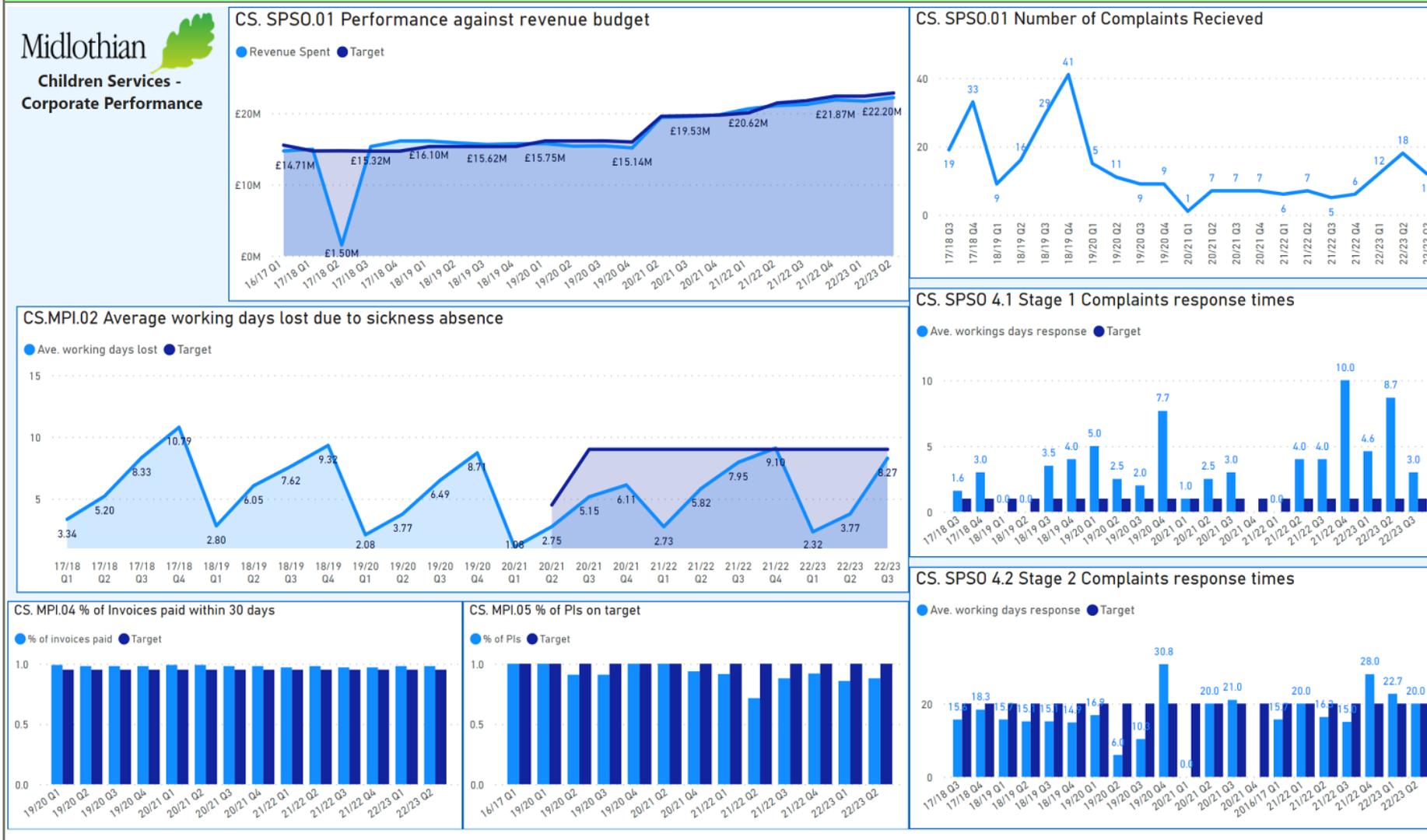


# Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Performance Report Quarter Three 2022/23



## 01. Progress in delivery of strategic outcomes



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### 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 Q3

- All staffing in place and due to start 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

##### Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Referrals will be received into service from end January 2023
- Continue to strengthen working relationships with third sector and other partner agencies and ensure there is no duplication of services. Event organised for February with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector to ensure a collaborative approach in taking this service forward
- Communications strategy with partners and service users to continue to be rolled out
- Strategy paper and plan regards evaluation will also be progressed

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Funding and resources are in place for 23/24	31/03/23	New Measure	0		12 staff recruited	All staff in place

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

##### Progress and Achievement in Q3

- First annual evaluation report completed
- At the end of Q3 a total of 29 families were engaged in Family Systemic work

##### Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Continue to evaluate the impact of systemic family work in Midlothian
- Deliver two NVR coaching groups for workers across Children's Services
- Facilitate further awareness raising workshops in 2023

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
17 new families	31/03/23	17	12	4	5	29

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

##### Progress and Achievement in Q3

- 46% increase in the number of families who organise their own support
- Review of resources and how these are accessed by service users with varying levels of need
- Continue to review current assessment processes
- Linked to a wider disability review

##### Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead

- Guidance continues to be updated and refresher training across the service will follow.
- Section 23/disability practice standards will be developed
- Emphasis on effective transitions
- Identify and progress opportunities to expand holiday provision and respite options locally for children with complex additional needs

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Increase by 10% the number of families who organise their own support	31/03/23	75	68		46	67

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

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- Continued to expand the number of families engaged with the Family Group Decision Making service
- Link established between Family Wellbeing and statutory service
- Kinship engagement meetings have been re-established

