



# East Ayrshire's Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2024-27



# Contents

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Introduction	3
Context	4
Voice of our young people in this plan	5
Key achievements in 2021-2024	5
Approach to 2024-27 plan	7
<b>Key Priorities</b>	
1. Moving on	8
2. Relationships	8
3. Poverty	9
4. Health and wellbeing	9
5. Celebrating youth	10
Measuring Success	11
Governance and Reporting	11
Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Data	12
Appendix 2 – Action Plan	14





# Introduction

[The Children & Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) outlines duties as responsibilities on corporate parents. The Act names a number of bodies who have a duty to fulfil the role of corporate parents.

The act also places a responsibility on corporate parents to produce a [corporate parenting action plan](#) and report annually to Scottish Ministers on the progress they have made.

In February 2020, the Independent Care Review published '[The Promise](#)'. This is a significant review that provides very strong messages to Scotland on the need to be better parents for our care experienced young people, [The Plan 24-30](#) supplements this.



Our work on community parenting is also driven by our commitment to [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#).

Our collaboration and working together is strong in East Ayrshire. East Ayrshire's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has oversight of the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26 which supports the East Ayrshire Community Plan 2015-30 and our long term aspirations for children, young people and families which is:



**'Our children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.'**



The East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services Plan sets the local long term strategic intent for improving outcomes for all our children and young people and has been developed through engagement with local children, young people, families and partner organisations to understand what matters most to them.

We have built this plan with our children, young people and community parents. Our children and young people have voiced their experiences and needs clearly, and we need to respond to these.

# Context

In East Ayrshire we gather a range of information and data in relation to our child and young person population. This is gathered in our [Children and Young People Data Compendium](#) along with service and organisation specific data. This information as it relates to corporate parenting is outlined in Appendix 1 and is used to inform our approach and response to our communities.

For several years now financial pressures upon communities and public services has been felt more acutely than ever before. This continues to be the case. Public services are under significant financial pressure that require extensive savings to be made, whilst trying to achieve more and be better in terms of how we respond to our care experienced community. This is an incredibly challenging period that will have impact. However, this will not derail our intentions to achieve our very best for our care experienced children and young people.

We are operating within a period of substantial policy drivers and initiatives that are aspirational and admirable but create a very busy landscape. These include but are not explicit to:

- Refresh of GIRFEC
- National Child Protection Procedures
- UNCRC
- The Promise Plan 21-24 and 24-30
- Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leavers Housing Pathways
- Housing to 2040
- Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers-Guidance for Corporate Parents
- Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
- Bairnshoose
- Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)
- Refresh of Kinship Care Guidance
- Refresh of Continuing Care Guidance
- Care & Justice (Scotland) Act 2024

Our young people and families have told us about the impact of poverty and increased cost of living and we have responded to this in a range of ways. It does however remain a challenge. For that reason, it is a key feature of our plan as one of our priorities.

We also recognise we are still in a significant recovery phase from the impact of Covid-19. This has affected our children and young people in a variety of ways, we have observed a detrimental impact on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and this also features as a priority in our plan.



## Voice of our young people in this plan

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Feedback from our children and young people were the catalyst to update and include the priorities outlined in this plan. Once the plan was drafted, it was important to go back to our children and young people and both check we had captured the focus correctly, but also to discuss and agree how we would embed a stronger feedback loop. Our children and young people were clear that:

- the key priorities were the right priorities, and they recognised them
- there was a need to adjust some of the language in the plan to make it clear for everyone to understand
- we need to make sure that we did what we said we would
- there needs to be stronger ways to feedback progress, and this should be done in a number of ways. This included the Care Experience Cabinet, individual written updates and social media
- being in continuous conversations with young people was important
- having hope and aspirations for leaving care and a trusted adult were considered as essential
- there needs to be different ways to hear the voice of children and young people in the Care Experience Cabinet

## Key achievements in 2021-2024

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The Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2021-2024 Final Report details the achievements and successes in the five priority areas: Staying together, Achieving, Health and Wellbeing, Participation and Involvement and Relationship and Communities.

