

REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 DECEMBER 2021

ANNUAL REPORT ON ABERDEENSHIRE'S CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION SERVICE

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The report is a combined summary of the individual annual reports of Fernbank, Scalloway Park and Coblehaugh Children's Homes and Taizali Supported Accommodation Service. The report contains details of the work undertaken by the teams in each of these settings and the impact of this on outcomes for children and young people who have been looked after in Aberdeenshire's residential care services over the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the update contained within the Annual Report; and**
- 2.2 Continue to support the work of Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service to ensure that care experienced young people are provided with the right support at the right time.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 This report is being presented to ECS Committee as part of Children's Services' commitment to raise the profile of the residential care services which are provided in Aberdeenshire to meet the needs of care experienced children and young people. Members are invited to comment and feedback on the achievements and challenges of the Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service during the reporting period.
- 3.2 The ECS Committee considered the 2019-20 Annual Report of Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes at its meeting on 3 December 2020.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The aims of Aberdeenshire's Children's Services are first and foremost to enable and support children and young people to remain in their families of origin. Where this is not possible, the aim is to provide high quality, alternative places to live. Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes provide 24/7 residential care for up to 16 young people at any given time. Additionally, Taizali Supported Accommodation Service provides a place to live for young people who have moved on from being looked after away from home but who require a stepping stone to independent living.

- 4.2 Within Aberdeenshire Council Children’s Services there are 3 Children’s Homes: Coblehaugh in Inverurie and Scalloway Park in Fraserburgh both provide care to up to six young people each while Fernbank in Peterhead provides care to up to four young people. Taizali in Fraserburgh provides care to an additional four young adults.
- 4.3 The work of the Children’s Homes and Supported Accommodation Service is underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). As such, these services strive to ensure that young people’s wellbeing needs are met through them being Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.
- 4.4 Each of the four settings are registered with the Care Inspectorate and are required to each produce annual reports against set criteria. Due to the small numbers of young people cared for in each establishment, the individual reports potentially contain information that may identify individual young people. Therefore the attached combined annual report in **Appendix 1** gives a summary of the work which has been undertaken and the outcomes which have been achieved across the three Children’s Homes and the Supported Accommodation Service.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Education” and “Health and Wellbeing” within the Pillar “Our People”.
- 5.2 This report also helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan Priority – Corporate Parenting.
- 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 IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	X IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

- 5.4 There are no staffing or financial implications identified.
- 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 2** and identifies that there are a number of positive impacts of continuing to provide

residential services through the three Children's Homes and the Supported Accommodation Service.

- 5.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

ACORP005 - Working with other organisations
ACORP006 – Reputation management
Link to [Corporate Risk Register](#)

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

ECSSR003 – Embedding GIRFEC; and
ECSSR004 – Support inclusive, vibrant and healthy communities
Link to [risk register page on website](#)

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 had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to take a decision on this item in terms of in terms of E.2.1f of Part 2A List of Committee Powers of the Scheme of Governance, as the committee have responsibility for the functions of the Council in relation to children and young people under Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Laurence Findlay
Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by Andrew Dick, Social Work Manager (Corporate Parenting)
Date 22 September 2021

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Annual Report of Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service
Appendix 2 - Integrated Impact Assessment



**ANNUAL REPORT ON ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S HOMES
AND SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION SERVICE**

APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

Introduction

Aberdeenshire Council has three children's homes located in Peterhead (Fernbank), Fraserburgh (Scalloway Park) and Inverurie (Coblehaugh). Additionally, a supported accommodation service (Taizali) is located in Fraserburgh, providing support to young people who have moved on from care but who would benefit from a stepping stone to independent living. Scalloway Park and Coblehaugh Children's Homes are both purpose built accommodation, caring for up to six young people at any given time. Fernbank is a traditional granite building, caring for up to four young people. Taizali is a bungalow which offers accommodation to up to four young people.

Young people come to stay at Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes for a myriad of different reasons. Commonly however, they have experienced adversity and trauma which is then manifested in a range of behaviours which express their experiences. This requires skilful, consistent and predictable care, which is afforded to them within the Children's Homes. The vast majority of young people who move into Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes are between the ages of 12 and 18. Some young people come to stay for a short time while work is completed to support their return home. Others reside on a more permanent basis. The Homes are led by the individual needs of the young people in terms of their future plans. Staff from the Children's Homes are frequently involved in work with families to support them to address areas where it has been identified that more help is required.

