

Executive Summary

Children And Young People's Services Plan

2005 – 2008



1 Introduction

The Children' and Young People's Services Plan 2005 – 2008 is the first integrated services plan to be produced by Shetland. This plan has been developed in partnership and reflects what we believe needs to happen over the next three years to meet the needs of Shetland's children, young people and their families.

For Scotland's Children emphasises the importance of an integrated approach to service planning and delivery. Children and young people's needs are complex and no one agency can single-handedly meet these. It is only through "joining up" our services, offering a seamless approach which targets need, that we will be truly effective.

The Community Planning Framework, "Together Shetland", draws together national and local priorities to assist those in Shetland involved in planning and delivering services to do this in a way that contributes to all of the priorities. It is through this framework that the Children and Young People's Services Plan is able to contribute to the delivery of other plans and strategies, for example the Community Safety Plan. The Plan links intrinsically with the supporting themes and processes of the Community Planning Framework:

- Health Improvement
- Equal Opportunities
- Community Safety
- Social Justice
- Achieving Potential
- Active Citizenship

The main focus continues to be on services that are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in Shetland, as defined in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 as "children in need". Shetland has added two further categories, namely, "children/young people seeking asylum" and "children/young people who live in fragile rural areas". The plan, however, also addresses the universal needs of children and young people and outcomes will be sought for all.

In setting out to deliver this plan partner agencies are embarking on a challenging and ambitious task, but all share the view that the children and young people of Shetland deserve no less. Our aims and objectives will be achieved through the provision of services that are:

- child centred
- holistic
- integrated
- locally delivered, wherever possible, and,
- run in partnership with children, young people and their families and carers.

The full plan provides:

- a review of the previous Children and Young People's Service Plan 2002 – 2004

- the local context within which our services are planned and delivered
- the shared vision, the 7 cross-cutting themes and the key strategic priorities
- the strategic and operational framework for integrated children's services, and,
- the action plan which sets out what we are going to do, how we are going to do it, by when, and the outcomes we are seeking to achieve

2 Integrated Children's Services

The Vision and Themes

Shetland's shared vision for children and young people is that:

“ Children and young people should be encouraged and supported to enjoy being young and to lead full, safe, healthy, active and responsible lives in their communities.”

Partner agencies are committed to working together in an atmosphere of collaboration and respect, to promote all aspects of children and young people's development, to help them feel safe, secure and cared for, and, to have a sense of their own worth and that of other people in society.

Children and young people's services are to be planned and delivered against seven cross cutting themes:

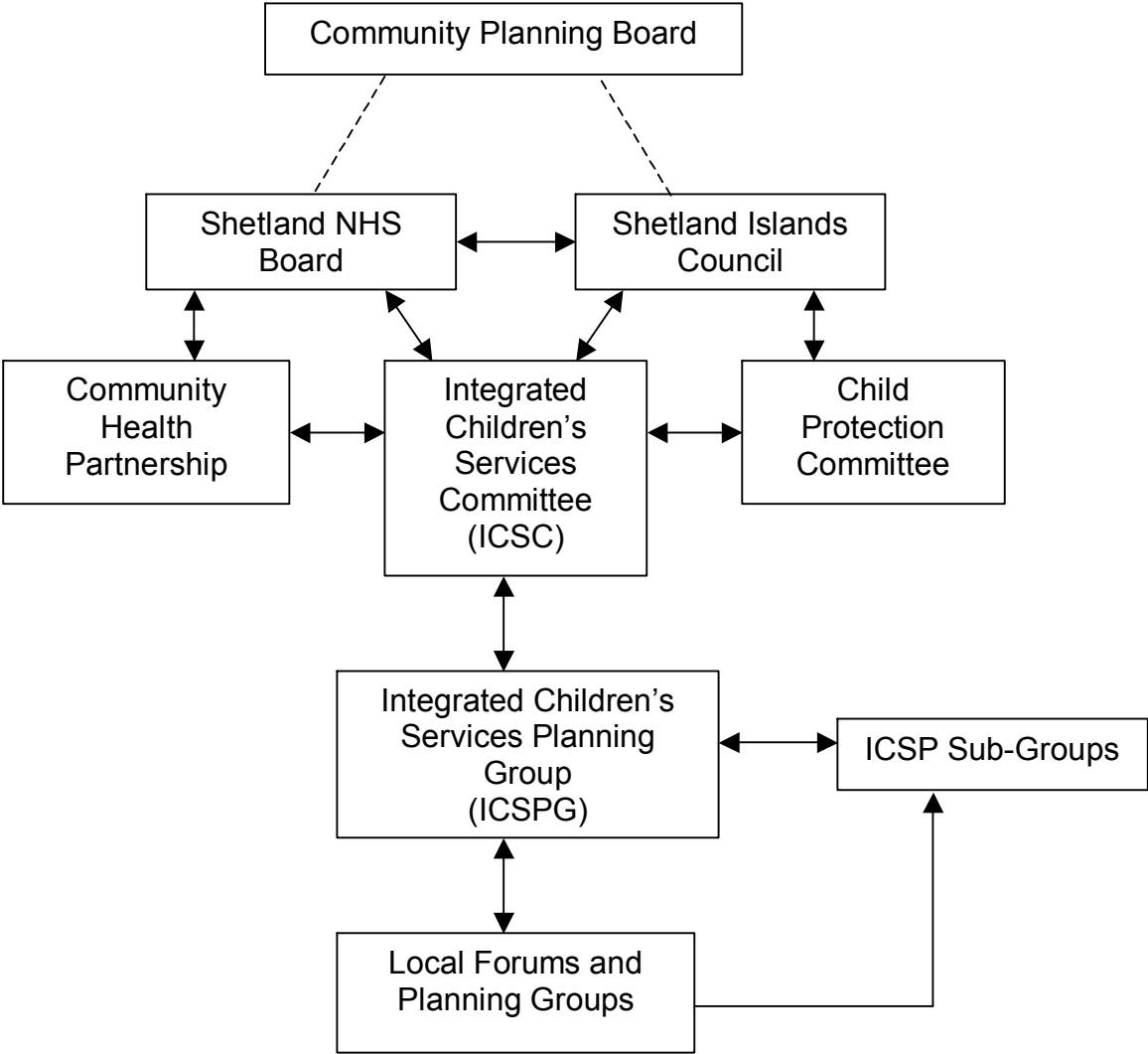
- Safe
- Nurtured
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Included
- Active
- Respected and Responsible

The Strategic and Operational Structure

The structure for integrated services has evolved over time and is currently in the process of change. The present strategic and operational planning and delivery is through the Integrated Children's Services Planning Group. However, a new structure is to be imposed in order to raise the profile of children and young people's services, ensure clear lines of governance and accountability, strong strategic leadership and direction, and, effective monitoring and evaluation. The new strategic framework is outlined below which incorporates two levels of decision making. The Integrated Children's Services Committee (ICSC) is similar to the representation on the Community Planning Board. It is through this Committee that the Integrated Children's Services Plan will be monitored and evaluated, services commissioned and the overall strategic direction given.

The Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Group will report regularly to the ICSC. The links with the Community Health Partnership and the Child Protection Committee will ensure that there is joined up planning and the pooling of resources.