Several examples are described on the following page.





149 care experienced young people were supported through the CECYP funded Mentoring Programme in the 2022/23 academic year.

In total, the Young Person's Mentors have improved outcomes for 207 young people.



Art Club?, in partnership with East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, held its first exhibition, entitled Agora in the Young People's Gallery in 2023 and also worked with the Book Nook in Stewarton in the summer of 2023.

This led to involvement with the Council's circular economy and the establishment of a book bank.



Kooth is an online support service for young people and was launched in April 2023. There have been 561 logins from 135 individuals; 45% of logins have been from 14-16yr olds; 22% 16-18yr olds and 23% from 18yrs+. 65% of logins have taken place out of day service hours and 95% would recommend the service to a friend.



All children over five years are now being sent a personal invitation to attend their meeting (known as LAC review) along with a bio about the person chairing the meeting and a leaflet providing some basic information. The leaflet includes contact details for advocacy services.

This new approach is to increase both attendance and participation of the child/ young person at their meeting.



A 'Hope Hack' was held in East Ayrshire in June 2023, over 100 young people attended. This was a joint venture with East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership, The Hunter Foundation and Tigers Group, Glasgow based upon previous successful Hackathon's held across the UK. The day had a range of activities and discussion topics culminating in attendance by senior leaders at the end to hear the key messages and commit to change.



In 2023, two Corporate Parenting Conferences were hosted, with over 100 attendees at each one, representatives from council services, third sector and community planning partners participated. They got to hear updates on the workstreams, engaged with care experienced young people and heard progress reports from Corporate Parenting lead staff.



## Approach to 2024-27 plan

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In 2022-23, we embarked on Bright Spots, a joint initiative between CELCIS, Corum Voice and East Ayrshire Council/HSCP. This involved a supported survey to hear the experience of our children and young people who were in our care or had moved on from our care. The findings from this were incredibly powerful, so much so we decided to draw our Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2021-24 to a close early and embark on our new plan. This was to ensure we were responsive to what we were hearing and not to wait.

At the same time, our Children and Young People's Service's Plan was being reviewed and renewed, so aligning these better made sense. Alongside this, we had completed a self-evaluation of our readiness and progress around the ambitions of The Promise and Plan 21-24, which highlighted what we needed to focus on and do better.

We have taken these findings, along with mapping with other planning groups to avoid duplication and support better alignment to strategic planning. This has led us to identifying the key priorities for 2024-27 outlined on the following page.

We engaged with our Care Experienced Cabinet and children and young people from our Children's Houses to get their feedback on the Plan. The feedback has been positive with the priorities and actions being seen as the right ones. The young people highlighted how important it is to keep having conversations with the care experienced children and young people the Plan impacts, and that feedback will be the most important way of measuring if the Plan is a success.



# Key Priorities



## 1 MOVING ON:

To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

- Early and effective transition planning to prepare our young people to move smoothly into adulthood and all this entails.
- To provide high quality aftercare support, including a drop in/easy access for support service.
- To provide high quality continuing care.
- To enable our young people to remain in our care up to the age of 21 years, whether that be in residential, foster care or kinship care.
- To support young people to move into their own tenancy, which is of good quality and in a way that is easy to do.
- To provide high quality coaching and tenancy support to achieve stability and security.
- To develop clear success measures in relation to housing outcomes to enable us to see progress.
- To ensure we have a range of education and employment opportunities at our disposal and easily accessible to those who wish it.
- To provide technological means to stay in touch and connected and to ensure our care leavers do not experience digital poverty.



## 2 RELATIONSHIPS:

Recognising we cannot replicate family but will provide long and enduring relationships that are available and relentless in their presence and offer. We will do everything we can to ensure familial relationships are maintained.

