

Integrated Children's Services Report

Situation

This report provides a strategic update on progress against the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023–2026, highlighting delivery group achievements and implications for service planning. The Board is asked to note and comment on the work undertaken by the Children's Services Planning Partnership and delivery groups.

Background

The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023–2026 is a statutory requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act and aligns with the UNCRC. The plan is governed through the Community Planning Partnership infrastructure and supports Highland's Outcome Improvement Plan. This report also provides an update on the Integrated Children's Services Board's performance management framework (Appendix 1).

Assessment

GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child)

A multi-agency GIRFEC Strategic Group has been established to oversee GIRFEC arrangements and support a joined-up whole system approach. This group focuses on continuous improvement and implementation of action plans, ensuring consistency of the GIRFEC framework and shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people. The Child's Plan Working Group, comprising representatives from all relevant services, has reviewed the current Child's Plan document to ensure both the needs of children and operational requirements of services are considered. The initial draft formed the foundation of the core Child's Plan, incorporating essential information alongside the views of the child and their parents, and includes a tailored action plan for support. Following a language framing review aligned with The Promise Board, the final draft of the Child's Plan is complete and approved for pilot from October to December 2025. Feedback will inform further refinement before final sign-off by the ICS Board in February. A new working group is also developing the Child's Plan Practice Guide to support consistent implementation. GIRFEC training sessions have commenced, with three sessions completed and five more planned for 2025/26. Training is multidisciplinary, led by Educational Psychology and supported by partners.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

The Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Group has progressed mapping of community-based supports and services through the lens of the Scottish Government CYP Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports and Services Framework. Work includes aligning to the framework's four outcomes, developing pathways, and categorising services under the THRIVE model. Funding streams have been linked strategically, with the CYP Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund transferred to the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme for integrated administration. The fund opened for applications in June to support summer activities, and future allocations will follow a locality model based on need and data-led approaches.

Highland Alcohol & Drug Partnership (HADP)

Planet Youth Cycle 3 has increased its range with eight new schools joining and increased activity provision for young people, engaging approximately 1500 participants. The Discussing Drugs and Alcohol with Young People training course is available via Turas, and plans are underway to update the Highland Substance Awareness Toolkit for its 10th anniversary. A Prevention Sub-Group has been established to oversee innovative initiatives aligned with the HADP Strategy 2025–2030. HADP has also secured three-year funding for independent advocacy for children affected by family substance use, supported by the Voice & Choice Steering Group to ensure lived experiences inform service design and delivery.

The Promise

The Care and Family Delivery Groups have progressed action plans following a development session to clarify responsibilities and address cross-cutting themes. Improvement plans are being finalised for sign-off, enabling the Doing Data Differently group to strengthen monitoring. Feedback on the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill was submitted collectively by the Promise Board. A strategic shift has been proposed to improve health outcomes for care-experienced children, addressing barriers such as disrupted schooling, delayed medical record transfers, and consent complexities. Highland Council has developed a specialist health team to strengthen outcomes for care-experienced children, endorsed by the ICS Board.

Rights and Participation

The Rights and Participation Group continues to implement the Children and Young People Participation Strategy through two subgroups: Voice and Training & Knowledge. Work includes developing systems for meaningful engagement, feedback loops, and a

child-friendly complaints process informed by SPSO guidance. A Voice Process has been launched to enable children and young people to actively contribute to ICS Board decisions, complemented by participatory work captured in the Library of Voices. Highland's commitment to participation was recognised nationally, with the group shortlisted as a finalist for the COSLA Excellence Awards in the Strengthening Communities and Democracy category.

Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

Highland continues to advance work across Whole Family Wellbeing Programme funding streams, aligned with its Funding Strategy. The Family Links Project, an 18-month test of concept, delivers holistic support to improve school attendance and engagement. Insights from the project highlight the importance of combining practical and emotional support for families facing complex challenges. Vision 2026 roadshows a planned showcase integrated partnership work and promote awareness of local and Highland-wide support services.

