

REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - 7 OCTOBER 2021

BRIEFING ON THE HOLISTIC FAMILY SUPPORT PILOT PROJECTS

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 This report provides ECS Committee with a summary of the work being undertaken to deliver against The Promise through the piloting of the Holistic Family Support Projects.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

2.1 Consider and comment on the progress of the Holistic Family Support Projects as part of Aberdeenshire's response to The Promise; and

2.2 Agree to receive a further update in 12 months in the form of a workshop.

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 On 29 April 2021, a report was shared by Laurence Findlay, Director of ECS, with Full Council on the outcome of the Independent Care Review – The Promise – and Aberdeenshire's response to date. Since then, a further request has been made for additional information to be provided to Councillors on the Holistic Family Support Workstreams.

4 Discussion

4.1 The Context

[The Independent Care Review Scotland](#) is based on the feedback of over 5,500 care experienced children and adults, families and care workers. Their stories highlight the need for radical change to the care system, and the key messages in the reviews conclusion include:

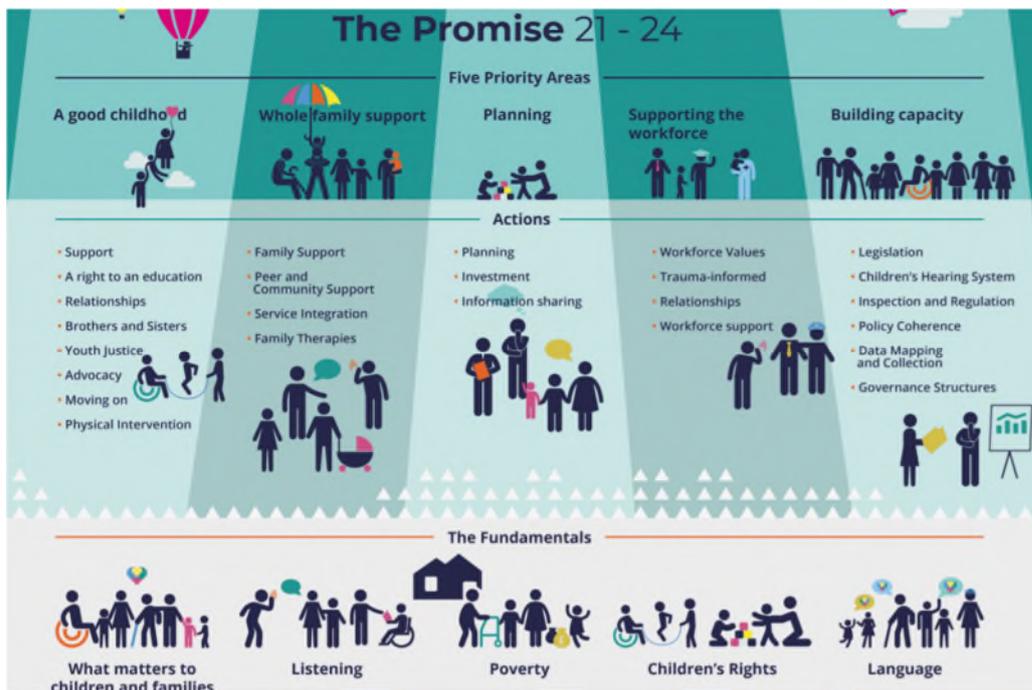
- the importance of children having a voice and being listened to.
- families receiving the right support to stay together and overcome difficulties.
- when young people have to come into care, ensuring the support is child-centred and based on relationships, and stigma is eradicated.

[The Promise](#) is the name of the main report and output of the national care review which sets out clear timescales and milestones for children's services to deliver on up to 2030.

4.2 The Promise Plan

Work across Scotland to [#KeepThePromise](#) between 2021 and 2030 is to be shaped by a series of three Plans, each lasting for three years and outlining the priorities and action across that period. Each Plan will build on the progress made by the one before it, to make sure transformational change happens across all the Care Review's conclusions.