- We will put in place a trusted adult approach for all our care experienced children and young people, where they choose that adult who is then free to support them through our strong workforce values framework.
- Ensure our care experienced children and young people have at least one trusted person they can rely on, no matter which agency or service they work for.
- To provide long and enduring relationships so support is constantly available when needed and there is no need to go through new access points.
- To develop mentoring and natural befriending opportunities in line with the workforce values of The Promise.
- Ensure practice promotes ongoing relationships with brothers and sisters, and other family members and friends, when children cannot live with their own family.
- Ensure relationship-based practice best principles and approaches are embedded across all agencies and are built upon strong trauma-informed practice.





### 3 POVERTY:

We will do everything to ensure our care experienced children, young people and care leavers do not experience poverty that is compounded by them being in care.

- We will put in place-targeted support to ensure our children who are looked after have optimal financial stability, equity and access to entitlements.
- We will ensure strong financial support is available directly and specifically for care leavers to create financial stability. This is in addition to standard section 29 support.
- We will ensure digital poverty is eradicated and our care experience community have equal access to digital means.
- We will be active in our actions to ensure the relationship between poverty and coming into care is changed in East Ayrshire through early help and support.
- We will improve our information and communication around financial support, rights and entitlements.



### 4 HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

We recognise the trauma and impact of care and will do everything we can to ensure our children, young people and care leavers are supported to recover.

- We will ensure children in our care get access to bespoke and specialist support as and when they need it.
- We will ensure our children, young people and care leavers can access age appropriate and diverse mental health and emotional wellbeing supports through different approaches and mechanisms. This will include online and face-to-face supports.
- We will ensure we fulfil our requirements of CEL 16 and move to an enhanced model for those moving on from our care into young adulthood. This will include improving our information systems to ensure identification and access to assessment.
- Through strong relationship-based practice, we will ensure our children and young people always have a trusted adult they can access for help and support in relation to health matters.
- To revisit health needs assessment as a care leaver to ensure all physical and emotional health needs are met.



## 5 CELEBRATING YOUTH:

We feel passionately that youth should be celebrated and those experiencing care should have the ability to shine. We will be champions of our children and ensure they are seen in a positive light regardless of their adversity.

- Challenge negative stereotyping of youth through strong campaign.
- Help others understand the adversity of care and better recognise the experience and the strength and power it takes to survive difficult and challenging life experiences.
- Ensure we stick with our children and young people through the difficult and challenging times and never give up on them.
- Provide regular positive messaging and stories about achievement.
- Provide rich and diverse opportunities to shine.
- Ensure we listen and respond to the voice of our children and young people.
- All corporate parents will take responsibility to support Care Experienced Cabinet to be effective and responsive.



## Measuring Success

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Appendix 2 details our Action Plan and our measures of success. Performance measures, indicators and case studies will tell the story of how well we are doing. We know that the health, wellbeing and safety of our care experienced young people cannot be described solely through data. As such, personal experiences and feedback help us to see when we have achieved success but will also help us to know where we need to do better.

Progress on achieving the Plan will be provided to our Corporate Parenting Strategic Group which keeps an overview of how we are doing across all our priorities.

## Governance and Reporting

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The Corporate Parenting Strategic Group (CPSG) has membership across corporate parents and is responsible for the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan (CPAP). It is essential that all corporate parents support and fulfil their responsibilities outlined in this plan. It is their job to ensure we achieve the aspirations set out in this plan.

The CPSG will be the forum for implementing the plan and have strategic oversight to ensure its delivery. Members report at each CPSG on the actions where they have a role and will update on progress.

The CPSG chair will update the Children & Young Person's Strategic Partnership when it meets every six weeks, and provide a performance report every six months. This will ensure strong and robust oversight of the plan by the CYPSP and support ongoing reports to East Ayrshire Council Cabinet and Integration Joint Board (IJB).

This governance arrangement will also support good alignment with other close strategic plans, including The Promise Plan and the overarching Children & Young People's Service's Plan 2023-2026.



## Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Data

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### Demographics

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- Total population 2023 (0-26 years): 33,702
  - 0-4 years: 5,606
  - 5-9 years: 6,362
  - 10-14 years: 6,936
  - 15-18 years: 5,238
  - 19-21 years: 3,534
  - 22-26 years: 6,026
- The total number of looked after children in East Ayrshire at 31 July 2023 was 393. This is a slight increase from the previous year at 387.
- The majority of looked after children were male (60%).
- 13% of looked after children were aged under 5 and 22% were aged over 16.
- 4% of looked after children had a known disability and 1% were from a minority ethnic group.
- The majority of looked after children, live at home with parents (107) or live with friends or relatives (107).
- The percentage of looked after children accommodated with 3 or more moves decreased from 33% in 2021/22 to 29% in 2022/23.
- The number of Foster Carer approved households per year has remained static (around 70) since 2019/20.
- There were 239 Kinship Carers on 31 December 2023. This is a slight increase from the previous year (234).
- On 31 July 2023, the number of young people eligible for aftercare was 181 with 77 (43%) receiving aftercare support.
- On 31 July 2023, of those receiving aftercare with known economic activity, 59% were in employment, education or training.
- On 31 July 2023, 4% of looked after children in East Ayrshire had a known disability.



## Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

- In 2023/24, 373 children were referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration – 297 were on non-offence grounds and 91 were on offence grounds.
- Of the 373 children referred, 232 were male and 141 were female.
- In 2023/24, 59 Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSO's) were made, 54 CSO's were terminated and there were 227 CSO's on 31 March 2024.



## Education

- The attendance rates for looked after children decreased in 2022/23 to 79.3% from 83.4% in 2021/22. This is lower than the Scottish average of 84.4%.
- The rate of exclusions of looked after children has fluctuated in recent years due to the small numbers. In 2022/23, there were 110.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils compared to 55.3 in 2021/22.
- The percentage of looked after children in positive destinations has fluctuated in recent years. In 2022/23, the percentage of looked after school leavers in a positive destination was 83.3% compared to 72.7% in 2021/22. This is higher than the Scottish average of 71.1%

- The percentage of looked after school leavers who are looked after at home attaining SCQF Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy was 83.3% in 2022/23 compared to 67.7% of school leavers looked after away from home.
- The percentage of looked after school leavers who are looked after at home attaining SCQF Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy was 33.3% in 2022/23 which is slightly lower than 38.7% of school leavers looked after away from home.



## Health

- The percentage of children with at least one concern at 13-15 months for an aggregated 3-year period from 2021/22-2023/24 was 33.3%
- The percentage of children with at least one concern at 27-30 months for an aggregated 3-year period from 2021/22-2023/24 was 36.7%
- In 2019/20-2023/24, the percentage of looked after children with no concerns in the 'Emotional or Behavioural' domain at 4-5 years was 63.6% compared to non-looked after children at 81.5%.



## Children Affected by Poverty

- The percentage of children living in poverty (after housing costs) in 2022/23 is 27.9% compared to 27.2% in 2021/22. This is higher than the rate for Scotland at 21.8%.

## Appendix 2 – Action Plan

### Key priority 1: MOVING ON To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.1	Early and effective transition planning to prepare our young people to move smoothly into adulthood and all this entails.	We have developed and established our new Welfare Assessment and Pathway Plan.	Assessment and Plan developed and implemented	Service Manager: Moving On and Aftercare Service MOCCA	From May 2025
		Looked After Reviews will consistently have transitions planning flagged at an early stage and will be a focus of discussion.	Reviews identify need and support in place. Audit of Review minutes will provide evidence	Senior Manager (Independent Reviewing Service)	From May 2025
		At the right time for the young person, they will move to be supported by the Throughcare and Aftercare Service (TCACS) to support pathway plans.	Number of transfer allocations to TCACS	Service Manager MOCCA	From April 2025