Vision 26

The Integrated Children's Services Board hosted a successful Family Fun Day at Eden Court Theatre, engaging over 800 families in activities and celebrating partnership achievements. Upcoming Vision 26 roadshows in Wick and Lochaber will raise awareness of support networks and initiatives under the theme 'Getting it Right for Children and Families.' These events will provide opportunities for networking, family-friendly activities, and information sharing.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- Note and comment on the progress made in delivering the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023–2026.
- Endorse continued implementation of delivery group action plans and improvement programmes.
- Support alignment of funding streams and strategic priorities to sustain improvements.

Impact Analysis

Quality/Patient Care: Positive impact through improved coordination and early intervention.

Workforce: Additional training and specialist roles proposed under GIRFEC and The Promise.

Financial: Managed within existing funding streams; efficiencies through integrated

programmes.

Risk: Delivery aligned to statutory requirements; mitigations in place via partnership governance.

Equality: Supports UNCRC and Public Sector Equality Duty; monitoring embedded in planning framework.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Performance Management Framework



Integrated children's services planning board Performance Management Framework 2023-2026



Data Overview -

Baseline Data – This was established between 2012-2016 to provide a longer-term measurement of progress

Education and Learning – Data from Lifestyle Survey collected every 2 years last completed in 2025

Health and Social Care & NHS - This data is collected quarterly

HSC – CP Minimum Dataset – This data is collected quarterly (reporting period August to July)

HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return – Annually collected, usually ready by November each year

↑ ↓ → - Arrows indicate an increase or decrease in figure since last reporting, these are colour coded to denote movements are positive, negative or no movement. Some child protection figures are not colour coded as these cannot always be attributed to either positive or negative movements.

Indicator #1	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of households with children in temporary accommodation will reduce.	160	200	↑73	Housing
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly. Slight increase from last quarters figure of 71. The baseline was established in 2015.				

Indicator #2 (NHSH CYP14)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children with one or more developmental concerns recorded at the 27–30-month to decrease by 10%	4%	TBC	14%	Child Health
ANALYSIS The measure has changed from Percentage of children reaching their developmental milestones at their 27 – 30-month health review will increase. This is due to how the data is now collected, The target and baseline to be established. Percentage of children reaching developmental milestones at the 27-30 month review 85.9%				

Percentage of children with one or more developmental concerns recorded at the 27-30 month review

Legend:

- % of reviews
- - - Pre-pandemic median
- █ Trend of 5 points or more
- Δ Upwards shift of 6 points or more
- ▽ Downwards shift of 6 points or more

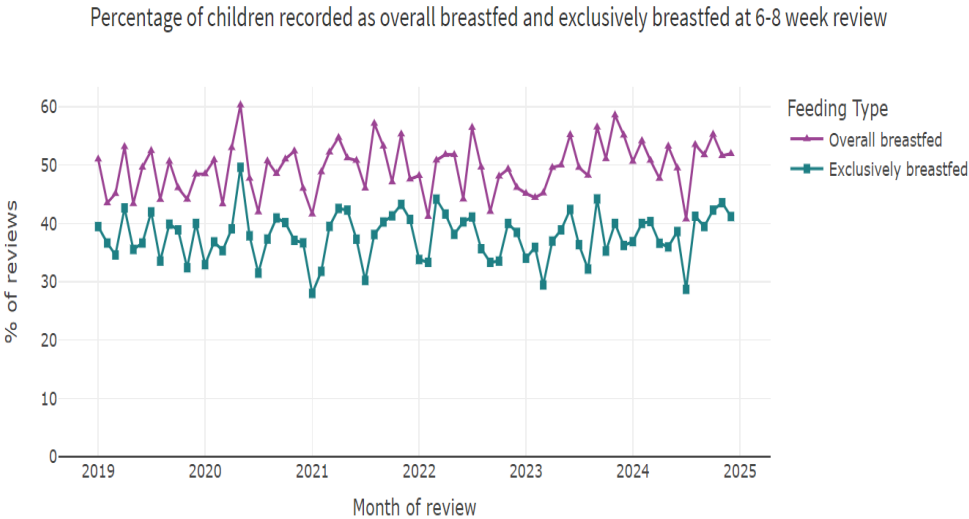
Indicator #3 (NHS CYP16)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children in P1 with their body mass index measured	95%	85%	↑ 97.8%	Child Health
ANALYSIS This data is reported Annually. Body Mass continues to be measures as part of the Child Health Surveillance Programme at the P1 Screening visit within School Nursing. Additional support, by way of follow up continues to be available through the Child Health Weight Programme. Full data can be found at https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/primary-1-body-mass-index-bmi-statistics-scotland/				

