

*A Vision for
Getting it Right for
Argyll and Bute's Children*

Interim Plan 2008-2009

Integrated Children's Service Plan

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Introduction

Welcome to Argyll and Bute's Interim Integrated Children's Service Plan 2008 – 2009. This plan, which is shared by all our partner agencies, sets out a vision for children, young people and their families in Argyll and Bute. It provides information on what we are doing to make that vision a reality.

This interim plan sets out joint strategic priorities and the key objectives and outcomes we aspire to for all children, young people and their families in Argyll and Bute. It is a driver for change and links together other relevant policies and focuses on the better integration and provision of services which have a positive impact on children and young people.

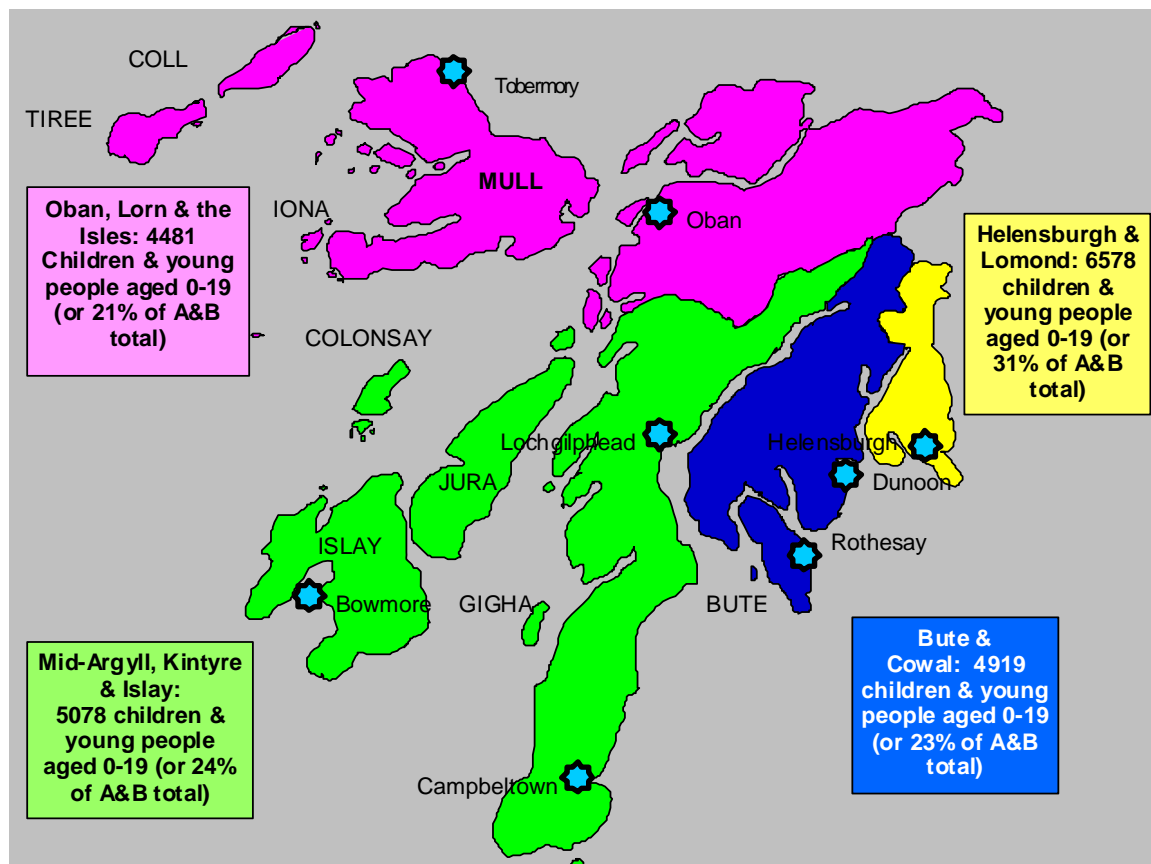
Argyll and Bute: the geography

Delivering services for children, young people and their families in Argyll and Bute presents many challenges; this is not only due to the geography but also our dispersed population and the demands of delivering of services across the authority area.