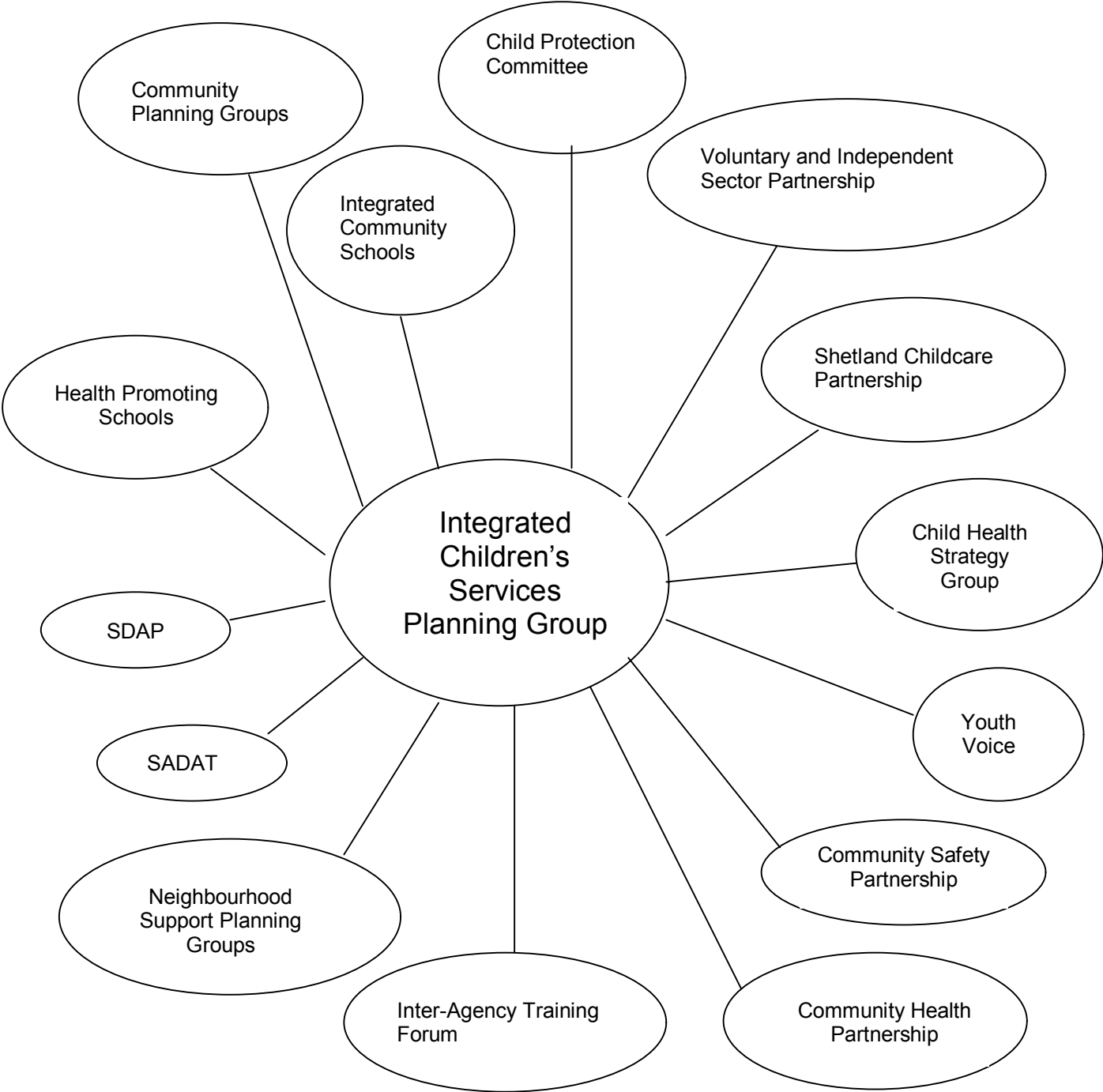
Diagram 1: Strategic Structure



In the revised structure the Integrated Children’s Services Planning Group will become the vehicle through which integrated services are delivered at a local level. The operational and service managers will come together to plan, discuss progress against set objectives, and, take action where required to keep the plan on track. This group is effectively the forum that drives the integration of services. The local forums and planning groups, all of whom have a specific remit, link into the ICSPG. The sub groups of the ICSPG will work on particular areas/issues for a time limited period and report back.

Within the current strategic and operational structure there is a system of open communication to ensure effective planning. The new structure will facilitate and strengthen this feature.

Diagram 2: Operational Structure



Partnership working is an essential element of integrated services. Better integration leads to better services. The voluntary and independent sector makes a valuable contribution in delivering services to children and young people in Shetland. Over the next 3 years there will be continuing opportunities to work creatively across all sectors to foster initiatives and build capacity.

Strategic Priorities

The key strategic priorities for Integrated Children's Services for the next 3 years are as follows:

- integrated planning, assessment and service delivery across the whole range of provision, especially at significant points in children and young people's lives
- the delivery of a high quality service for Looked After Children in which plans for their future are put into place without any unnecessary delay
- targeting resources to ensure the physical health and emotional well-being of children and young people. In particular tackling substance misuse, obesity and bullying
- the development of locally based services, around Integrated Community Schools, to enhance inclusion, participation and educational achievement. Through early identification of need, preventative services will be put in place
- ensuring the sustainability of services and the development of new initiatives through making best use of and pooling of resources, e.g. finance, staffing, equipment – across agencies.