Indicator #4 (NHS CYP03)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage uptake of 4-5-year Child Health Surveillance contact	95%	36%	36.3%	Child Health
ANALYSIS This is a new indicator identified through improvement work. Insights on Health Visiting in Highland from the Child Health Surveillance Programme Pre-School report (May2025) demonstrated that 4-5 years coverage in Highland remains low (~50%) and is not universally implemented compared to ~75% nationally. New performance measure will drive increased coverage, which will in turn provide improved data on child health and developmental need at this stage. An improvement focus in this area will result in the increase in the figure. 95% has been identified as an achievable stretch aim for the measure. Data reported 6 monthly				

Indicator #5 (NHS CYP06)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
To reduce the attrition rate by 10% in any breastfeeding at 6 - 8 weeks by 2025	36%	30%	↑40%	Child Health
ANALYSIS				

There is a multi-disciplinary approach to supporting women to breastfeed in Highland and this includes midwives, health visitors, family nurses, infant feeding support workers, infant feeding coordinators, paediatric dietitians and community early years practitioners. Breastfeeding rates in Highland have increased over the past few years, resulting in fewer babies receiving only formula milk. Both midwifery and health visiting services have achieved sustainability status (GOLD award) from Unicef Baby Friendly Initiative resulting in a clear action plan to support leadership, culture, monitoring and progression of breastfeeding services within Highland. Infant feeding support workers will soon be tested as a concept in non-SIMD 1 areas, while Skye and Wester Ross has tested a concept where CEYP are upskilled to offer the level of support provided by IFSWs.

The Scottish Government has just finalised plans for the roll out of the Local Authority Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme which was tested in North Lanarkshire and there is an ask for Highland colleagues to participate in this along with the nursery and school friendly schemes. There has also been a national breastfeeding target which is monitored and reported to the Scottish Government from NHS Highland. This target aimed to reduce the attrition rate by 10% in any breastfeeding at 6 -8 weeks and NHS Highland has also made huge steps to achieving this target. The target is due to be renewed in 2026. This group would be encouraged to monitor and report on this target. For areas within SIMD 1 and where IFSWs have supported, attrition rates at 6 – 8 weeks have lowered from 44% in 2017/18 to 29% in 2024/25. Reporting annually published in Nov



Indicator #6 (NHS CYP15)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain 95% uptake rate of MMR1 (% of 5 year olds)	95%	95%	↓93%	NHS Highland
ANALYSIS				
Latest data from NHS slight reduction by 1%				
Full data can be found at https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/childhood-immunisation-statistics-scotland/				

Indicator #7	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of statutory health assessments completed within 4 weeks of becoming LAC will increase to 95%	95%	70%	↑59.7%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Performance on the statutory health assessments, which remains consistently well below the required target of 90% within four weeks. As part of delivering The Promise for Highland care experienced children and young people, there is currently a review of the health delivery model for CE CYP in Highland. Early improvements have already been put in place including the appointment of a Health Visitor (The Promise) in March 2025. This post will support early prevention and delivery of all statutory health assessments for infants under the age of 5 years, within the 4 week timescale. The recruitment to a Specialist Nurse (The Promise) School Years, to undertake a similar function for school age cyp, is underway. It is anticipated that as both posts move into operation, there will be a significant improvement in the timescales of delivery for the initial health assessment.				

Indicator #8 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service PHYSIOTHERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	-	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Unable to report this quarter due to system issues The children's physiotherapy team have been fully staffed for a number of months which has seen progress towards our target for waiting times. The team have also remodelled their service delivery to maximise efficiency, including offering more clinics to reduce travel time for therapists. Along with all the children's therapy services, physiotherapy are seeing an ever-increasing demand.				

Indicator #9 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
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Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	-	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Unable to report this quarter due to system issues We are seeing an improvement with an increase to 79% this quarter from 59% last quarter following a period of downward trend. It should also be noted that all requests are contacted and receive a 'First Conversation' consultation and are provided with advice and suggestions for thing they can do while they wait.				