Taizali Supported Accommodation Service caters to the needs of young people age 16-20. Young people are supported to develop their independence skills. For example, how to manage their money, shop and cook meals for themselves, manage their laundry and keep their private space clean and tidy. They are also supported to manage their occupancy agreement and be able to live with others, as well as learning to be good neighbours.

The work of the Children's Homes and Taizali are underpinned by the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). All four settings support young people to be **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included**. Young people are supported in this in a number of ways, from close support of their school attendance and participation, to encouraging their involvement in extra-curricular activities, to ensuring their views are listened to and acted upon in deciding day-to-day matters within the homes/supported accommodation service.



All four settings are also committed to upholding and implementing the recommendations of The Promise, the output from Scotland's independent care review. While this presents various challenges in terms of considering how to implement some of the requirements outlined, there are also many examples of areas which our children's homes and supported accommodation service are doing well already.



“Young people who leave residential care may wish to maintain relationships with workers and this must be supported and given time. Blanket policies that prevent the maintenance of these relationships must be removed.”

The Promise, p79

For example, relationships is a key focus within the Promise and young people being supported to maintain these for as long as they wish. Each young person within the Children's Homes and supported accommodation service is assigned a key worker for the duration of their stay. While they are supported to develop relationships with all staff, this is a designated person who will support them with key areas of their lives during their stay. Additionally, there are examples across all of the settings of young people staying in touch often many years after moving on, which is testament to the relationships that were established during their stay.

Aberdeenshire Council Children's Services are committed to our Children's Homes and supported accommodation service being a positive choice of place to live for children and young people who are not able to live at home with their families.

Staffing Structure

Aberdeenshire Council Children's Services prides itself on its children's homes employing highly trained members of staff. Each children's home has a full-time equivalent team manager, all of whom are qualified social workers. In addition the vast majority of staff are also qualified social workers.

22 out of 26 (85%) members of staff across the 4 settings are qualified social workers

The remaining 4 members of staff do not hold a social work qualification but have other relevant qualifications and experience. 1 of these members of staff is currently in the final stages of their social work degree.

The staffing model within Fernbank, Scalloway Park and Coblehaugh is that there are 7 full-time members of staff who work on a rota basis, with 2 members of staff on shift at all times including overnight. Within Taizali, there are 4 full-time staff members, with 1 member of staff on duty at all times including overnight. In all 4 establishments, this is supplemented by the use of flexi-time, whereby additional staff members will be present for periods to undertake specific tasks, for example activities with the young person they are key worker for. Rotas balance the determination to provide consistency of care to young people with affording staff appropriate periods of rest to ensure that they are full equipped to meet the needs of the young people living within the homes.

Coblehaugh, Fernbank, Scalloway Park and Taizali all enjoy very settled staffing groups and there is extremely low staff turnover. This affords young people stability and consistency in developing relationships with permanent members of staff.

Only 1 permanent change of staff member across the 4 settings during April 2020 - March 2021

In addition to full-time members of staff, each setting also has a pool of relief staff who provide cover for periods of annual leave, sickness, staff training, or during periods where it would be beneficial to supplement the core staffing model. Team managers endeavour to ensure that each relief staff member is utilised on a regular basis so that they are also familiar to the young people living in the home/supported accommodation service. As with permanent members of staff the vast majority of relief staff members are qualified social workers.

All staff I feel are very friendly polite and professional. I do feel that the staff do professionally care and have [young person's] best wishes and wellbeing at heart.

Feedback from a family member of a young person living at one of Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes

[Young person] speaks positively about staff at [Children's Home] and she knows she can speak to staff at anytime and she has taken the opportunity to do this when she has a concern or worry.

A child's social worker's reflections on staff within one of the Children's Homes

COVID 19

Staff and young people within Fernbank, Coblehaugh, Scalloway Park and Taizali have faced unprecedented challenges during the reporting period. The onset of the COVID 19 pandemic has had a profound impact. While the vast majority of staff within Children's Services were mandated to work from home other than for critical visits, residential settings needed to continue to operate in order to care for the young people residing there. Staff working in these settings were therefore not able to work from home and continued to attend work. This inevitably resulted in considerable anxiety for them about their own health, risks to their families, and for the young people they were caring for. In the early stages of the pandemic this was compounded by shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Additional challenges faced included:

- Staff being required to support home schooling in the Children's Homes during lockdown periods.
- Supporting young people to manage not being able to have face to face contact with family during the early stages of the pandemic when there were "full lockdown" restrictions.
- Some staff being required to shield due to medical conditions meaning that they were not available to work within the residential settings.
- Encouraging young people to adhere to government restrictions.
- Lack of activities outwith the homes for young people to access during lockdown periods.