[Plan 21-24](#) focuses on the period from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2024. It outlines a set of outcomes that should be concluded by 2024. The five priority areas outlined in Plan 21-24 are:



The Holistic Family Support workstreams straddle a number of these priorities but should not be viewed in isolation. They are a part of several different projects and approaches to developing services and activities that meet these five priorities. This report, however, will focus on these particular workstreams.

4.3 Project Origins

The projects grew out of the findings of the 2019 multi-agency review of the Whole Systems Approach to Youth Justice led by a Service Development Officer (SDO) specifically employed to do this work. Systems thinking, and the mapping of individual young adult's journeys (involving those adults directly) to understand their and their families' experiences, helped identify factors contributing to poor long-term outcomes including:

- Repeated communication issues between agencies.
- Repeated crisis responses and case closures when crises abated, or cases referred on.

- Service responses focused on the child rather than thinking about helping the whole family.
- When a child was removed from their family, work with families to facilitate their return home appeared inconsistent.
- Young people who became involved with the adult justice system had multiple entries to remand, prison, drug, and alcohol problems.
- Overall, young people coming into conflict with the law was a symptom of much wider early trauma.

A multi-agency workshop in November 2019 considered the review findings and agreed that, to improve outcomes for young people, services had to work together more effectively, earlier, and sustain involvement through strong trusting relationships to support long term change. To make improvements in these areas, and so improve outcomes for young people and their families, the workshop proposed improvement ideas which were consolidated into two workstreams around holistic family support, in line with The Promise, to be piloted over three years.

The **Supporting Local Families** workstream focuses on how universal services can come together to provide early intervention to families in need of support. The aim of the intervention being to support families to identify themselves particular issues they would like assistance to work on with the ultimate aim of developing resilience and capacity to make and sustain change avoid the need for more targeted/statutory services in the long term.

The Intensive Family Support, workstream focuses on how to improve outcomes for young people who have already experienced crises and family breakdown and are known to Social Work. The aim being to reduce the number of children in care, the number of children experiencing further relationship breakdowns and subsequent changes in who they live with, the number of children moving to costly 'out of authority' placements, and the number of young people coming into contact with the Criminal Justice system.

4.4 Principles and Approach

When working within complex systems, it is easy to jump solutions and make changes before establishing a real understanding of what these changes are trying to address, and how we will know if they've made a difference.

'All Improvement requires change, but not all change brings improvement'

Work to [#keepthepromise](#) will require both continuous improvement and transformational change. That is, a combination of making improvements within an existing system, and re-thinking the whole system. Improvement methodology can support this through seeking a better understanding of the systems in which we work to better define and understand the problem.

4.5 Funding

The above projects have been funded in both cash and kind by:

- Education & Children's Services
- Health & Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland
- Community Safety Grant
- Scottish Government Mental Health & Wellbeing Grant
- The Corra Foundation/The Promise

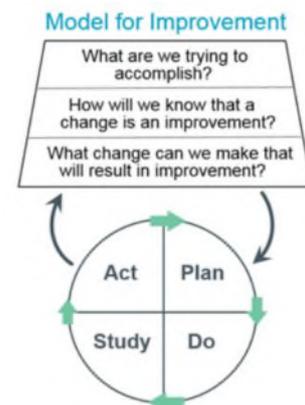
The ambition of Children's Services Planning legislation is that planning partners will come together, identify priorities, and realign budget/resource to meet these priorities. The Holistic Family Support projects are an example of just this. Funding has been agreed for 3 years initially to allow the projects to develop and a full evaluation of impact to be undertaken prior to agreeing next steps. Education & Children's Services have committed £500K per year for three years in anticipation of a spend to save initiative.

4.6 Adopting Evidence Based Practice

There is already an extensive evidence base for 'what works' in relation to many elements of children and families' services, with a range of tested and evaluated models, programs and interventions available nationally for partnerships to invest in. When the solution to a well-defined problem is identified in existing evidence-based practice, an active implementation approach will ensure the solution is adopted locally with fidelity and that it is measured in terms of impact.