Argyll and Bute Council provide services across one of the largest geographical areas in Scotland. The entire area covers 690,900 hectares, with a population of 91,306 as at the 2001 Census. Nearly 1 in 4 of this population is aged between 0-19 years.

There are in total 38,969 households in Argyll and Bute. Over a third consists of either 2 parents or a lone parent with both dependent and non-dependent children. When only measuring households with dependent children, the figure is only slightly smaller at 27.7%. Therefore, out of the total number of households that have children, the majority of these children are dependants.

There are also a significant number of lone parent households in Argyll and Bute. The total number of households with children in Argyll and Bute is 13,853 of which 29.8% are lone parent households.



Scottish Government Concordat (2007)

The Concordat, developed by COSLA and the Scottish Government in November 2007, sets out the terms of a new relationship between the Scottish Government and local government, based on mutual respect, trust and partnership. It underpins the funding to be provided to local government over the period 2008 / 2009 to 2010 / 2011.

This new relationship is represented by a package of measures, which were endorsed by COSLA and the Scottish Government. This agreement is based on the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework providing local authorities with 7 High Level Targets, 15 key national outcomes set out in the Concordat, all within a wider framework encompassing a further 45 indicators of national achievement. These objectives, outcomes and indicators are listed and defined in the concordat document "Single Outcome Agreement". This plan has been developed to reflect the principles of the Concordat and the SOA.

A Vision for the children and young people of Argyll and Bute

“We are committed to working with our communities to develop and improve quality of life and opportunity for all our children”

Getting it right for every child is a national programme that takes a co-ordinated approach across all agencies to support the delivery of appropriate, proportionate and timely help to all children as and when they need it.

Within Argyll and Bute a re-design of children's services is required to ensure all those working with children, young people and families develop the Getting it right for every child approach in their own organisations, regions and sectors to reflect local circumstances and needs in partnership with others and most importantly, adaptable to the needs of each and every family, child and young person.

This Strategy is the next stage of the process of our service re-design of Children's Services in Argyll and Bute.

“For Scotland's Children” examined children's services nationally and made a number of recommendations in the form of action points. Since then, Argyll and Bute Council and its partners have:

1. Produced an Integrated Children's Service Plan and held subsequent Reviews
2. Adopted the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
3. Restructured Social Work Services for Children and Families
4. Developed an integrated service planning structure for children and young people

1. Integrated Children's Service Interim Plan

This plan will cover the period 2008 – 2009 and will assist in the initial implementation of the national objectives set out in the Scottish Government Concordat. In preparation for the future development of the Single Outcome Agreement, the Partnership's approach will be to establish a procedure in which we address National Outcomes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

2. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

GIRFEC aims to provide a response to the needs of children and young people when they need it. Through the development of pilots in Bute and Helensburgh, as well as the piloting of the new Public Health Nursing Record by NHS Highland in Bute and Cowal, all relevant partner agencies have worked to progress this agenda. There is recognition that this work should link to other transformation agendas including e-Care developments, in particular the rollout of CareAssess.

3. Restructuring of Community Services Social Work Service – Children and Families

Appointments within the restructuring have included Service Managers, who in addition to having responsibility for a key service, hold responsibility for a strategic approach. Area Children's Managers have been appointed for each of the four areas and these appointments are the key drivers for the local integration of children's services. Throughout the partnership, these changes continue to develop in line with the integration agenda.



4. Integrated Service Planning Structure



Single Outcome Agreements

Both COSLA and SOLACE have worked with National Government to develop the national element of the Single Outcome Agreement Framework. These national elements of the framework comprise the 5 strategic objectives (wealthier and fairer, smarter, healthier, safer and stronger, greener) 15 national outcomes and 45 indicators of national achievement. These measures represent the way in which national Government will set priorities and how accountability will be assured at a national level.