Despite the challenges experienced, all three of the Children's Homes and Taizali have continued to operate uninterrupted. This is testament to the commitment, bravery and dedication of the staff and to the strong leadership provided by the managers of each of the settings, for which they should all be strongly commended. It is also extremely positive to note that there were no young people affected by COVID 19 or any instances of outbreaks or potential outbreaks within any of the settings during the reporting period.

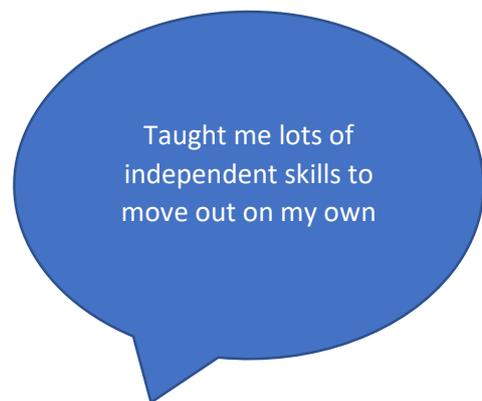
Moving In / Moving Out

It is the ambition of Children's Services that young people enter and leave all care settings on a planned basis when it is necessary for them to live away from home. Young people moving into the settings may well have experienced trauma in the lead up to this. Therefore in order to minimise their exposure to further trauma, it is important that young people are introduced to their new home in as planned a manner as possible. For example having the chance to come to meet staff and see around the home/supported accommodation service. This also minimises disruption to existing young people living in the settings, so that they can be as prepared as possible for a new young person joining the group.

It is clear from the graphic below that as was the case in the preceding reporting period the overwhelming majority of young people moved in and out on a planned basis. This allows for young people to move on at a pace that is right for them and for preparations to be made so that their next step is as positive as possible. Young people moving out on an unplanned basis tends to occur where young people are presenting a level of risk either to themselves or to others that is not manageable in the short-term, or where young people reach an age where they can decide themselves to move on and make a decision to do this on an immediate basis.



Young people moving out on an unplanned basis tends to be considered as a negative outcome. However one of the three unplanned moves out during the reporting period was a result of a young person deciding at short notice to move on, but they engaged instead with a comprehensive level of outreach support from staff at the Children’s Home they had been living in. This allowed for continuity of relationships during a period of significant change for this young person and allowed them to continue to be supported with various areas of their life despite not living in the home any longer. While this outreach support has now ended due to no longer being required, this young person still keeps in touch with the staff at the Children’s Home which is a hugely positive endorsement of how they view the care that was provided to them.



Missing Persons

Staff in each of the Children’s Homes and Taizali utilise the Missing Person’s Protocol if a young person is missing. During the period April 2020 to March 2021, there were 7 missing person reports in total across the four establishments. This is identical to the figure for the previous reporting period. This equates to an average of less than once every six months.

On each occasion the young people were subsequently located and returned home. Where young people go missing, there is a follow up visit by Police Scotland. The Return Home Welfare Officer will speak with the young people about the circumstances which resulted in them being missing and if any supports are required to prevent this happening again. Staff within the homes also speak with young people to ascertain if anything additional can be put in place to support them.

Training

All staff who work at Fernbank, Scalloway Park, Coblehaugh and Taizali are required to be registered on the Residential section of the Scottish Social Services Council Register. To remain on the Register, staff must complete a minimum of five days training per year to demonstrate that they are continuously learning. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic training has been online however this has opened up new opportunities for staff to participate in learning in different ways such as joining webinars and training events on Microsoft Teams. Staff across the four settings have kept up to date with their mandatory training on first aid and food hygiene as well as compulsory corporate training on areas such as data protection, equalities and diversity.

All staff in Children's Services residential care are required to be trained in CALM (Crisis and Aggression Limitation and Management) which is a model to manage difficult situations and behaviours. The emphasis is on de-escalation and safe management of potentially aggressive and violent situations. Staff are trained in physical restraint as part of this however this would only ever be used as a last resort where a young person was placing themselves or others at an unacceptable level of risk. During the reporting period there were **no instances** of physical restraint in any of the residential establishments, and this was the case for the previous reporting period also. However it is a continuing requirement of registration with the Care Inspectorate that staff are trained in all elements of CALM and that they regularly update their training as well as practicing CALM holds. Refresher training has not been able to take place during the pandemic due to the requirement for this training to be delivered face to face. This is a national situation and not specific to Aberdeenshire.