4.7 IHI Model for Improvement

The development of the projects is firmly embedded in the model for improvement. This is a framework designed to accelerate improvement by supporting teams to find their own solutions to a defined problem through developing ideas, and testing their change theory to find out if these ideas work. Cycles allow for informed development and refinement of the idea, based on results of each test.



Each project is joint funded for 3 years and using the above model, will develop over this period and provide evidence based recommendations around wider implementation if this remains the right approach and cost effectiveness alongside strong impact on outcomes can be evidenced.

4.8 Trauma Informed Approach

The ethos behind Holistic Family Support is firmly rooted in a trauma informed approach. Being 'Trauma Informed' means being able to recognise when someone may be affected by trauma, collaboratively adjusting how we work to take this into account and responding in a way that supports recovery, does no harm and recognises and supports people's resilience. By understanding a

person's life experiences we can deliver services effectively and have the potential to improve trust, feelings of safety, empowerment, relationships, engagement, health outcomes, and wellbeing for our staff and our communities.

4.9 **Governance**

The work of both projects is supported through two multi agency Project Teams. Supporting Local Families is being led by Danica Smith, QIO and Intensive Family Support by Elexes McAlpine, Social Work Manager. The teams are also supported by a Strategic Development Officer based in Children's Services Social Work and an Improvement Advisor from the Scottish Government Children & Young Persons Improvement Collaborative. Both Project Teams report directly to The Promise Implementation Project Board, chaired by Leigh Jolly, Head of Children's Services with representation from partner agencies, and overall accountability sits with the multi-agency GIRFEC Strategic Group chaired by Laurence Findlay, Director of ECS.

4.10 **Support for Local Families**

Location – Due to the socioeconomic profile of the school and the knowledge of the challenges encountered by numerous pupils and their families, Buchanhaven School was chosen as a host for a Supporting Local Families pilot.

Buchanhaven School Profile:

Current number of pupils on school roll: 517

Socioeconomic profile: 218 pupils are recorded as SIMD 1-3

Families being supported through a multi-agency Child's plan: 30

Families currently in the Supporting Local Families pilot: 12*

Families who could potentially benefit from Supporting Local Families pilot: 60 families identified

Total number of families who would benefit from Supporting Local Families pilot: 72 this equates to 14% of the families in the school

* Current referrals equate to 17% of those identified as potential beneficiaries

The aims of the project are to work collaboratively with families to co-design a system of support that is non stigmatising, holistic and build's family capacity and resilience based on strong, trusting relationships with members of the Supporting Local Families Team. The team currently includes family link workers, a school nurse, speech and language therapist, early years practitioners and local police who all bring a trauma informed approach to relationship building and skills and expertise to support the family as a whole.

The current team has been in place for around four months and the pilot is funded for a 3-year period in the first instance. It is anticipated that as learning evolves, the project will evolve and in time can be rolled out more widely.

At this point in the pilot, families are identified by the school team and approached with a view to inviting them to participate. If the family consent,

the initial focus is to begin to build a trusting relationship with the family in order to begin to work with the family on the areas they identify as being something they would like help to work on and change. This could be anything from financial strategies, education and employment opportunities, mental health, or help with child routines and behaviour.

Criteria for support is currently based on a number of early flags/indicators identified through the learning from the chronologies that could indicate a likelihood of a family requiring targeted support at a later stage if support was not available now.

Some of the indicators currently being used include domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health, school attendance, managing a child's behaviour, offending, housing, unemployment, financial challenges and a lack of trust in services potentially offering support.

4.11 Initial Feedback

- The use of family chronologies has enabled the team to understand the family's circumstances from their perspective as opposed to individual service perspectives which keeps the family at the centre.
- The use of outcome-based aims developed with the family enables families to have control and to track progress, even at an early stage.
- There is a huge benefit to the work being based in the school – the Head Teacher/Senior Management Team play a key role in knowing and identifying families. Also, they have already developed the positive relationships with their families as a foundation for the Supporting Local Families Team to build upon.
- Support focusses on the whole family recognising that to make and sustain change, families need to feel in control in all areas of their lives as opposed to just one area.

