

Children Services strategic engagement

Improving outcomes for children and young people is at the heart of all of our work and this is reflected in the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, National Improvement Framework and the Getting it right for every child approach. We know that this cannot be achieved without collaborative engagement with partners who deliver services locally. Children's Services Plans have identified local priorities and actions and, one year on, we are keen to engage in a dialogue with Community Planning Partnerships to hear what has worked well, how getting it right for every child has been implemented and where further support may be needed, and whether there are consistent themes and priorities emerging at national level. To this end we are embarking on a Scotland-wide programme of engagement with Community Planning Partnerships with the following key aims:

- to identify good practice/initiatives with a view to sharing those with other localities;
- to identify challenges for partners in delivering children services and improving outcomes;
- to inform effective and targeted deployment of existing Scottish Government improvement programmes and data tools (such as Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative and Realigning Children's Services) according to local requirements;
- to gain feedback on the statutory guidance for the Children Services Plans and provide support on development and implementation of the plans; and
- to explore ways of improving and streamlining planning and reporting across education, health and children services.

In advance of the visits we are reviewing the Children's Services Plans and one year on reports with a view to producing summary reports. These reports will be shared with each local area.

We want the programme of visits to be both helpful and informative to all parties. To foster better collaboration the visits will be supported by colleagues from Children and Families Directorate, Learning Directorate and Health Directorates, and we will adopt an appreciative enquiry approach to the engagement.

We will hold a Strategic Leads events at the end of the programme of visits to feedback on the recurring themes and discuss the review of the Statutory Guidance.

The visits will start in October 2018 and run through to June 2019.