Work has been undertaken recently to develop the local part of the outcomes agreement framework.

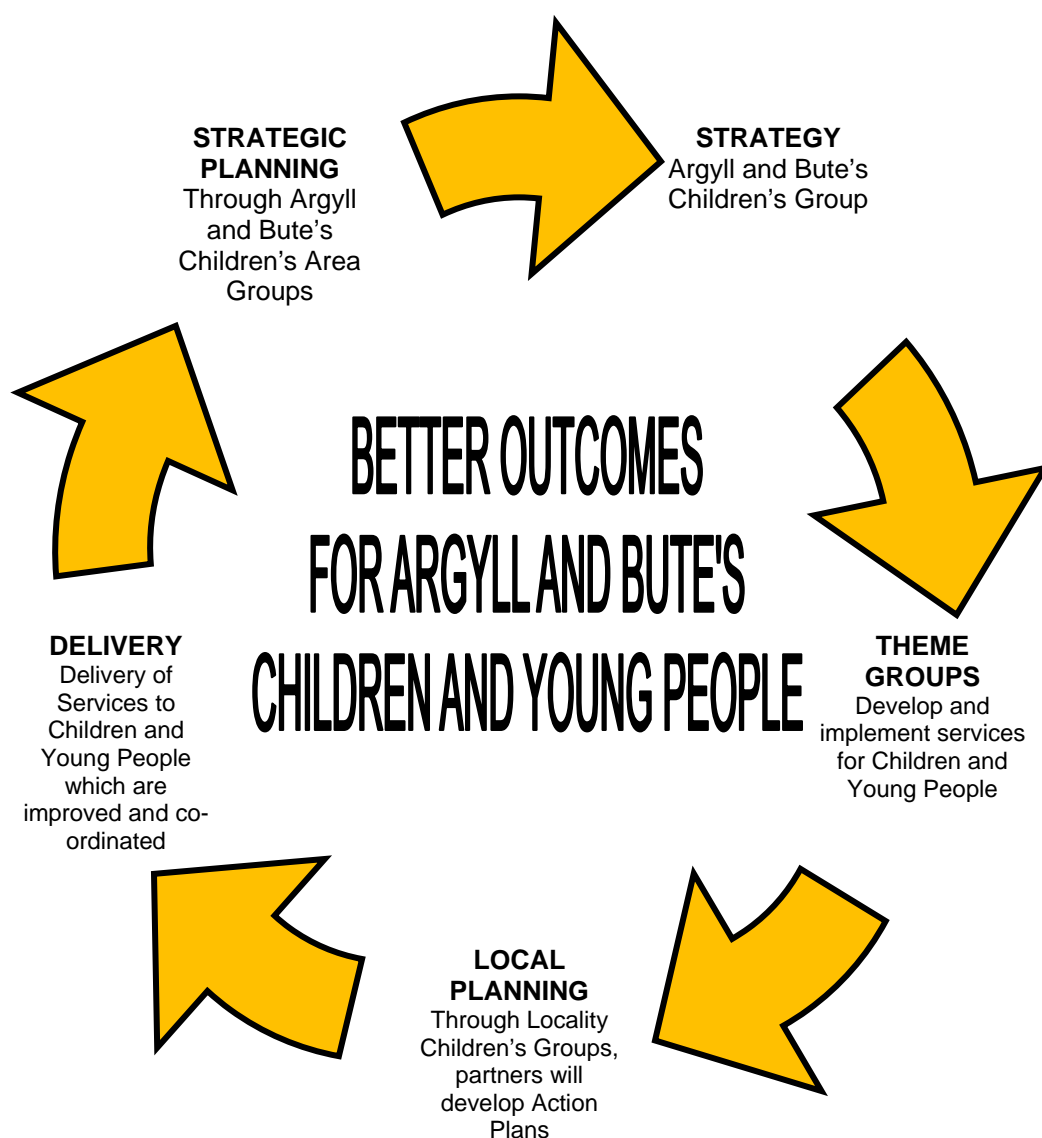
Services for children and families in Argyll and Bute are being further developed to create a more co-ordinated and multi skilled approach to delivering services for children requiring more specialist services. This is part of the continuing development of Argyll and Bute's Children's Group arrangements to improve outcomes for children and young people. This links very closely with the central proposal of the Concordat which was the creation of a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) between each Council and the Scottish Government based on 15 key national outcomes agreed. This requires the Council and its partner's commitment to support progress at national level through improvement in outcomes at a local level.



