

Early Years Strategy Priorities 2009-2011

DRAFT

A COHERENT APPROACH		
Longer-term objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school.○ Resources used more effectively.		
Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Early Years Strategy Group (EYSG) to develop Early Years Strategy (EYS) in line with the National Early Years Framework and Fife Children's Services Plan.		
EYSG & Corporate Research Team to create an Early Years dataset within Knowfife to map early years populations, services and spend Fife-wide to provide intelligence for planning & policy.		
Local staged intervention processes to be identified and developed across all services		
EYSG to identify outcome indicators to monitor early years priorities within EYS.		
Staged Intervention Model developed to inform Integrated Care Pathways		

HELPING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO SECURE OUTCOMES THEMSELVES

Longer-term objectives:

- Parents feel better supported and have improved parenting skills
- Greater capacity amongst parents to improve outcomes for themselves.

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop an agreed Family Support & Parenting Strategy for Fife.		
Identify/develop opportunities for all early years workers to improve support to children & families; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service improvement priorities to increase opportunities for joint training ○ Capacity building that fully utilises existing expertise across the Early Years Services ○ Staged Intervention Model & Care Pathways agreed and understood across services ○ Increase awareness of importance on infant mental health for influencing positive outcomes 		
Develop a creative communication framework to improve information for children, families, professionals & communities; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awareness of importance of early years and play ○ Consultation processes appropriate for early years ○ Highlighting good practice & sharing news ○ Dissemination of learning from Education FSF project 		

USING THE STRENGTH OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES TO DELIVER PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Longer-term objectives:

- Early intervention becomes a core value across a wide range of services in and beyond early years.

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop Integrated Care Pathways for antenatal, maternity and post natal care in Fife using the agreed Staged Intervention Approach		
EYSG to support a redesigned Early Years Education Service and work in partnership to develop a cohesive extended and equitable service across Fife		
Ensure awareness of early intervention/ GIRIF principles, including roles and responsibilities, across all services for children via communication strategy. Develop a Staged Intervention approach based on shared assessment of need across all services for children; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased joint working and training ○ A shared philosophy and adoption of GIRFEC principles ○ Awareness of roles & responsibilities. 		

BREAKING CYCLES OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND POOR OUTCOMES IN AND THROUGH EARLY YEARS

Longer-term objectives:

- Taking opportunities to break into cycles of poor outcomes at key stages

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
EYSG to align its approach to early years and early intervention, health inequalities and tackling poverty in development of the Early Years Strategy through linking to Equally Well Action Plan, Fairer Fife Framework and other key local plans.		
Investigate models of providing improved access to financial/ welfare advice and information to families via communication strategy.		

A FOCUS ON ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Longer-term objectives:

- Improved engagement with children and families
- All partners signed up to a shared vision for early years in Fife.

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop resources and training opportunities for early years workers to promote and support participation/engagement of children, families & communities.		
Communication strategy developed to link with relevant groups including Fife Partnership and adult services.		

PUTTING QUALITY AT THE HEART OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Longer-term objectives:

- Early years services aligned to evidence of what works.
- CPD and training aligned to those skills and qualities that will have the greatest impact on outcomes

Five Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Implement the use of Quality Indicators for self-evaluation across services for children, young people & families.		
EYSG to adopt the Common Values Statement highlighted by GIRIF and identify core skills needed to deliver the early years framework and Getting it Right for Every Child.		
Identify/develop joint training opportunities for all early years workers to improve support to children & families.		
EYSG to investigate need for the development of a Training Group to work across service providers and to co-ordinate joint training developments		

SERVICES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Longer-term objectives:

- A strong cohesive EYS established offering a continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school & targeted support when needed using GIRIF model.
- Strong links established with Youth Framework and adult services to ensure seamless transitions and a continuum of support.
- Resources used more effectively to target early intervention/prevention measures

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
EYSG/LCSGs to map early years services Fife-wide & in local areas and identify gaps.		
Communication strategy developed to link with relevant groups including Fife Partnership and adult services.		
Identify/develop joint training opportunities for all early years workers to improve support to children & families.		
Investigate methods of providing improved access to financial/ welfare advice and information to families through communication strategy.		

IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND CHILDREN'S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH PLAY

Longer-term objectives:

- High quality play opportunities in every community. Increased play and physical activity.
- Improved opportunities for children, families and communities to engage in community planning & regeneration to improve environments for play.

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop opportunities to promote the importance of play on young children's development and wellbeing.		
Develop resources and training opportunities for early years workers to promote and support participation/engagement of children, families & communities.		Big Shout
Develop training opportunities for early years workforce for play@home, Play Resource Pack, Start to Play (Youth Sports Trust) and develop physical activity resource pack for use in early years setting		EB / Active Schools
Evaluate effectiveness of play@home in Fife		EB play@home coordinator
The imaginative use of space and resources which creates opportunity for children to work independently or collaboratively.		Education Service - CfE
To nurture children's individual imagination, curiosity, creativity and talent within and out with the school day.		Generations for Change, Cultural Strategy

EYSG to link development of the Early Years Strategy with Fife's Play Strategy, Green Spaces Strategy and other key local plans to ensure access to opportunities and spaces to play.		
Communication strategy developed to link with relevant groups including Fife Partnership and adult services.		

SIMPLIFYING AND STREAMLINING DELIVERY		
<p>Longer-term objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A simplified and streamlined early years service landscape 		
Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Early Years Strategy Group (EYSG) to develop Early Years Strategy (EYS) in line with the National Early Years Framework and Fife Children's Services Plan.		