3 The Action Plan

The action plan sets out what we are going to do, how we are going to do it, by when, the outcomes we are seeking to achieve and the resources available. It has been divided into sections around the seven cross-cutting themes with planned activities across a range of improvement objectives with outcome targets.

Theme: Safe

“ Children and young people should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community. ”

Improvement Objectives

- to deliver high quality services to vulnerable children and young people who have been abused or are at risk of abuse/harm
- children and young people get the help that they need when they need it, and professionals take timely and effective action to protect children
- ensure professionals/staff who are undertaking child protection work are capable, confident, supported and have adequate resources
- to improve child protection quality assurance systems to facilitate continuous improvement
- to ensure a strategic integrated approach to providing the range of services to address the therapeutic, practical and support needs of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and improve partnership working and increase good practice
- enhance the provision of services to families where parents/carers engage in substance misuse
- to tackle bullying, adopting a community-wide approach
- to make Shetland's roads safer for everyone, in particular children and young people
- to make the home a safer place and reduce avoidable accidents and injuries

Theme: Nurtured

“ Children and young people should live within a supportive family setting, with additional assistance if required, or, where this is not possible within another caring setting, ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience.”

Improvement Objectives

- improve the assessment of children and young people's needs
- improve the effectiveness of family support packages and enhance the range of services
- to improve the range of care provision for Looked After Children and Young People
- to improve care planning for Looked After Children and Young People

Theme: Healthy

“ Children and young people should enjoy the highest standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices. “

Improvement Objectives

- promote a healthy nutritious diet for children/young people and their families

- reduce the levels of obesity in children and young people
- improve the level of dental health in young people
- to encourage all schools in Shetland to work towards becoming Health Promoting Schools
- streamline the collection of information about children and young people's needs
- develop alternative access points for young people to healthcare staff and information
- reduce the number of young people who start smoking and support young people in stopping smoking
- reduce the impact of passive smoking on the health of children and young people
- ensure that young people are supported in the transition from child to adult services
- develop flexible ways for Looked After Children and Young People and those receiving an aftercare service to access health services and ensure that their health needs are addressed
- implement actions for tackling substance misuse in children and young people
- to improve the sexual health of young people in Shetland
- to improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people
- to reduce the incidence of post-natal depression, self-harm and suicide in new mothers
- to improve the effectiveness of health improvement services to children and young people, including prevention and protection programmes

Theme: Achieving

“ Children and young people should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential. “

Improvement Objectives

- to promote the learning and achievement of all pupils
- to ensure strategies are in place to support the progress of the lowest attaining young people and the progress of Looked After Children
- integrate and enhance the Additional Support Needs Service
- enhance and support the range of learning through community based initiatives
- ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively to achieve maximum potential
- ensure systems are in place for continuous improvement within Education Services

Theme: Included

“ Children and young people and their families should have access to high quality services, when required, and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality.”

Improvement Objectives

- to provide a quality Shetland wide childcare service
- to improve Shetland wide information and support services for young people
- ensure children and young people in need have their housing needs met
- to establish a framework for schools to become integrated community schools
- enhance the range of support services for children and young people who are in need

Theme: Active

“ Children and young people should be active with opportunities being provided and encouragement given to participate in play and recreation, including sport. “

Improvement Objectives

- promote the participation of children and young people in arts, sports and heritage

Theme: Respected and Responsible

“ Children, and young people and their carers should be involved in decisions that affect them, should have their voices heard and should be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities.”

Improvement Objectives

- promote, support and develop the range of avenues through which children, young people and their parents/carers can participate and have a voice
- improve and develop the Youth Justice Services
- to reduce anti-social behaviour throughout Shetland

4 Conclusion

The Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan is a working document which will be developed and refined over the three year period.

Annual reviews will be undertaken to evaluate and monitor progress. Integrated working requires concentrated effort by all the partner agencies, it requires strong leadership and commitment. Better integration, leads to better services that ultimately lead to improved outcomes for all of Shetland's children and young people.