Developing North Ayrshire Children’s Services Plan in partnership with local children

PC-19
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Introduction
The Scottish Government requires each Community Planning Partnership, as part of their Children’s Services Planning, to develop and publish a Children’s Services Plan in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and its associated Statutory Guidance.

Getting it Right for You: North Ayrshire Children’s Services Plan 2016–20 sets out promises to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children and to make North Ayrshire the best place in Scotland to grow up.

Methodology
The plan is ambitious with 36 defined promises and is written in a style that has the young reader in mind. The plan must ‘tell a story’.

Getting it Right for You covers three life stages;
• Early Years (0–5 years)
• Primary Years (5–12 years)
• Secondary Years (13–18 years)

An ambitious survey was undertaken by the Dartington Social Research Unit where almost 8000 young people aged between 9 and 16, and more than 600 families of children and young children were canvassed.

Four broad themes emerged. These informed the design of the plan:
1. Improve how you engage with your school
2. Help you to be physically active and be at a healthy weight
3. Prevent smoking, drinking and taking substances at an early age
4. Support your social and emotional development

A cross service writing group included education specialists and health and social care professionals. Young people across North Ayrshire were asked about the plan to ensure we had captured their views, that the plan resonated and was meaningful for them.

Local secondary school pupils created the artwork for the plan. They devised a consistent style and colour palette, and a handful of pupils created the artwork based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Local primary school pupils created a comic book version of the plan, which was suitable for younger readers.

Aims/Objectives
Early intervention and prevention is at the centre of this approach. Children at the heart of planning for children, will help to make North Ayrshire the best place to grow up.

Results/Outcomes
• Development of a child-led and informed Children’s Services Plan
• Easily accessible and understandable in easy-read formats
• A plan with children’s rights at its heart, using qualitative and quantitative measures
• Data and survey feedback from local children and young people informed the content of the plan
• The plan outlines promises to children from services, and promises are made by families/children too
• The first annual report (using the Children’s Services action plan) has highlighted very positive outcomes for children and young people in North Ayrshire and is leading to improvements in children’s health and wellbeing

North Ayrshire Children’s Services Strategic Partnership (CSSP) is part of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.

CSSP includes; Children’s Panel Area Support Team, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, North Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Voluntary sector

For more information, please contact:
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Resources/Outcomes

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