Aberdeenshire's position on the use of physical restraint means that Scalloway Park, Coblehaugh, Fernbank and Taizali are well placed to meet the recommendation of the Promise that "Scotland must strive to become a nation that does not restrain its children":

Scotland must support its workforce to manage very difficult situations. This means a genuine focus on response to challenging behaviour in a trauma informed way, building relationships in advance so that a child or young person's history, current circumstances and behavioural triggers are known and can be responded to individually, in advance of, during and after a crisis occurs. To ensure a caring response, there must be a curiosity about the reasons behind challenging behaviour, recognising that all behaviour is communication.

The Promise, p85

It is anticipated that Aberdeenshire's ongoing commitment to care for children and young people without the use of physical restraint will be further supported by residential staff having the opportunity to access a four day "Dyadic Developmental Practice" course in September/October 2021. This is a model which aims to support

children and young people to recover from trauma and disrupted attachments through the parenting, education and care they receive. The principles of PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) are central to the training.

Feedback

Taizali, Scalloway Park, Fernbank and Coblehaugh are all committed to the continuous improvement of the service provided through seeking direct feedback from young people, parents, relatives and other professionals. This is done through sending out electronic questionnaires which are structured around the eight SHANARRI wellbeing indicators (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected, Included).

A selection of feedback from parents:

You always keep [young person] safe

He can come to staff should he be concerned about anything and staff are there to assist should he not be coping

Grateful for all the routines put in place cos I did not manage this with him

Due to the coronavirus, everyone has not been able to do activities with others. We've been restricted. But I know before they was getting her to ride her bike, horseriding etc when [young person] wanted to

He is very much an involved member of the house

In two of the children's homes, parents commented on the impact of other young people on the care of their child, for example being disrupted or being made to feel uncomfortable at times due to challenging behaviour of others. These are valid concerns. Staff within the settings continue to make efforts to address these concerns while recognising the challenges of group living and ensuring all the individual needs of all young people are consistently met.

Feedback from young people:

Staff are good, I am doing more school work

They (staff) treat me right

Taught me life lessons

It did me really well for what I was needing at my time of help.

Sometimes the staff would check if I was ok a bit too much but I knew where they were if I needed them

Sadly, some young people at one of the Children's Homes spoke about how they felt bullied at times by other residents and this impacted adversely on their emotional wellbeing. The team there continue to support young people who bully and also those who feel bullied.

A selection of feedback from other professionals:

I feel staff demonstrate a fair and level headed approach to the challenges and continued to show respect to all the different needs of the children

Very helpful and knowledgeable. I feel the staff have a great ethos in the house which is seen in how well [young person] is managing at the moment. They are very attuned to him and he feels well supported

[Young person's] individuality was promoted, his hobbies and interests were encouraged and he was able to build his skills in and out with [the children's home] with the security and support offered by the staff team

Wellbeing Surveys

Wellbeing surveys are an interactive means by which to seek young people's views on the extent to which they consider their wellbeing needs to be met. They are used within all three of the Children's Homes and are a means by which key workers of young people can identify areas where things are going well or where further support/input is required. Young people are usually encouraged to complete a wellbeing survey shortly after moving in and then at regular intervals thereafter.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.ethicaldata.co.uk/wellbeing>. The page title is "Wellbeing Survey | Ethical Data". The main heading is "Wellbeing Survey". Below the heading, there is a paragraph explaining the survey: "This simple one-page survey will show your results immediately and send a printable copy to the email address you enter. Please move the slider to answer each of the 8 questions. Writing something about your answers will make the survey more accurate and useful. [More info.](#)"