Setting the Scene

Across Argyll and Bute, services have come together in locality children's service groups to examine how the Argyll and Bute wide priorities might be delivered locally. There are three theme groups and seven locality children's groups across Argyll and Bute. These are key in the success of delivering integrated children's services, achieving a coordinated single system which will ultimately provide better outcomes for our children and young people.

Locality children's service groups will allow Argyll and Bute to continue to develop and deliver joined up children's services. The groups provide a framework for joint planning at a local level and assist in the identification of ways in which mainstream services may be strengthened, changed or developed.



Each local Children's Group will produce a local action plan, involving all key partners in support of the key national outcomes of this plan.

Integrated Delivery of Services for Children and Young People

National, Strategic and Local Service Priorities

The preparation and implementation of this interim ICSP are governed by the corporate values of working together and working with communities including children and families. The key priority of developing joint performance information, evaluation and improvement planning is clearly informed by national strategies and priorities.

A range of overarching national priorities have been published by the Scottish Government. These provide the framework for planning and development of local authorities in Scotland. There have also been a number of reviews and strategies relating to the development of the Health Services, Education and Social Care Services in Scotland and a range of supporting strategies (see Appendix 1)

The U N Convention on the Rights of the Child has become a cornerstone of legislation covering children's services throughout the United Kingdom. It outlines the responsibilities of national and local government to promote and implement children and young people's rights and provides the overarching framework for the delivery of children's services.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)

**Getting It Right for
Every Child
(2007)**

**Delivering a Health
Future: An Action
Framework for
Children and Young
People's Health in
Scotland (2007)**

**Curriculum for
Excellence
(2004)**

**Disability
Discrimination Act
(2005)**

**Closing the
Opportunity Gap
(2004)**

**Health Promotion
Guidance for Local
Authorities and
Schools
(2008)**

**Youth Strategy
(2008)**

**More Choices
More Chances
(2006)**

**Early Years
Early Intervention
Framework
(due to be published
Autumn 2008)**

Stakeholders Consultation

The Argyll and Bute's Children's Partnership have over a number of years conducted several consultation exercises with service users, on their experiences in receiving services and what they thought were the most important issues facing young people in Argyll and Bute. The detailed results of these exercises have been published in the Integrated Children's Service Plan and subsequent reviews.

The Partnership will undertake structured consultation with stakeholders; including our service users, later in the year and publish the methodology used and the response in our three year plan for the period April 2009 – 2012

There are different mechanisms which will be used for engaging with wider Argyll and Bute communities to enable ownership of the Single Outcome Agreement for example:

- Day events
- Locality Children's Service Groups
- Consultation exercises with our service users
- Networking Opportunities

Voluntary Sector

Argyll and Bute support the development and strengthening of the Voluntary Sector so that it can influence statutory policy, practice development and contribute to, and participate in future planning.

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in making Argyll and Bute a better place for children and young people to grow up in. The Voluntary Sector is a key partner at a strategic level in the development of the new national outcome agreement in Argyll and Bute. This involves the voluntary sector fully engaging in planning, preparation and delivery of integrated services for children, young people and their families.

