

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2023
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 and Child Poverty Commitment 2023-2026
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee on the content of the South Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 and the Child Poverty Commitment 2023-2026

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the South Lanarkshire Children's Service Plan 2023-2026 be noted;
- (2) that the final South Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan Report for 2020-2023, endorsed by the Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Strategy Group in June 2023, be noted; and
- (3) that the Child Poverty Commitment 2023-2026 be noted.

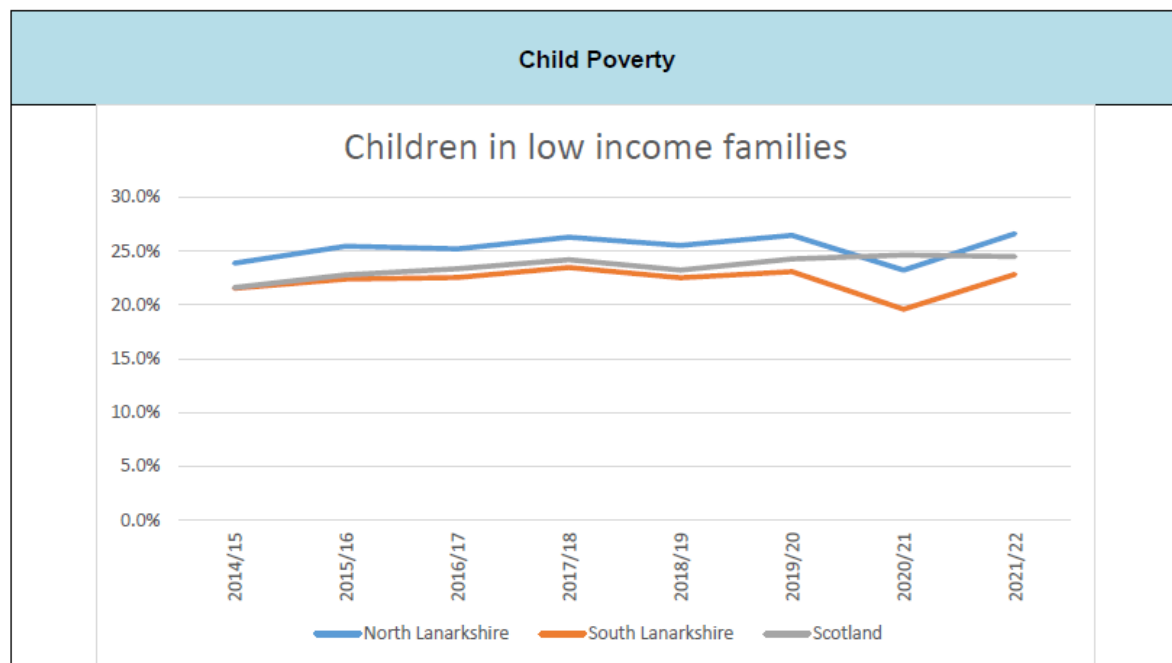
3. Background

- 3.1. The Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced requirements for each Local Authority and linked Health Board to prepare and publish a Children's Services Plan (CSP) initially covering the period April 2017 – March 2020 (and then in a continuing three-year cycle).
- 3.2. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to prepare Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR), as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting Cycle.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government's Best Start, Bright Futures – Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (2022-26) was published in March 2022. It sets out a vision for Scotland to tackle child poverty, the changes that are needed to achieve this and the actions that must be taken with partners to deliver that change.

4. Local Progress

- 4.1. Children's Service Plan Update
- 4.1.1. The final CSP Report for 2020-23 (appendix 1) and the new CSP 2023- 26 (appendix 2) were endorsed by the Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Strategy Group in June 2023.

- 4.1.2. The CSP has been shaped by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, the voice of children, young people and families and the perspective of the wider workforce.
- 4.1.3. The priority areas identified by this process are detailed below: -
- Every family that needs support gets the right family support at the right time for as long as required.
 - Children and young people grow up loved, sage, respected and listened to.
 - Every child and young person will be able to access support which helps improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- 4.1.4. The final CSP report for 2020-2023 and CSP for 2023-26 have been approved by South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership in September 2023. The reports have been published and submitted to the Scottish Government as per statutory duty and cascaded across South Lanarkshire partner organisations.
- 4.2. Local Child Poverty Plan - Child Poverty Commitment
- 4.2.1. The available data at 2021/22 highlights that child poverty is a significant issue across Lanarkshire. It is also notable that child poverty data for South Lanarkshire shows a steady increase in recent years,



- 4.2.2. The new South Lanarkshire Child Poverty Commitment 2023-2026 (appendix 3) sets out actions to tackle child poverty and how these are embedded in much of what key stakeholders do across a wide range of planning and delivery process. Lived experience has played an important role in shaping the Commitment.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1. There are no specific employee implications identified by this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific financial implications identified by this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change, sustainability, and environmental implications identified by this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. A performance framework will support the implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress against each of the agreed priorities within the Children's Services Plan. Each of the thematic groups are finalising their improvement action plans.

- 8.2. The contents of these plans contained in this report will contribute to the mitigation of several risks within the Social Work Risk Register, notably:

- Meeting Public Protection & Legislative Duties (Very High).

- 8.3. There are no other specific implications identified by this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been produced.

- 9.2. Engagement with children, young people and their families has been conducted by the services that support them. It is intended to co-produce a children and young people friendly version of the plan, building on the animation produced for the 2021-2023 plan.

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

27 November 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ focussed on people and their needs
- ◆ working with and respecting others

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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