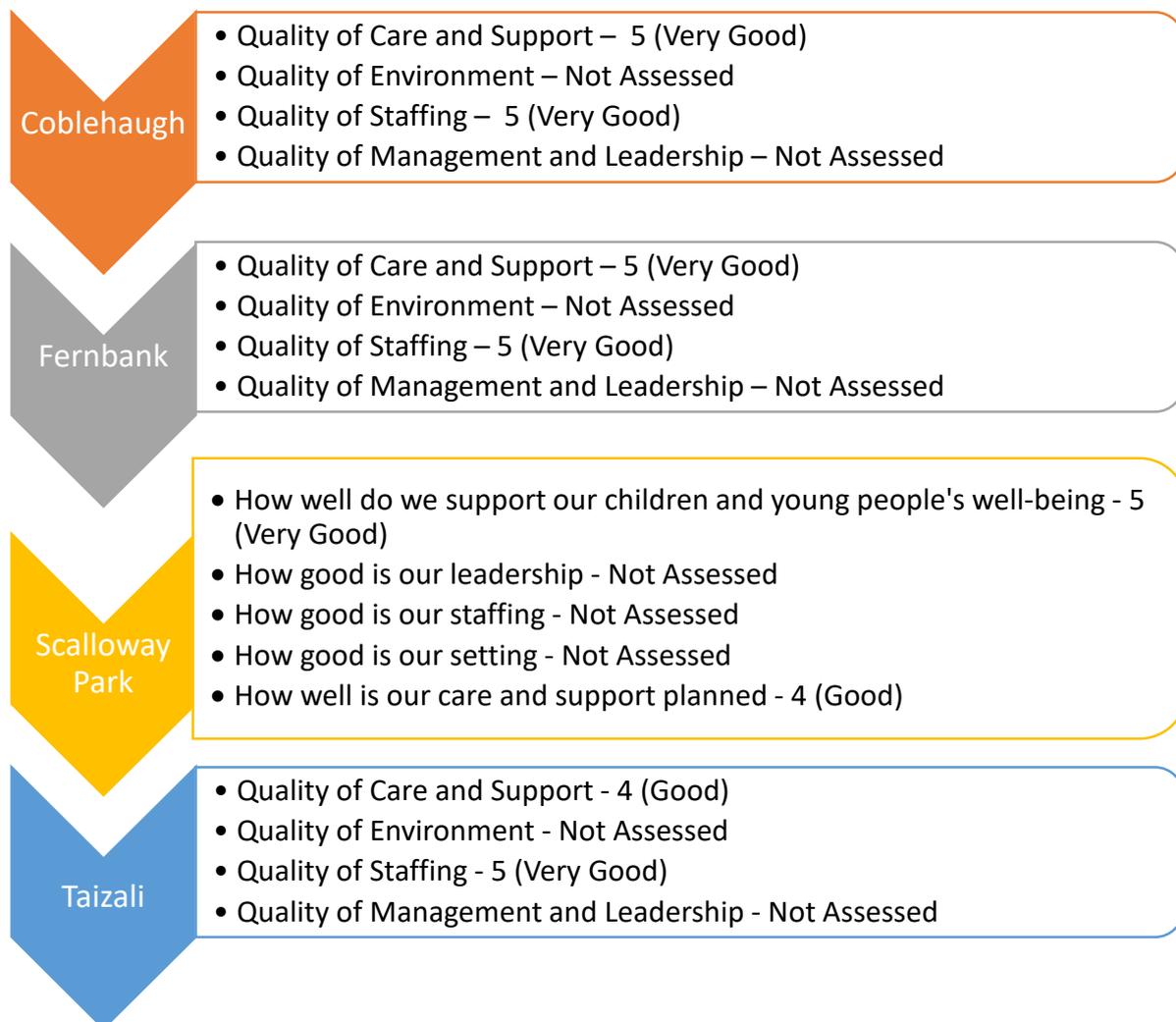
There are three input fields: "First name", "Last name", and "Email address to send results to" (with a placeholder "email or leave blank").

The survey question is "How safe do you feel where you live?". It features a slider with four smiley faces: a sad face, a neutral face, a happy face, and a very happy face. The slider is currently positioned at the neutral face. Below the slider, it says "Very unsafe" on the left and "Very Safe" on the right. There is a text box for "Please write a little about why you feel safe or unsafe." with a placeholder "Please type here...". A link "About being SAFE" is visible in the top right corner of the question area.

Surveys completed during the reporting period indicate that young people feel safe and well cared for. Lower scores were recorded in the “Active” area, likely reflecting the limitations there have been on access to social and leisure opportunities during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Care Inspectorate Reports

There have been no inspections carried out by the Care Inspectorate during the reporting period. The inspection results for 2019 for each of the residential settings therefore continue to stand. It is clear to see from the scores in the areas which were inspected that there is a consistently high level of care across the board:



Achievements

As noted previously, the reporting period has been a time of unprecedented challenge in our residential settings. Aberdeenshire Council Children’s Services are incredibly proud of the staff and young people for keeping all four services operating uninterrupted for the duration of the pandemic and without any outbreaks of COVID 19 amongst staff or residents. Navigating these incredibly anxiety-provoking

circumstances is therefore an achievement in itself. Notwithstanding, there have continued to be examples of significant achievements within Scalloway Park, Taizali, Coblehaugh and Fernbank.

