

Children and Young People, in consultation with key partners and specifically

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

EDUCATION

25 AUGUST 2022

CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Corporate Parenting is the responsibility that councils have for children and

session 2016/17 & January 2017 (Appendix 1). The Framework was created following work by a multi-agency working group and after partnership working with CELCIS). It draws

trend across other local authorities and to increase the credibility and scope of this post.

- e) That the Chief Education Officer continues to provide updates on the improved outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People to the Corporate Parenting Board and Community Services Committee.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 In 2018, as part of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education and Attainment Scotland Fund (a targeted initiative focused on supporting young people affected by poverty and deprivation across Scotland), specific funding was directed towards supporting Care Experienced Children and Young People. The term 'care experienced' is now a widely used term within the sector to describe any person who has experience of being in care, regardless of their placement length or type, or their age; this term is used (as opposed to the statutory term 'Looked After Children') to ensure that our practice is inclusive and provides for all groups of young people who experience care.

4.2 In Spring 2022 we have 283 Care Experienced pupils in our education settings (2-18). 148 are (Looked After). Of those, 108 are looked after by

ITEM	AMOUNT
Staffing	119,246

this cohort through the continued role of the Care Experience Health and

52% went on to Further Education, 4% went on to Higher Education, 9% are Economically Inactive, meaning that they are unable to work at the moment and 35% of young people went into employment.

This is a positive picture and exceeds our Year 1 target in the Corporate Parenting Plan, which was to increase the number of young people moving on to a positive destination to 85%. We note that when working with such small numbers, a change in circumstance for one or two young people can negatively impact the percentage figures. The PT for Care Experienced Children and Young People has tracked the leavers and can identify the reasons for the 9% who are economically inactive. The PT works with school colleagues and partners from

Maximising Attendance Group
Addressing Non-Attendance Strategy group
Joint Resource Group
Kinship Panel
Trauma Strategy Group

The PT has been invited be part of the recruitment panel for new Social Workers on a number of occasions, highlighting the partnership working across agencies. This allows the newly recruited Social Workers to experience this link and paves the way for open communication when they are in post.

The PT has attended a team meeting of the Family Placement Team to share information about the role of the Care Experience Team and to find out more about the team. This has led to increased communication between the two teams and several referrals for Health and Wellbeing Liaison Support have come through the Family Placement Team.

The PT and one of the Social Work area teams are planning to jointly host a multi-
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and other agencies involved with children and families across the locality to share information about their services and help put faces to names, after two years of mainly online meetings. This foster positive relations and allow people to reach out to colleagues for advice or support.

The PT works closely with the Participation and Engagement Officer to provide development of their wellbeing. When recruiting new Health and Wellbeing Liaison Officers, the Participation and Engagement Officer was part of the recruitment process, bringing questions from the children to ask at interview. The them. They covered topics such as confidentiality and bringing the relational work to a close.

4.6 There is evidence that creative steps are being taken in our schools to improve engagement and also promote home-
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chool has encouraged many

of the Network can be found here:
https://www.celcis.org/application/files/9516/3540/8809/VSHT_Summary_Evaluation_September_2021_FINAL.pdf

There is funding within the allocated grant to continue with having a dedicated post-holder to maintain a close focus on Care Experienced Children and Young People. In order to bring provision in line with that of other local authorities, this role will be taken forward as a Virtual Head Teacher in order to develop credibility and scope for increased impact.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Significant improvements have been made in relation to scrutiny, audit and outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Young People during previous sessions. These have been sustained into session 2020/21. This work will continue to address raising attainment and closing the gap for Care Experienced Children and Young People in session 2022/23.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy & None

6.2 Financial & Appropriate allocation of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund Grant

6.3 Legal & The statutory duties of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and all previous relevant acts will be met.

6.4 HR & None

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: Providing equity and inclusion to meet the needs of all young people.

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics & All legislative requirements will be met

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty & N/A

6.5.3 Islands & No differentiated impact.

- 6.6. Risk & Ongoing scrutiny and audit will provide better outcomes for Care Experience Children and Young People. Sustainability and future-planning will mitigate future risk.
- 6.7 Customer Service & Improvements in service to meet individual needs are being sought

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