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- Continue to expand on progress made in Q3 in relation to the number of Families engaging with the Family Group Decision Making Service
- Strengthen relationship with Kinship carers in Midlothian
- Increase awareness of supports available to kinship carers

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Number of families who are referred to Family Group Decision Making	31/03/23	increase 21/22 figs by 15%	79		32	59
Number of families who participate in Family Group Decision Making	31/03/23	Increase 21/22 figs by 10%	32		16	24
The number of assessments by kinship worker	31/03/23	increase 21/22 fig by 15%	14		4	6
Percentage of kinship carers who attend engagement sessions	31/03/23	80% of Kinship carers one event	New Measure		0	0
Reduce the number of CEYP who enter homeless accommodation vs other suitable accommodation	31/03/23	2			Data available March 2023	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	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	Data available March 2023
Average age of young people in Continuing Care	31/03/23	Age 18	New Measure		Data available March 2023	Data available March 2023

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

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- CYP mental health strategic planning group has continued to meet

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- New chair of CYP mental health strategic planning Group Single to be identified
- Single point of Access to be developed. This is a significant but important piece of work that has been delayed due to staff shortages and capacity issues.

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
1 x Single Point of Access in place (SPOA)	31/03/23	New Measure	0		N/A	N/A

**Priority Action 6: Strengthen mechanisms to support families maximise their income**

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- 67% Increase in number of Families being offered an income assessment
- CAB have successfully recruited into the Early Intervention Income Maximisation post. Worker due to start January 2023

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- Development sessions will be undertaken across the service to upskill workers on income maximisation support
- Financial assistance worker to be recruited to respond to financial assistance requests coming into Duty service
- Income maximisation worker to be recruited to sit within Family Wellbeing Service

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Number of families offered an income assessment	31/03/23	90	60		27	45

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

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- An unannounced inspection of our two residential houses took place in December 2022. The service was evaluated as **Very Good** with the inspectors citing the following key strengths:
  - Young People were experiencing positive outcomes.
  - The service had a clear model of relationship based practice.
  - Staff approached care in a trauma informed way.
  - Both houses were homely and welcoming environments.
  - Management have a clear vision for service improvement.

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- Improvement plans in place

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Local Adoption Service will provide high quality care and support	31/03/23	Care inspection Grading of GOOD	New Measure		Data available March 2023	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	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	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	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	VERY GOOD

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

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- Life Story Work training took place in October 2022. 12 workers from across Children's Services attended
- 3 staff undertaking formal life story training with a view to increasing capacity within the service

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- Further training to be delivered in 2023

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Staff are trained and understand Life Story work	31/03/23	20	16		N/A at this time	12

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

*Progress and Achievement in Q3*

- Recruitment of trauma Informed Practice worker
- Educational Psychologist also working with staff and carers to increase capacity within LAAC workforce

*Plans for improvement next Quarter and year ahead*

- New worker will develop a work plan

Performance Indicator	Due Date	Target	Baseline (previous data)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Staff are trained in using a trauma informed approach	31/03/23	20	15		N/A at this time	N/A at this time

## 02. 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. No further updates have been received for Q3, however this is still very much a challenge for social work going forward.

### **The Promise**

The Promise lead has now commenced in post and will progress Midlothian's Promise Strategy and plan. A challenge in progressing this work will be to engage with all partner agencies to ensure shared responsibilities as corporate parents. A series of Promise engagement/awareness raising will be rolled out across the Council and Partnership and will include Elected members.

### **Children's Services Referrals**

There remains a significant increase in referrals into Children's Services. Over quarter 3, referrals have risen to 6390, an increase of 7% from the same period last year.

### **Poverty**

As families continue to be impacted by the cost of living crisis this is expected to lead to an increase in the number of families experiencing poverty. This also applies to workers on low incomes.

### **Workforce:**

Midlothian continues to experience the same staffing issues encountered by other Councils. 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.

To date we have 123 Ukrainian people (27 families with children) living in Midlothian. We have 21 Afghanistan people which equates to 3 families with children.

Until recently we had 3 young people under the age of 18 who are unaccompanied asylum seeking and 10 young people over the age of 18, most of whom have been here for several years. We recently accommodated a young Afghanistan child who, worker believe is our youngest child yet – he is being looked after by carers.

### **Children with and Enduring Complex Needs**

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. This includes consideration of residential care home provision.

### **Foster Care**

We continue to seek and explore options to expand our foster carer population recognising the need to future proof this area of service. We are looking at new campaigns to promote recruitment of foster carers for both local children and young people but also to consider caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people.

### **Kinship Care**

Our desire in Midlothian is to increase our current kinship service. We have a dedicated kinship worker at this time.

### **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 given the current budget position.

**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 3 - Children's Services Partnership and Communities-



**Quarterly Reporting PIs - Off Target**

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Next Update Due	Last Update	History
<b>22/23.CSPC.4c</b> The number of assessments by kinship worker		10	12	01 Apr 2023	Q3 2022/23	
<b>BS.CSPC.LPI.05</b> Child Protection: % of Core Group meetings held within 15 days fo...		82%	100%	01 Apr 2023	Q3 2022/23	
<b>CS.SPSO.04.3</b> Average time in working days for a full response for escalated compl...		36	20	01 Apr 2023	Q3 2022/23	
<b>CS.SPSO.05.3</b> Percentage of complaints escalated and complete within 20 working ...		0%	95%	01 Apr 2023	Q3 2022/23	

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