Two long standing residents in one of our Children's Homes moved on into independence after 'staying put' until they were 18. One young person was supported by adult services and the other, the throughcare and aftercare team. Both have done exceptionally well with this transition and continue to maintain relationships with their keyworkers. This exemplifies the commitment to support young people for as long as they require this rather than arbitrary limits being placed on how long young people can stay in Aberdeenshire's care settings.

Two young people had to cope with having no direct physical contact with their families for several months shortly after moving in to one of our Children's Homes because of the first lockdown. Despite some difficulties along the way overall they coped admirably well and when restriction eased last summer both were able to be rehabilitated back to their families. One enrolled in college and the other was able to make positive changes and reattend school.

All young adults within Taizali continued in employment and education throughout not only COVID but also the disruption to their lives with the changes to their usual supports that they have identified as part of their lives; friendships, hobbies, family contact and many other areas.

Within one of the settings, young people who moved in following concerns about school-attendance progressed to managing a full-time timetable which is a significant achievement given the challenges and upheavals during the pandemic. All young people in this Children's Home who were undertaking qualifications also achieved their desired school results.

Action Plan

Each of the four settings have an individual action plan to inform the development of their specific service in the year ahead. However some common themes across the four establishments are:

- Staff will be supported to attend the four-day Dyadic Developmental Practice training course in September / October 2021. Plans will be developed thereafter to consider how the learning from this training can be embedded across the Children's Homes and supported accommodation service.
- Continue to support recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic in line with government restrictions. Alongside this, consider what learning can be taken from alternative ways of working and embrace positive changes that have been necessitated by the pandemic but which actually encourage "smarter" ways of working.

- Work to embed the principles and recommendations of The Promise within individual settings and also contribute to the wider development of the whole service as part of this. In particular reviewing the use of language and recording practices to align with what children and young people told the care review about this.
- Connected to this, an annual peer audit of case files across the four settings will be undertaken. Team managers will audit the files of a setting other than their own and any learning from this will be taken forward.
- Taizali, Fernbank, Coblehaugh and Scalloway Park will all aim to hold a team development day during the 2021-22 reporting period.
- Continue to raise the profile of Children's Homes and supported accommodation service as a positive destination for children and young people. As part of this, work will continue with other areas of Children's Services to ensure that referrals received are as robust as possible and aim towards as many young people as possible move in and out on a planned basis.

Andrew Dick
Social Work Manager (Corporate Parenting)
September 2021

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Annual Report for Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service

Assessment ID	IIA-000192
Lead Author	Andrew Dick
Additional Authors	Wilma Stickle, Tricia Jamieson, Gary Crawford, Natasha McDuma
Service Reviewers	Norman Wylie
Subject Matter Experts	Lynne Gravener, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Leigh Jolly
Approved On	Monday October 25, 2021
Publication Date	Thursday October 28, 2021

1. Overview

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

A report on the work undertaken between April 2020 and March 2021 by Aberdeenshire's 3 Children's Homes and its Supported Accommodation Service

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 15 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 leigh.jolly@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

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?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
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 9 - Separation from parents Article 10 - Family reunification Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 19 - Protection from all forms of violence Article 23 - Children with disabilities Article 25 - Review of treatment in care Article 27 - Adequate standard of living Article 28 - Right to education Article 39 - Recovery and rehabilitation of child victims Article 40 - Juvenile justice Article 42 - Knowledge of rights</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Staff in Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation Service support young people to engage with education, training or employment to maximise positive outcomes for them in this area.
Active	All young people living in Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation are encouraged and supported to take part in leisure and social opportunities to ensure that they are active.
Healthy	Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation support all young people residing in their care to attend to all of their health needs.