MORE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIONS

Longer-term objectives:

- A strong cohesive EYS established offering a continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school & targeted support when needed using GIRIF model.
- Strong links established with Youth Framework and adult services to ensure seamless transitions.
- Commissioning strategy/monitoring process established linked to EYS priorities.
- Resources used more effectively

Fife Short-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Early Years Strategy Group (EYSG) to develop Early Years Strategy (EYS) in line with Framework as part of development of 2009-10 round of SOAs/CSP 2009-11.		
Communication strategy developed to link with relevant groups including Fife Partnership and adult services.		
Identify/develop joint training opportunities for all early years workers to improve support to children & families.		
Implement the use of Quality Indicators for self-evaluation across services for children, young people & families.		
EYSG & Corporate Research Team to map targeted & mainstream early years spend Fife-wide to provide intelligence for planning & policy.		

A COHERENT APPROACH

Longer-term objectives:

- A continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school.
- Resources used more effectively.

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Communication/participation strategy developed to engage children, families and communities in ongoing development of Fife's Early Years Strategy.		
Extend monitoring of targeted & mainstream funding to ensure focus on early years priorities.		
Annual audit of early years in Fife including population, welfare, health stats & information on services to inform EYS.		
Build on links with community planning and Children's Service Planning structures using Getting It Right in Fife (GIRIF) approach.		

HELPING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO SECURE OUTCOMES THEMSELVES

Longer-term objectives:

- Parents feel better supported and have improved parenting skills
- Greater capacity amongst parents to improve outcomes for themselves.

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
EYSG to investigate and promote ways of providing services jointly to improve access to family and community learning.		
Community development programmes include parenting and early years as one of their priorities including opportunities for parents to get involved in services as volunteer helpers or similar roles		
Provide support to grandparents and informal carers who spend significant amounts of time with care of children		

USING THE STRENGTH OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES TO DELIVER PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Longer-term objectives:

- Early intervention becomes a core value across a wide range of services in and beyond early years.

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Enhance early intervention to address identified gaps and meet need.		
Utilise universal services to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.		
Equip all young people to make positive choices about pregnancy and parenthood through Curriculum for Excellence matched to individual needs.		
Extend monitoring of targeted & mainstream funding to ensure focus on early years priorities.		

BREAKING CYCLES OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND POOR OUTCOMES IN AND THROUGH EARLY YEARS**Longer-term objectives:**

- Taking opportunities to break into cycles of poor outcomes at key stages

Fife Medium-term Actions**Outcomes****Lead**

Support adult services such as housing, substance misuse treatment and debt advice services to recognise their role to promote and act on the needs of children.

Develop more consistent access to intensive family support for those who need it using GIRIF approach.

A FOCUS ON ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Longer-term objectives:

- Improved engagement with children and families
- All partners signed up to a shared vision for early years in Fife.

Fife Medium-term Actions

Lead

Values of Fife’s Early Years Strategy communicated across all services through implementation of communication strategy.

Raise awareness of importance of engagement with children, families and communities in community planning.

Implement GIRIF approach across early years services.

PUTTING QUALITY AT THE HEART OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Longer-term objectives:

- Early years services aligned to evidence of what works.
- CPD and training aligned to those skills and qualities that will have the greatest impact on outcomes

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Use of Quality Indicators adopted into EYSG annual development programme for Fife's Early Years Strategy Group		
CPD and training programmes aligned to Early Years Strategy priorities and develop joint training opportunities where possible		
Work with other LAs and Scottish Government to investigate models of good practice in terms of workforce development.		
Making use of universal services to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.		

SERVICES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Longer-term objectives:

- A strong cohesive Early Years Strategy established offering a continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school & targeted support when needed using GIRIF model.
- Strong links established with Youth Framework and adult services to ensure seamless transitions and a continuum of support.
- Resources used more effectively to target early intervention/prevention measures

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop a single gateway to a range of advice and information for children and families. Marketing this proactively.		

IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND CHILDREN'S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH PLAY

Longer-term objectives:

- High quality play opportunities in every community. Increased play and physical activity.
- Improved opportunities for children, families and communities to engage in community planning & regeneration to improve environments for play.

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop opportunities to promote the importance of play on young children's development and wellbeing.		
Develop resources and training opportunities for early years workers to promote and support participation/engagement of children, families & communities.		
Develop local play and greenspace policies and improve play opportunities		
Nurseries, schools & partners supporting outdoor learning and outdoor play through approaches such as nature kindergartens		
Ensure all children and young people have learning and leisure opportunities that grow and develop their creativity and cultural experience		
Promoting positive environments for children and families through planning, regeneration and transport policies		

SIMPLIFYING AND STREAMLINING DELIVERY

Longer-term objectives:

- A simplified and streamlined early years service landscape

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Clear strategic leadership for pre birth - 8 services across Fife.		
Clear strategic collaboration across early years, children's and adults' services to ensure a continuum of support to meet the needs of children and families.		

MORE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIONS

Longer-term objectives:

- A strong cohesive EYS established offering a continuum of support from pregnancy through to primary school & targeted support when needed using GIRIF model.
- Strong links established with Youth Framework and adult services to ensure seamless transitions.
- Commissioning strategy/monitoring process established linked to EYS priorities.
- Resources used more effectively

Fife Medium-term Actions	Outcomes	Lead
Develop models of service delivery that combine public sector and partners working alongside each other to common objectives		
Extend monitoring of targeted & mainstream funding to ensure focus on early years priorities.		