There are a wide range of voluntary organisations in Argyll and Bute from small local groups to national bodies working with disadvantaged groups and individuals who employ their own staff and maximise use of volunteers. Many of the organisations work specifically with children and young people and contribute jointly to the planning of children's services in Argyll and Bute

Our Strategic Priorities

National Outcome 4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

Strategic Priorities:

- Improve the education outcomes for children and young people who are looked after and ensure that they have an Education Support Plan in place
- Ensure all young people leaving care have a pathway plan
- Our most vulnerable pupils have support plans in place within schools

National Outcome 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

Strategic Priorities:

- Further develop Integrated Family Support Services
- Enhance Parenting Support Services
- Establish Family Literacy and Numeracy Support Services and Resources
- Enhance provision of Child Development Services

National Outcome 6: We live longer, healthier lives

Strategic Priorities:

- Expand and further embed the Health Promoting Schools work through Curriculum for Excellence
- Achieve agreed completion rates for child health weight intervention programme by 2010 / 11
- Promote positive mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Implement Childsmile programme in 2009 / 10

National Outcome 7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society

Strategic Priorities

- Promote Healthy Lifestyles
- Development of services for Children affected by Disability
- To work with colleagues in welfare rights and the employment services to ensure maximum economic benefits for our young people

National Outcome 8: *We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk*

Strategic Priorities:

- Increase opportunities for children and young people affected by disability to be supported and remain in the community
- Focus on the needs of young people in transition and preparing for independence and inter-agency co-ordination at all transition stages
- Develop a strategy to improve academic attainment and achievement of children and young people
- Develop child protection services in line with the Child Protection Committee Business Plan
- Implement the modernisation of our foster care service to shift the balance of children from residential to foster care
- Development of a kinship care, respite and family support service
- Development of inter-agency training in respect of children

National Outcome 9: *We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger*

Strategic Priorities:

- Develop prevention and early intervention measures
- Strengthen links between Restorative Justice programmes
- Reduce antisocial behaviour
- Develop services which address alcohol and drug misuse



Monitoring of this Plan

The implementation of this plan will be monitored by members of the Argyll and Bute's Children's Strategic Group. This group has a wide remit and reviews the current national policy developments which relate to children's services.

This interim plan describes the progress being made towards meeting the single outcome agreement and the national objectives and the completion of the action plan contained within this plan. It will be reviewed and updated annually and will form the basis of the next three year plan 2009 – 2012. This is a key part of measuring the effectiveness of how services meet the identified needs of our children and young people in Argyll and Bute.



Appendix 1 - Performance Framework

This appendix brings together information on outcomes and performance and provides the basis for a framework against which all performance of Children's Services in Argyll and Bute will be monitored. This framework will be subject to development and will change over time in line with the Scottish Government Concordat. At this initial stage we have included information on:

- Looked After Children
- Child Protection
- Academic Achievement
- Child Health

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	2006	2007	2008
Total LAC at 31.03.08	249	219	208
Boys/Girls (%)	145+104 (58%+42%)	131+88 (60%+40%)	123+85 (59%+41%)
At Home (%)	141 (57%)	126 (57%)	121 (58%)
Other Community	51 (20%)	39 (18%)	41 (20%)
Residential accommodation	57 (23%)	54 (25%)	46 (22%)

CHILD PROTECTION	2006	2007	2008
Number on C.P register at 31.03.08	56	34	43
Boys/Girls (%)	41+15 (73%+27%)	15+19 (44%+56%)	21+22 (49%+51%)

EDUCATION: SQA EXAM RESULTS	2006		2007		2008	
	ARGYLL & BUTE	SCOTLAND	ARGYLL & BUTE	SCOTLAND	ARGYLL & BUTE	SCOTLAND
By the end of S4:						
5+ at level 5	37.1	34.3	35.2	32.3	35.6	33.8
5+ at level 4	79.7	76.5	82.0	75.0	83.3	75.7
5+ at level 3	93.6	90.6	95.4	90.5	94.0	90.5
By the end of S5:						
1+ at level 6	44.9	37.6	40.5	38.1	44.1	38.2
3+ at level 6	24.9	21.1	20.9	21.6	24.2	21.9
5+ at level 6	11.4	9.3	11.7	9.7	9.6	9.5
By the end of S6:						
1+ at level 7	12.6	12.2	15.8	11.9	12.1	12.3