Indicator #10 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service DIETETICS, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	88%	-	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Unable to report this quarter due to system issues				

Indicator #11 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	80%	-	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Unable to report this quarter due to system issues Since the last quarter figure of 87% we have noticed requests increasing from 50 to 60 per month, to averages of 90 per month. This has impacted on the number of children and young people who have been seen within 18 weeks this quarter. Work is underway with partners on early communication and language supports which may avoid such spikes in request rates in future.				

Indicator #12 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Services (ALL above), waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	80%	-	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Unable to report this quarter due to system issues				
We are pleased to report an improvement on this indicator given the large increase in requests for speech and language therapy. Nationally, no other IJB/NHS Board collates/reports on paediatric AHP waiting times, rather they focus on either "response", "experiential" or "outcomes" to measure performance. AHP performance measures are therefore currently under review.				

Indicator #13	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE		
The number of children reporting that they feel listened to in their school	Improve from Baseline	40%	↑39%	Education and Learning		
ANALYSIS						
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils current data is based on average of 3 age groups surveyed. Slight Increase from 2023 which averaged 36%						
Do you feel listened to in your school?						
	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
Yes - very much so (P7)	65.6%	64.6%	57.6%	56.9%	50.4%	52.2%
Yes - very much so (S2)	43.2%	38.4%	34.8%	38.9%	29.9%	34.2%
Yes - very much so (S4)	32.0%	31.9%	20.8%	32.6%	26.8%	31.1%

Indicator #14	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Self-reported incidence of smoking will decrease	Improve from Baseline	13%	↓ 2.6%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils with a continued downward trend 2023 data was 3% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools With the shift being children choosing vaping rather smoking consideration this data was collected in 2025 survey Have you ever used a Vape or e-cigarette – 19.2% self-reported incidence of vaping. New measure so further analysis and exploration to change as an indicator measure to be agreed and finalised.				

Indicator #15	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children who report that they drink alcohol at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	20%	↓ 1.6%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils Data taken as an average of all 3 age groups. 2023 data – 4.3% P7 – 0.08%, S2 – 1.29%, S4 – 3.62% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #16	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in P7 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	1.80%	↓ 0.00%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils 2025 data – 0.25% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #17	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S2 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	5.30%	↓ 0.39%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils 2023 data – 0.53%

Indicator #18	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S4 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	19.20%	↓0.29%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS
Most recent data from the 2025 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils A reduction from 2023 – data – 2.38% <u>Highland Substance Awareness Toolkit (H-SAT)</u> Whole school early intervention approach to embedding H-SAT being tested in a high school. Regular review of content via google analytic Promotion via community events e.g. Vision 2026 launch, Delivery of H-SAT awareness and use of lesson plans to guidance staff Support to schools to develop substance aware policy Substance awareness education being delivered to education and associated staff Collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in development of naloxone policy for children's homes

Indicator #19	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain high levels of positive destinations for pupils in Highland vs national averages	93%	91%	↑93	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS
This data is reported annually.

Indicator #20	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
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The delay in the time taken between a child being accommodated and permanency decision will decrease (Target in Months)	9	12	↑ 9.4	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected, scrutinised and reported quarterly. Mitigating action plan is in place.				

Indicator #21	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people placed out with Highland will decrease (spot purchase placements)	15	55	↓ 19	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is reported monthly as part of the data collection for the Home to Highland programme. Numbers have decreased since last quarter from 21. This was as a result of several larger families coming into spot purchased residential care and a number of young people with needs and behaviour that required specialist placements outwith Highland. Work is continually targeted through the Home to Highland Programme to reduce the number of children in residential placements outwith Highland. The team are currently working on returning 12 children over the next 12 months.				

Indicator #22	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people in secure care will decrease	3	8	↓ 2	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Previous quarter figure – 4 New regulations came into force on 28 August and as of that date, there will be no new admissions of children under 18 to YOIs this is likely to affect this figure to rise				

Indicator #23	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	26	↑52	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This gives an indication of numbers of vulnerable children and young people (in terms of risk of harm). Increases in numbers may be positive as it can evidence good practice in assessing and responding to risk. It can also evidence increasing risk within communities and support the design and delivery of services. The number of children subject to initial and pre-birth case conferences in Highland has increased by 11 from 41 in the previous quarter, to 52 in the current quarter. This is the 2nd highest within the last 10 quarters, while the highest recorded in this period was 67. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025).				