**Key priority 1: MOVING ON** To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.2	To provide high quality aftercare support, including a drop in/easy access for support service.	All young people eligible to aftercare support will have access to the TCACS. This will be either an allocated worker or support check ins.	Eligible young people in comparison to those in receipt of service.  Commence tracking of information provided to eligible community and number accessing service via Duty Service.	Service Manager MOCCA	From April 2025
		Develop a programme of support drop-ins at a variety of accessible venues including SL33/66 and Ayrshire College.	% of those accessing aftercare support increases, number of drop-ins provided increases, number of attendees at drop-ins increases, case studies.	Education Officer – Opportunities for All	August 2025
		Develop strong multi-agency networks to provide a range of supports.	Ease of access to range of multi-agency support.  Number and range of support accessed.	Service Manager MOCCA	June 2025

**Key priority 1: MOVING ON** To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.3	To provide high quality continuing care.	Ensure young people know their right to Continuing Care	Develop information to share with young people.	Service Manager Families for Children & Young People Service	June 2025
		Embed participation and feedback loop to ensure we are listening to the experiences of young people receiving continuing care and aftercare.	Utilise different ways to seek periodic feedback -Mind Of My own Care Experience Cabinet, Connecting Voices Inbox, Survey.	Service manager Families for Children & Young People Service / Planning & Performance	June 2025
1.4	To enable our young people to remain in our care up to the age of 21 years, whether that be in residential, foster care or kinship care.	Facilitate the range of Continuing Care options for young people	% of young people receiving continuing care increases and baseline put in place  Number of young people who remain in Continuing Care with -foster care -kinship care -residential care	Service manager Families for Children & Young People Service	May 2025

**Key priority 1: MOVING ON** To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.5	To support young people to move into their own tenancy which is of good quality and in a way that is easy to do.	Young people leaving a care placement will be placed on the Strategic Needs Group to ensure a managed and fully supported transition to independent living.	Tenancy sustainment for young people leaving care placements increases.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	Data from May 2025
		A multi-disciplinary team will seek to identify the accommodation which will provide the best possible opportunity for the young person and will be informed by the young person's plan.	Number of young people seeking homeless assistance decreases.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	April 2025
		Properties allocated to young people leaving a care placement are decorated during the void period.	Number of properties decorated. Tenancy sustainment figures.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	October 2025
		Working alongside young people to support and maintain a tenancy in line with our lifelong commitment.	Number of young people who receive Throughcare and Aftercare support in their tenancy from the Health & Social Care Partnership	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	September 2025



**Key priority 1: MOVING ON** To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.5	To support young people to move into their own tenancy which is of good quality and in a way that is easy to do.	Joint Care Leavers' Protocol reviewed to ensure there is a co-ordinated response to the accommodation needs of care leavers aged 16 and over.	Protocol reviewed.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	May 2025
		Develop clear success measures in relation to housing outcomes to enable us to see progress.	Housing performance framework developed.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers	August 2025
1.6	To provide high quality coaching and tenancy support to achieve stability and security.	Neighbourhood Coaches carry out a New Tenant Settling In Visit within 6 weeks of a tenancy commencing and annual CHAT visits.	Tenancy sustainment for young people leaving care placements increases.	Strategic Lead: Housing, Housing Services Managers and Service Manager FSYPs	May 2025
		Housing Support aims to prevent tenants from losing their homes and alleviate homelessness by helping them to develop the skills they need to manage their own home.	Number of young people seeking homeless assistance decreases.  Number of young people who receive Throughcare and Aftercare support in their tenancy from the Health & Social Care Partnership.	Strategic Lead Housing, Housing Services Managers	August 2025