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EDUCATION 5-14 RESULTS	2006		2007		2008	
Percentage of pupils attaining appropriate levels in:	Primary P3,P4, P6, & P7	Secondary (S2)	Primary P3,P4,P6, & P7	Secondary (S2)	Primary P3,P4,P6, & P7	Secondary (S2)
Reading	84%	71%	84%	65%	86%	73%
Writing	80%	57%	79%	48%	81%	60%
Mathematics	86%	66%	85%	61%	88%	69%

HEALTH RESULTS	2006	2007	2008
To achieve the national target of 50%, women still breastfeeding at 6 weeks or more:	47%	39.4%	40.2%p*
60% of all 5 year old children (Primary 1) will have no sign of dental disease by 2010	63.2%	No detailed (NDIP) National Dental Inspection Programme carried out	Awaiting results of 2007/2008 NDIP form ISD
Reduce by 20% the pregnancy rate (per 1000 population) in 13-15 year olds from 8.5 in 1995 to 6.8 by 2010	2.5** (2002-2004)	2.4 (2003-2005)	1.5 (2004-2006)
95% uptake target for all childhood vaccinations	94.3% MMR1*** 88.7% MMR2	93.9% MMR1 88.2% MMR2	96.8% MMR1 91.9% MMR2

* Provisional.

** Rate per 1,000 women aged between 13-15 years.

*** MMR rates % completed preschool course at 6 years.

Appendix 2- Reference Documents

The National Context – Legislation/Standards / Key Drivers

There are many major changes at a national and local level that affect services to children. One of the main drivers in this new approach comes from the Scottish Government. Ministers have identified that providing integrated high quality service to support our children and young people in Scotland is to provide an integrated approach as demonstrated in their publication 'Getting it Right For Every Child'. The principles of this direction are wholly endorsed by Argyll and Bute Council and its planning partners to achieve the best for our children, young people and their families. We believe that partnership working is essential to achieve our vision for 'a better future for children and young people in Argyll and Bute'.

The current key national documents and initiatives for Children's Services are as follows:

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)**
- **Disability Discrimination Act 1995 was amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000**
- **Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004**
- **The National Framework for Health Promoting Schools in Scotland 2006**
- **Education (Scotland) Act 1980**
- **'Schools Out' A Framework For The Development Of Out Of School Care**
- **The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000**
- **The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004**
- **Determined to succeed - Policy Expectations for Local Authority Delivery 2008-2011**
- **Curriculum for Excellence 2004**
- **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) 2007**
- **Delivering a Healthy Future: An Action Framework for Children and Young People's Health in Scotland 2007**
- **The Children (Scotland) Act 1995**
- **The Fostering of Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996**

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- **The Arrangements to Look After Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996**
- **The Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003**
- **Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better 2007**
- **Health Promoting Guidance for Local Authorities and Schools 2008**



Appendix 3

Membership of Argyll and Bute's Children's Planning Framework

- **Head of Service Integration**
- **Consultant Paediatrician**
- **Health Improvement Officer**
- **Public Health Practitioner**
- **Senior Health Promotion Officer**
- **Lead Professional - Children's Services**
- **Child Health Commissioner / Public Health Specialist**
-
- **Head of Service - Secondary Education**
- **Head of Pre School and Primary Education**
- **Principal Educational Psychologist**
- **Quality Improvement Officer - Education**
- **Principal Officer - Early Years**

- **Head of Children and Families**
- **Service Manager - Operations**
- **Service Manager – Service Standards**
- **Service Manager - Resources**
- **Principal Officer – Early Years**
- **Principal Officer Children affected by Disability**
- **Lead Officer – Children's Integrated Service**
- **4 Area Children's Managers**

- **Head of Community Regeneration**
- **Head of Democratic Services and Governance**

- **Planning and Information Manager**
- **Community Planning Manager**

- **Local Authority Reporter**
- **Local Authority Liaison Officer**

- **Youth Services Librarian**
- **Voluntary Sector Reps**



Voluntary Sector



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