Impact Area	Impact
Included	Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service encourages and supports young people to maintain contact with their families and friends in order to ensure that they remain included even where it is not possible to reside at home. Young people are also supported to be included in the local communities where they are living.
Nurtured	All of the settings provide nurturing care to the young people who are resident there so that they develop positive relationships, feel cared for and are supported to keep these connections as long as they wish to do so.
Responsible	Young people are supported to have age appropriate responsibilities in each of the settings. They are supported to develop skills in independence during their stay.
Respected	Young people living in Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation are listened to and their views acted upon wherever this is possible. Young people have access to various avenues for this, for example through their keyworkers, their social worker, the children's rights service, advocacy worker or other trusted adult.
Safe	Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation provides young people in Aberdeenshire with a safe place to live when it is not possible for them to live at home with their families.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Residential Services Data and Statistics	The annual report of the Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation Service contains data and statistics which describes the work of the services and demonstrates the impact of this.	The information contained within the annual report demonstrates that the 3 Children's Homes and the Supported Accommodation Service continue to provide high quality care to young people in Aberdeenshire who require this.

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Direct feedback from young people is contained within the annual report along with details on how this has influenced service delivery. This upholds the key principles of the Aberdeenshire Children and Young People's Charter.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

The continuing provision of care through Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation ensures that young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible, respected and included. The wellbeing surveys undertaken with young people are aligned with these 8 wellbeing indicators, as are the questionnaires which are completed with family members and professionals to gather feedback on the service to inform developments.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Continuing to support the work of Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service ensures that young people are afforded the right to have a safe and stable place to live when it is not possible to reside at home with family. Young people are regularly consulted with when living in any of the settings, to influence the service provided to them.

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The ongoing provision of care to young people through the 3 Children's Homes and the Supported Accommodation Service will ensure that a high quality service continues to be provided to young people who cannot live at home. There are no negative impacts associated with this.

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)	Young people who cannot live at home with their families are cared for in a manner that ensures all of their wellbeing needs are met.
Disability	Appropriate adaptations are made within the Children's Homes/ Supported Accommodation Service to ensure that the needs of any young people with disabilities are met.
Gender Reassignment	The age of young people residing within the Children's Homes/ Supported Accommodation Service means that many will be at a stage of development where they are exploring their identity. Choices made by young people will be respected as long as this does not unacceptably compromise their wellbeing.
Race	There is a strong culture of anti-discriminatory practice across all of the settings to ensure that the needs of any young person are met to a high standard. Any necessary adjustments are made to take account of, and be respectful to, a young person's race/ cultural background.

Impact Area	Impact
Religion or Belief	Young people's adherence to any religion or system of beliefs are respected and promoted across all of the settings, as are those of family members of young people. Again, any necessary adjustments within the care settings are made to take account of any religion or beliefs.
Sexual Orientation	The age of young people residing within the Children's Homes/ Supported Accommodation means that many will be at a stage of development where they are exploring their identity. Young people are supported to explore this in a respectful manner which respects their rights to choose what is right for them as long as this does not result in them being unsafe or potentially unsafe.
Sex	Care is provided to young people of all sexes within Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation.

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Residential Services Data and Statistics	The annual report of the Children's Homes/Supported Accommodation contains detailed feedback from young people, families and other professionals.	The information provided outlines that the 4 settings continue to provide a high quality of care to young people.

5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Young people's views, and those of their families, are contained within the annual report. These views shape the continuing development of the Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation.

5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

The views in the annual report include views from groups with protective characteristics.

5.7. Evidence of engagement

This is contained within the annual report. The views of young people who have lived experience of Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation have shaped, and continue to shape, the services provided.

5.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Aberdeenshire's Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service provide care to a diverse range of young people many of whom have protective characteristics. The outcomes from this are all deemed to be positive and no negative impacts have been identified.

5.9. Improving Relations

Children's Homes and Supported Accommodation Service continue to work in partnership with a range of agencies and professionals to promote good outcomes for young people. For example Police, Health, Education and the third sector.

5.10. Opportunities of Equality

Care experienced young people statistically experience poorer outcomes than their non-care experienced counterparts. The continued provision of high quality care to these young people will work towards reducing this inequality of outcomes.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Continued provision of high quality care through Scalloway Park, Coblehaugh and Fernbank Children's Homes and Taizali Supported Accommodation Service to ensure that young people who cannot live at home have the best possible outcomes.	<p>Lead Officer Andrew Dick</p> <p>Repeating Activity Yes</p> <p>Frequency Ongoing</p> <p>Duration Ongoing</p> <p>Expected Outcome Continued provision of high quality residential care for young people who require this.</p> <p>Resource Implications Ongoing staffing costs and costs of providing care to young people.</p>