Indicator #24	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	19	↑29	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This quarter sees an increase in the number from case conferences from 28 in the previous quarter to 29 in this quarter. The number of case conferences can indicate family groups where the figure is lower than the number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences. Data can be benchmarked by converting numbers of children or Planning Meetings into a rate per 1,000 total children aged 0-17 (which can be found at National Records of Scotland Mid-Year Population Estimates). The rate per 1,000 can then be compared with other areas to assess the number of cases progressing to Initial or Pre-Birth Child Protection Planning Meeting. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025)				

Indicator #25	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Conversion rate (%) of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences registered on child protection register	95%	78%	↑98%	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The conversion rate has increased from 95% in the previous quarter to 98% in the current quarter. A high conversion rate indicates that risk is being assessed appropriately, progressing to child protection case conferences where required. This figure has remained consistently above 85% since Q2 2019/20. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025).				

Indicator #26	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children on the child protection register as at end of reporting period	N/A	112	↑ 133	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The last 4 quarters have seen a rise in the number of children on the register, with an increase of 23 in this quarter compared to the previous quarter. Although looking at the broader trend, since Q1 2023-24 there has been a general decrease from a high of 144, the recent increase takes us just above normal levels following the low of 83 in Q1 of 2024/25. Registration data for the last 7 years shows an average 106 children on the register in every quarter. It should also be noted that larger sibling groups registering or deregistering can affect the overall number and give the impression of larger movements. The 52 new registrations in this quarter contain 14 sibling groups, including 3 groups of 3, 2 groups of 4 and 1 group of 5 children. An increase may be a positive move in terms of risk assessment and planning; it could also have been influenced by the impact of the Children's Services Inspection for children at risk of harm. However, it could also indicate increasing risk within communities, or because of the current financial climate, work is underway to examine the data in more detail. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (31/10/2025).				

Indicator #27	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children de-registered from the child protection register in period	N/A	34	↑ 32	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This quarter sees a slight increase in the number of de-registrations from 26 in the previous quarter to 32 in the current quarter. The highest number of de-registrations recorded in the last 5 quarters was 60 in Q1 2024/25, this was found to be due to many sibling groups deregistering the same time. Indicator #31 can provide information as to how well risks are being reduced for the most vulnerable children and how well Child's Plans are working. However, this analysis must be supported by quality assurance processes to ensure children are de-registered at an appropriate time to avoid any escalation of risk and ensure ongoing support. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025)				

Indicator #28	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of concerns recorded for children placed on the child protection register in period at a pre-birth or initial conference	N/A	58	↑ 122	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The current quarter shows a rise in concerns from 103 in the previous quarter to 122 in the current quarter. This increase is as expected as its relative to the large number of new registrations within the period (52). Most concerns recorded relate to vulnerability factors including Domestic Abuse (18), Child Affected by Parental Mental Health (16), Parental Alcohol Use (14), Parental Drug Use (12). In terms of Impact and Abuse Neglect (23) and Emotional Abuse (15), Physical Abuse (11) are the largest concerns recorded. Child displaying harmful sexual behaviour, Child Experiencing Mental Health Problems and child affected by parent learning disability also feature but as numbers are lower than 5, individual figures are not provided to protect the identity of children. There are an increasing number of concerns being recorded in registration which could suggest increasing complexities with families experiencing more than one risk/vulnerability factor. This has implications for service design and delivery, and learning and development provision to ensure staff have the right knowledge, skills and tools to support their work with families. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025)				

Indicator #29	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
% of Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings with parental attendance	95%	TBC	↓ 79%	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The current quarter sees a slight decrease in the % of meetings with parental attendance from 88% in the previous quarter to 79% in this quarter. Percentage of Initial and Pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings where at least one person who usually has care of the child attends (e.g. a parent or carer). This indicator highlights the level of parental involvement in decision making and planning around the child and will be reinforced by audit activity into the quality of their involvement (e.g. level of active participation as well as attendance). Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025)				

Indicator #30	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on non-offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↑ 161	HSC – SCRA Quarterly Reports
ANALYSIS				

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. There has been an increase of 5 children referred to the reporter on non-offence grounds in this quarter compared to the previous quarter (156). This is the highest number of referrals in the last 4 quarters.