4.12 Next Steps

- Continue to strengthen involvement of the family in the evolving design of the service
- Develop robust performance measures that provide evidence of the project 'making a difference' alongside direct feedback from families about their experience.
- Consider the learning to shape wider implementation.
- Revisit the criteria for support
- Work towards families self-referring.

4.13 Intensive Family Support

Location – Shire-wide

Focus: The pilot has been designed to test the hypotheses about the impact of creating a 'prototype' multi-agency/multi-disciplinary team to trial new ways of working with families and children in crises and already known to social work

services. This includes children or young people who are edging into care and children and young people in care or leaving care but at risk of relationship breakdown, multiple moves and a negative destination. The ambition of the project is to support children between the ages of 0-25 years who meet the above criteria but the initial pilot will focus in on a reduced age range in order to test and learn prior to expanding this support. The project aims to support children to remain within their families or within their communities, avoid the use of expensive out of authority placements and help them achieve improved and sustained lifelong outcomes.

Prototype Team Profile

- 5.4 FTE Crisis Support Workers from Children's Social Work Services
- 0.5 FTE CAMHS Clinical Psychologist
- 0.4 FTE Educational Psychologist 0.4
- Speech and Language Therapist 0.5 FTE –
- 1 FTE Specialist Nurse
- Virtual Headteacher
- 0.7 FTE Police Officer

The creation of this team is still in its infancy however, in working towards the creation of these dedicated posts, partners have demonstrated a strong commitment to come together and test some of the theories of change which has included working with 7 families.

Similar to Support for Local Families, the aims of the project are to work collaboratively with families to co-design a system of support that is non stigmatising, holistic and build's family capacity and resilience based on strong, trusting relationships with an identified key worker alongside some of the members of the prototype team.

Criteria for support at present is based on a number of indicators again identified through the learning from the chronologies that that could indicate a likelihood of a placement breakdown and poor outcomes/negative destinations for the child/young person.

Some of the indicators currently being used include evidence of complex family trauma, death of a parent, parental substance/alcohol misuse, parental poor mental health, experience of domestic abuse/coercive control, offending, absconding, use of substances, poor mental health and multi moves including school moves.

4.14 Initial Feedback

- Strong commitment from partners to try new things and work differently to support families.
- Use of chronology is powerful and helps partners and families understand the story and context to the challenges.
- Child at the centre.

- No wrong door approach mitigates risk of waiting lists for specialist support as services including CAMHS are committed to and wrapped around the family.

It is also evident, although still early days, that out of the 7 young people and their families being supported with this different approach, 5 were highlighted as being at high risk of requiring an out of authority placement and for one young person, a residential school had already been identified and this has been avoided to date. Had all 5 of these young people been placed in a residential school, this would not only have removed them from their local communities and family but would have cost the authority around £5k per week per young person.

4.15 **Next Steps**

- To use the learning to inform further development of the dedicated prototype team.
- Continue to strengthen involvement of the family in the evolving design of the service.
- Develop robust performance measures that provide evidence of the project 'making a difference' alongside direct feedback from families about their experience.
- Improve communication across partners to understand and participate in testing this new way of working.
- Develop a cost analysis process to being able to compare cost of the project with the potential cost of an out of authority placement.

4.16 **Summary**

Delivering Holistic Family Support in line with The Promise is at an early but very promising stage in Aberdeenshire. Once performance measures are fully developed, they will become part of the Education and Children's Services Directorate Plan data suite which will enable tracking of improvement activity. Once the projects are further developed, members may wish to consider the offer of specific workshop where the projects can be brought to life and members can hear directly from the families and partners involved.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priorities: Our People- Education and Health & Wellbeing.
- 5.2 This report also helps to deliver against [Aberdeenshire's Children's Services Plan](#) Priorities – 'Corporate Parenting' and 'Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing' as well as the LOIP Priority Child Poverty.
- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	X		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	X		
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 5.4 The financial implications are (as outlined in paragraphs 4.5 and 4.14) that these projects are projected to bring a saving to the Out of Authority Budget if we continue to be successful in diverting young people who have experienced trauma away from requiring a residential school placement.
- 5.5 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 1 and a number of positive impacts have been identified.
- 5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level
[Corporate Risk Register](#)
The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:
- ACORP001- Budget Pressures
[Directorate Risk Registers](#)
 - BSSR001 – Balancing the books;
 - ECSSR003 – Embedding GIRFEC; and
 - ECSSR004 – Support inclusive, vibrant, and healthy communities.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section E.2.1c of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to the exercise of the Council's functions under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education & Children's Services