**Key priority 1: MOVING ON** To provide improved support to those moving on from our care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
1.6	To provide high quality coaching and tenancy support to achieve stability and security.	The Universal Credit Support Team provides advice and assistance to all tenants to manage their claim.	Number of care leavers supported by the Universal Credit Team.	Financial Inclusion Lead	June 2025
1.7	To ensure we have a range of education and employment opportunities at our disposal and easily accessible to this who wish it.	Continue to build on education and employment opportunities through our SL33 Partnership model and the Local Employability Partnership.	% of care experienced young people in education, training or employment increases.	Strategic Lead Education	September 2025
		Increase the number of modern apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced young people.	Number of opportunities for care experienced young people (EAC) increases.	Strategic Lead Finance and Business/SDS Lead	September 2025
		Develop opportunities for employment with business sector across East Ayrshire.	Range of employment opportunities increases	Strategic Lead Finance and Business/SDS Lead/Strategic Lead Education	January 2026
		Our young people access further education through Ayrshire College and wider.	Uptake and completion at Ayrshire college and other FE provision.	Head of Student Experience (Ayrshire College)/ Strategic Lead Education/SDS Lead	September 2025
		Develop a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the education and employment opportunities available in East Ayrshire	Number of promotional events in community increases.  Increase in social media posts and interactions and website hits.	Corporate Communications	June 2025

**Key priority 2: RELATIONSHIPS** Recognising we cannot replicate family but will provide long and enduring relationships that are available and relentless in their presence and offer.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
2.1	Develop a workforce values framework which demonstrates our commitment to supporting our children and young people.	Implement a training programme for all corporate parents who may come into contact with children and young people	Number of attendees at training. % of workforce trained Qualitative feedback	Organisational Development Lead/ HR lead	June 2025
2.2	To provide long and enduring relationships so support is constantly available when needed and there is no need to go through new access points.	Ensure every child and young person is involved in creating and updating a full eco-map with everyone who is important to them.	Increase in number of children with a full eco-map.	Service Manager Localities/Service Manager FSYPs	October 2025
			Increase in number of eco-maps presented at meetings by young people.	Service Manager Localities/Service Manager FSYPs	November 2025
			Confirm RFA Team remit	Service Manager Localities Service Manager FSYPs	May 2025
			Complete set up of Throughcare and Aftercare and Kinship Carer duty system and ensure this is publicly available	Service Manager Families for Children & Young People Service	April 2025
2.3	To develop mentoring and natural befriending opportunities in line with the workforce values of The Promise.	Ensure staff are empowered to step out of their day-to-day role to support a child in everyday activities.	Increase in workforce taking on this role Qualitative feedback from children and workforce. Befriending uptake for care experienced children and young people.	Independent Reviewing Officers Participation Team Service Manager FSYPs.	January 2026

**Key priority 2: RELATIONSHIPS** Recognising we cannot replicate family but will provide long and enduring relationships that are available and relentless in their presence and offer.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
2.4	Ensure practice promotes ongoing relationships with brothers and sisters, and other family members and friends, when children cannot live with their own family.	Increase use and quality of Together or Apart assessments to determine arrangements for brothers and sisters.	Increase in number of Together or Apart Assessments completed.  Audit of quality of Together or Apart assessments.	Service Manager Localities/Service Manager Families for Children & Young People Service	June 2025
		Ensure when brothers and sisters aren't living together (not just biological), they have a family time plan that their involved in drafting and updating.	Increase in completion of SCRA sibling form at children's hearings.	Service manager Localities/Service Manager FSYPs/ Lead Reporter	January 2026
		Implement a training programme on family time for brothers and sisters with Children's Hearing Panel Members.	Number of attendees at training session  Audit of decisions considering family time between brothers and sisters.	Service Manager Localities/Lead Reporter/ Learning and Development Team	September 2025



