

Fife Children's Services Plan 2026-29



Over the course of 2025, Fife's Children's Services conducted a **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** to better understand the current outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families in Fife. The Improvement Priorities in the Fife Children's Services Plan address three significant challenges identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Our Improvement Priorities & Improvement Actions

Priority 1: Strengthening mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children, young people and families	Priority 2: Building family resilience through early help and holistic, whole-family centred services	Priority 3: Improving early speech, language and communication to close gaps and support lifelong learning
Work on this priority will be led by the Our Minds Matter Steering Group	Work on this priority will be led by the Family Resilience Oversight Group	Work on this priority will be led by Fife CYPIC
Action: we will strengthen the workforce's approach, collective understanding and skills to support effective early intervention for the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people.	Action: we will strengthen family resilience and build parenting skills by supporting the scale and spread of Let's Connect across Fife.	Action: we will improve early Language and Communication outcomes for children not meeting their expected milestones by supporting the scale and spread of Communication High 5 .
Action: we will implement a tailored, person-centred approach when addressing the mental and emotional health needs of our most vulnerable children and young people.	Action: we will review and strengthen support services from pregnancy through to early childhood and using the Nurturing Care Framework, by further developing partnership support for the Best Start Pathway and Health Visiting Pathway in Fife.	Action: we will improve our use of partnership data to better understand and support the development of Speech, Language and Communication in the Early Years.

The Improvement Actions were developed through Children's Services Development Sessions and workshops involving the lead groups for each priority. This work was facilitated by members of the Fife Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative, using Quality Improvement approaches. Fife CYPIC will continue to support the ongoing development of this work.



Further information about the Children's Services Plan and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be found on the Children in Fife website at: children.fife.scot/partnership-working

Our approach to improvement

Children in Fife will work to improve our partnership's impact over the next three years by:

Developing Communities of Practice

Children in Fife will be piloting a Communities of Practice model to create a structured, locality-based approach that fosters collaboration, practical learning, and continuous improvement across all services. Initial pilots are being developed in the Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly areas.

Workforce Development will underpin the Partnership's approach and support our Communities of Practice.

Strengthening our Core Partnership Approaches

The partnership has identified a number of core partnership approaches, which support effective joint working. For each group, a Partnership Group has been identified, which will support ongoing self-evaluation and quality assurance of the partnership's working. These are:

Child Wellbeing Pathway Oversight Group	Children's Rights Oversight Group	Our Minds Matter Steering Group
Implementing Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)	Promoting children's rights and implementing the UNCRC Enabling Participation & Engagement with children & young people	Supporting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of children and young people
Family Resilience Oversight Group	Data and Evidence Group	Fife Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC)
Further developing evidence-based approaches to parenting & family support	Improving the use of data and evidence – and developing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	Strengthening the use of rigorous approaches to Quality Improvement for service and system level improvement

Implementing our Key Strategic Plans

Children in Fife Governance Group

Provides oversight and governance for our children's services strategic planning approach

Children in Fife Strategic Leads Group

Implements the **Fife Children's Services Plan**

Corporate Parenting Board

Implements the **Corporate Parenting Plan** and Keeping the Promise in Fife

The lead officer for child

poverty Coordinates the ongoing development of Fife's **Local Child Poverty Action Report**



We will use our How Good Is Our Family Support (HGIOFS) framework to support ongoing self-evaluation, quality assurance and continuous improvement of our partnership working.