018	Q2 2022/23	
	CSPC.MPI.03 % of service priority Actions on target / completed, of the total number		78.26%	90%	01 Jul 2021	Q4 2020/21	
	CS.SPSO.04.1 Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 1		8.667	5	01 Jan 2023	Q2 2022/23	
	CS.SPSO.05.1 Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working days		33.33%	95%	01 Jan 2023	Q2 2022/23	
	CS.SPSO.05.3 Percentage of complaints escalated and complete within 20 working ...		85.71%	95%	01 Jan 2023	Q2 2022/23	

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