**Key priority 3: POVERTY** We will do everything to ensure our care experienced children, young people and care leavers do not experience poverty that is compounded by them being in care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
3.1	We will put in place targeted support to ensure our children who are looked after having optimal financial stability, equity and access to entitlements.	Financial Inclusion Team will offer support and income maximisation to all care experienced young people and families to ensure income maximisation.	Number of young people accessing support  Income generated from support  Number of young people directed to supports	Financial Inclusion Lead	December 2026
		Early pathway to this support to be agreed and developed.	Financial support/ grants accessed and received  Case Study examples.	Financial Inclusion Lead	December 2026
		Ayrshire College and University of West of Scotland will support care experienced young people to manage their Care Experienced Bursary.  Work will be undertaken to end sanctions on the Care Experienced Bursary.	Number of sanctions reduced.	Head of Student Experience/Service Manager FSYPs/ Financial Inclusion Lead	December 2026

**Key priority 3: POVERTY** We will do everything to ensure our care experienced children, young people and care leavers do not experience poverty that is compounded by them being in care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
3.2	We will ensure strong financial support is available directly and specifically for care leavers to create financial stability. This is in addition to standard section 29 support.	Financial Inclusion Team will offer support and income maximisation to all care experienced young people and families to ensure income maximisation	Feedback form our Young People on timely and effective support	Financial Inclusion Lead/ Service Manager FSYPs	March 2026
		Ensure financial need is built into every Welfare Assessment and Pathways Plan	Total cost of accessed financial entitlement/income maximisation	Service Manager FSYPs	June 2025
3.3	We will ensure digital poverty is eradicated and our care experience community have equal access to digital means.	Ensure easy access to digital and Wi-Fi within our Children's Houses.	All houses have full Wi-Fi access	ICT Lead/Service Manager Families for Children & Young People Service/ Innovation Lead	December 2025
		Maximise access to device / data	Pathways plan reviews monitor and report on this	Team Manager MOCCA	January 2026
		Build in digital access to all care experienced transitions plans. Digital learning and education sessions are available for all care experienced young people.	Quality Assurance of plans will evidence this  Number of young people attending sessions and feedback.  Number of young people attending learning sessions and feedback / evaluation.	Team Manager MOCCA	December 2025

**Key priority 3: POVERTY** We will do everything to ensure our care experienced children, young people and care leavers do not experience poverty that is compounded by them being in care.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
3.4	We will be active to ensure the relationship between poverty and coming into care is changed in East Ayrshire through early help and support.	Awareness raising of supports that are available and accessible	Tracked through the East Ayrshire Child Poverty Action Plan	Financial Inclusion Lead	September 2025
3.5	We will improve our information and communication around financial support, rights and entitlements	Develop a rights and entitlements brochure that is part of Pathways Planning	Completion of brochure	Care Experienced Cabinet/ Corporate Comms Lead	December 2025
		Development of centralised information system / webpage with relevant information and contextualised information.	Completion of webpage Analysis of webpage usage	Corporate Comms Lead/HSCP Comms Lead	March 2026

**Key priority 4: HEALTH AND WELLBEING** We recognise the trauma and impact of care and will do everything we can to ensure our children, young people and care leavers are supported to recover.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
4.1	We will ensure children in our care get access to bespoke and specialist support as and when they need it.	Continue to build on the notification process that has been developed in partnership with South and North Ayrshire Health to ensure all East Ayrshire children are notified to health within a set timescale.	% of infants, children and young people becoming looked after vs % notified to Health single point of contact.	Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	August 2025
		Implement agreed Data 'Pledge' of auditing infant, children and young people lists on Social Work and Health Systems.	Development of Health / Social Work collaborative process of audit and data.	Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	August 2025
4.2	We will ensure our children, young people and care leavers can access age appropriate and diverse mental health and emotional wellbeing supports through different approaches and mechanisms. This will include online and face-to-face supports.	Identify and address areas of immediate health risk / need when a child requires to be accommodated in an emergency.  Further embed the work being undertaken by Educational Psychology in the Children's Houses.	% of children and young people who are accommodated in an emergency, where a 'Health Safety Check' has been requested.  % of ICYP who have had health needs / risks / appointments picked up due to HSC being done.  Number of young people in the children's accessing support from Educational Psychology.	Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	September 2025          April 2026