Report prepared by Leigh Jolly, Head of Children's Services
Date 05 September 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Integrated Impact Assessment

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Briefing Report on Holistic Family Support

Assessment ID	IIA-000130
Lead Author	Leigh Jolly
Additional Authors	Elexes McAlpine
Service Reviewers	Andrew Dick
Subject Matter Experts	Lynne Gravener, Christine McLennan
Approved By	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION
Approved On	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION
Publication Date	DRAFT - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Briefing report created for the Education & Children's Services Committee to provide background information on one aspect of Aberdeenshire's response to the recommendations from The Promise (Independent Review of children's care in Scotland) - Holistic Family Support.

During screening 4 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 13 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by **NOT YET APPROVED**.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	Yes			
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving	Yes			
Nurtured	Yes			
Active	Yes			
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

<p>UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy</p>	<p>Article 1 - Definition of a child Article 3 - Best interests of the child Article 4 - Protection of rights Article 5 - Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities Article 6 - Life, survival and development Article 9 - Separation from parents Article 10 - Family reunification Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 18 - Parental responsibilities and state assistance Article 19 - Protection from all forms of violence Article 20 - Children deprived of a family Article 21 - Adoption Article 23 - Children with disabilities Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 28 - Right to education Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p>
--	---

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Through the Holistic Family Support Projects, we are ensuring that all young people are provided with an education and able to achieve
Active	Through the delivery of Holistic Family Support, young people and their families are support and enabled to make health choices including through the promotion of health activities/ hobbies/interests.
Healthy	Delivery of Holistic Family Support projects will ensure that children, young people and their families feel safe where they live and are protected from harm and exploitation and are provided with health care, shelter and nutrition. These are all essential in ensuring young people are safe and healthy.

Impact Area	Impact
Included	Through the delivery of Holistic Family Support, all young people should be active participants in their own lives and included in all decision made about them.
Nurtured	Through delivering Holistic Family Support, we are working with families to build resilience and nurture to enable young people to develop and thrive
Responsible	Through the delivery of Holistic Family Support, we ensure young people are supported to make the right choices for themselves in their lives and are encouraged to play an active role in society
Respected	Through the delivery of Holistic Family Support, we ensure young people are active participants and their views and listened to, respected and taken into consideration.
Safe	Holistic Family Support projects will ensure that children and young people feel safe where they live and are protected from harm and exploitation and are provided with health care, shelter and nutrition. These are all essential in ensuring young people are safe

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Direct feedback from stakeholders and members of communities in receipt of the service	Early indication that those involved in delivering Holistic Family Support feel empowered and enabled to work differently to support families in a way that is trauma informed, respects rights and promotes wellbeing	Internal data confirms the strategic direction and priority areas for improvement.

4.5. Information Gaps

Given the project is still in it's infancy, key performance indicators are still being developed which will provide us with greater evidence of the embedding of children's rights and the impact on wellbeing.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
To be developed.	December 2021
To be developed	December 2021

4.7. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

As previously mentioned, the design of the projects were built directly on the experiences and views of the young people's journeys we tracked. Children, young people and their families will continue to influence these projects as they evolve based on their feedback and experience of the intervention and ultimate impact.

4.8. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Holistic Family Support is delivered in line with Getting it Right for Every Child and each and every intervention informing The Child's Plan will be based on the use of wellbeing indicators.

4.9. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Holistic Family Support is a Rights based project and fundamental to Children's Rights.

4.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Holistic Family Support will be delivered in a way that takes appropriate cognisance of children's rights and wellbeing.