Number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on non-offence (care and protection) grounds. Non-offence referrals constitute referrals that have grounds other than section 67 of the 2011 Act. These are also referred to as Care and Protection referrals by some agencies. Work has been undertaken through the Quality Assurance Sub-Group to look at SCRA referrals by type and by age due to an increase in referrals in relation to lack of parental care. Work has also been undertaken to look at older young people being referred to SCRA and discovered that where there has been an uplift in referrals during any one quarter, these tend to refer to a small cohort of young people with a large number of referrals.

Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025).

Indicator #31	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↓ 32	HSC-SCRA Quarterly Reports
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. There has been a decrease of 22 children referred to the reporter on offence grounds in this quarter compared to the previous quarter (54). This is the lowest number of referrals in the last 4 quarters. An increase in previous figures could reflect the increasing focus on responding to young people in conflict with the law through the Children's Hearing System rather than within an adult criminal justice system. It is too early to determine if this is the case but will be a key focus over the next few years. We are seeing a decrease in this quarter; however, figures are relatively small so increases and decreases in the data need to be considered over a longer period. Data as of Q1 2025/26 (01/08/2025 – 31/10/2025)				

Indicator #32	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people at home with parents	Increase from Baseline	112	↑ 110	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 7 children/YP that are with friends and families in 2024 compared to 2023 (74).				

Indicator #33	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
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Number of looked after children and young people with friends and families	Increase from Baseline	100	↑ 81	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 7 children/YP that are with friends and families in 2024 compared to 2023 (74).				

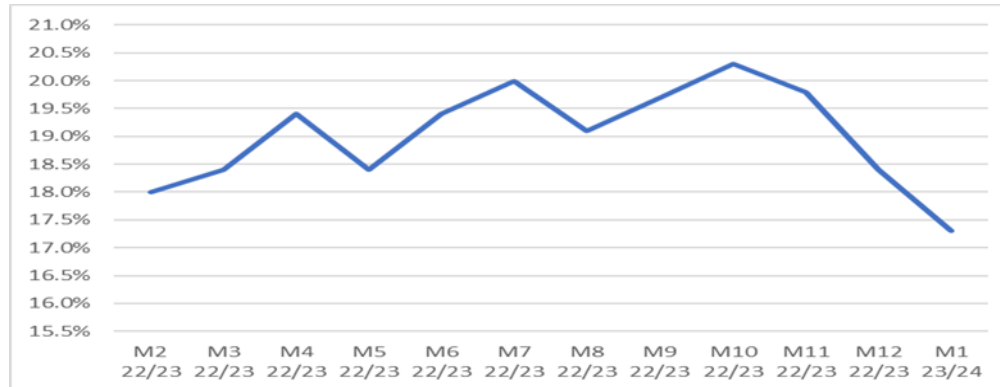
Indicator #34	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with foster parents provided by local authority	Increase from Baseline	121	↓ 97	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been a decrease of 7 children/YP that are with foster parents provided by local authority in 2024 compared to 2023 (104).				

Indicator #35	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with prospective adopters	Increase from Baseline	12	↓ 14	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government.				

There has been a decrease of 1 child/YP that are with prospective adopters in 2024 compared to 2023 (15).

Indicator #36	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people within a local authority provided house	Reduction from Baseline	81	↑57	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS Looked After Children data is as of the 31/07/2024. This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. There has been an increase of 5 children/YP that are within a local authority provided house in 2024 compared to 2023 (52). The number of available in-Highland residential beds has decreased by 7 in the past year due to a number of provisions in the north closing				

Indicator #37	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The percentage of children needing to live away from the family home but supported in kinship care increases	20%	19%	↑27%	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS This data is reported monthly on PRMS, 19.4% in previous quarter There has been a slight increase in the monthly figure, with the current figure sitting slightly below the target but above the baseline figure.				



Indicator #38	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children where permanence is achieved via a Residence order increases	82	72	↑146	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Previous quarter 137				