**Key priority 4: HEALTH AND WELLBEING** We recognise the trauma and impact of care and will do everything we can to ensure our children, young people and care leavers are supported to recover.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
4.3	We will ensure we fulfil our requirements of CEL 16 and move to an enhanced model for those moving on from our care into young adulthood. This will include improving our information systems to ensure identification and access to assessment.	Consider upcoming Scottish Government national transitions strategy, MH services, and distressed children's pathways to refresh our approach locally.	Number of children and young people transitioning where passport is developed has increased.	Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	June 2025
		Revisit initial health assessment at point of transition of adult services.		Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	September 2025
		Co-design of Transitions 'Passport' with young people.		Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ	October 2025
4.4	Through strong relationship-based practice, we will ensure our children and young people always have a trusted adult they can access for help and support in relation to health matters.	Rollout of trauma training at appropriate level for the workforce.	% of staff trained/ Uptake and usage rates of KOOTH Number of children receiving support from school counsellors. Number of support sessions provided by school counsellors.	Senior Manager Justice/ L& D Lead Senior Nurse Manager CHCJ Strategic Lead Education Strategic Lead Education	June 2025

**Key priority 5: CELEBRATING YOUTH** We feel passionately that youth should be celebrated and those experiencing care should have the ability to shine. We will be champions of our children and ensure they are seen in a positive light regardless of their adversity.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
5.1	Challenge negative stereotyping of youth through strong campaign.	Co-produce, with children and young people, a campaign promoting young people's experiences.	Campaign developed – social media interactions, website hits, sessions held.	Care Experienced Cabinet/Corporate Comms Lead/Police Scotland	May 2025
5.2	Help others understand the adversity of care and better recognise the experience and the strength and power it takes to survive difficult and challenging life experiences.	Consider a 'Celebrating Youth' conference with speakers who challenge the negative stereotypes of young people.	Number of attendees at conference.  Breadth of attendees at conference.	CPSG Chair/L&D/ Organisational Development Lead	By December 2025
		Develop training of community guardians who have knowledge of contextual safeguarding.	Number of community guardians trained increases.  Qualitative feedback.	Organisational Development Lead/ CPC Lead Officer	December 2025
5.3	Ensure we stick with our children and young people through the difficult and challenging times and never give up on them.	Develop 'East Ayrshire's Promise' to our young people to illustrate our commitments in partnership with young people.	Qualitative feedback.	Care Experienced Cabinet and CPSG	June 2025

**Key priority 5: CELEBRATING YOUTH** We feel passionately that youth should be celebrated and those experiencing care should have the ability to shine. We will be champions of our children and ensure they are seen in a positive light regardless of their adversity.

No	Area of action	Action to achieve	Measure of success	Lead person/agency	Timescales for completion
5.4	Provide rich and diverse opportunities to shine	Agencies to highlight and promote opportunities, such as Leadership Academies, Harvard Summer School; Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Scheme	Number of diverse opportunities Feedback form young people on the experience	Strategic/Lead education	August 2025
5.5	Care Experienced Cabinet provides a strong forum for voice of all ages with clear evidence of outcomes.	Corporate Parenting responsibilities training for all CEC members and wider workforce.	Number of people experiencing training	Organisational Development Lead	September 2025
		Develop ways for care experienced young people to be represented by the forum without having to attend.	Increase in diversity of young members	Participation Leader/ Corporate Comms/ All Corporate Parents	July 2025
		Recruitment of young members with clear support	Increase in diversity of young members	Participation Leader/ Corporate Comms/ All Corporate Parents	July 2025
		Action and Outcomes tracker to be in place	Tracker in place and progress evidence	CEC Chair	March 2025
		Annual reporting to Full Council on progress	Annual report presented	CEC Chair and CPSG Chair	Align with meeting cycle



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