DRAFT

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability	Yes			
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes			
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background	Yes			

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	<p>The ambition of Holistic Family Support is evidenced in the commitment to provide Aberdeenshire's children and young people, with the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Holistic Family Support places a specific emphasis on early interventions and prevention and care experienced children and young people who are more likely to face disadvantage and inequalities.</p> <p>Getting it Right for Every Child is the foundation stone ensuring we provide high quality services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage.</p>

Impact Area	Impact
Disability	Age (Younger): The ambition of Holistic Family Support is evidenced in the commitment to provide Aberdeenshire's children and young people, with the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Holistic Family Support places a specific emphasis on early interventions and prevention and care experienced children and young people some of whom may have a disability and who are more likely to face disadvantage and inequalities. Getting it Right for Every Child is the foundation stone ensuring we provide high quality services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage.
Pregnancy and Maternity	The ambition of Holistic Family Support is evidenced in the commitment to provide Aberdeenshire's children and young people, with the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Holistic Family Support places a specific emphasis on early intervention and prevention and care experienced children and young people who are more likely to face disadvantage and inequalities. Getting it Right for Every Child is the foundation stone ensuring we provide high quality services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage. This includes supporting families from pre-birth right through until adulthood.
Low income	Holistic Family Support will provide positive interventions with children and their families in all areas of the lives which will include education, employment and finance.
Socioeconomic background	Holistic Family Support is an rights based intervention aimed at improving outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families which aims to provide high quality services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage.

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Internal data is being collected by the project teams who are developing this project.	Local Authority and partner organisational data highlighted the need for organisations to collaborate and work together to improve wellbeing and enable greater focus on early intervention and prevention.	Internal data confirms the strategic direction and priority areas for improvement.

5.5. Information Gaps

The projects are both in their early stages of development and key performance indicators are still to be developed in order to understand the longer term impact of the intervention

5.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
To be developed.	December 2021

5.7. Engagement with affected groups

The projects originated from a review of a number of multi agency chronologies as part of the a review of the whole systems approach. This included capturing the journey of young people now in their twenties from birth. The journey was recorded using multi agency information and understood having involved the young people themselves.

5.8. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

The chronologies were based on young people's lives who had experienced a number of adversities and trauma.

5.9. Evidence of engagement

The young people gave permission for their stories to be mapped out and were involved in helping the working group understand what it felt like to be them, what helped and what didn't help. This information has been used to inform a new way of working - Holistic Family Support at both the early intervention end and when a child/family is in crisis. a

5.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Holistic Family Support is an rights based intervention aimed at improving outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families which aims to provide high quality services which promote resilience and wellbeing and mitigate against the impact of inequality, poverty and disadvantage.

5.11. Improving Relations

Engagement with children, young people and their families is key to development and delivery of Holistic Family Support. Families will continue to be at the heart of service design and delivery.

5.12. Opportunities of Equality

Promoting equality is at the heart of Children's Services Planning and informs Holistic Family Support which is scrutinised within the GIRFEC arrangements and reports directly to Executive Group for Public Protection and the Scottish Government.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
----------------	---------

Planned Action	Details	
<p>The delivery of Holistic Family Support reports to Aberdeenshire's Promise Board who continue to assist with the development and monitoring of the projects to ensure that they strongly uphold children's rights and can demonstrate a positive impact on wellbeing.</p>	<p>Lead Officer</p>	<p>Leigh Jolly</p>
	<p>Repeating Activity</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Frequency</p>	<p>The Board currently meets monthly.</p>
	<p>Duration</p>	<p>The project is a pilot project and has been funded for 3 years pending evidence of impact on outcomes.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome</p>	<p>It is anticipated that Holistic Family Support will provide children, young people and their families support at the time that will make the most significant difference ie in terms of early intervention and prevention and when families are in crises. It is anticipated that less children will require to be looked after away from home and in particular, less children/young people will require to be placed in out of authority placements away from their communities and support networks.</p>
	<p>Resource Implications</p>	<p>The pilot project has secured funding and resource for 3 years.</p>