

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 6 November 2013

EVIDENCE2SUCCESS PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the progress achieved in the development and delivery of Evidence2Success since the last meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 May 2013 (Report No. 13/241 refers). This includes an overview of progress with phase 4 of the project, including the analysis and dissemination of information gained through the Evidence2Success well-being surveys. The report proposes five key priority areas which will underpin the action plan to improve the well-being of children and young people within Perth and Kinross and sets out the next steps in the continuing delivery of phase 4 of the project.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Evidence2Success project was approved by Perth and Kinross Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 16 August 2012 (Report No 12/341 refers). The project is being delivered by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in collaboration with the Social Research Unit (SRU) at Dartington.
- 1.2 Through development and implementation of Evidence2Success the CPP will aim to significantly improve outcomes for all children and young people in Perth and Kinross. This will support delivery of the vision of the CPP Children and Young People's Strategic Group: *"To enable the children and young people of Perth & Kinross to be the best they can be."*
- 1.3 This will be delivered by improving the planning and delivery of services across CPP organisations to enhance the safe and healthy development of all children and young people accessing universal services across Perth and Kinross, whilst also further developing the effectiveness of targeted services for those children who need this.
- 1.4 The project is providing an understanding of how well children in Perth and Kinross are progressing in respect of well-being outcomes for children and young people. This information will contribute to understanding how best to target future activity, including the use of evidence-based programmes and practices, to enhance service provision that can prevent or reduce the development of issues that have a negative impact on a child.
- 1.5 Development of Evidence2Success also demonstrates the commitment of the Council and its CPP partners to taking forward the national prevention agenda and delivery of the Statement of Ambition for Community Planning. It also further consolidates collaborative working across local public services.

- 1.6 Evidence2Success is delivered through a structured approach that includes:
- gathering and analysing comprehensive data that provides increased understanding of the needs of children and young people in Perth and Kinross;
 - identifying and implementing evidence-based interventions that have been proven to improve children's outcomes within the whole and targeted population;
 - mapping how existing public service funds are spent on children and developing options for the targeting of increased future investment in early intervention and prevention activity; and
 - facilitating the development of community engagement structures that effectively support children, young people and their families within their community.

All of the above is delivered through the five phases of the project. Progress in delivery of the project in relation to these phases is outlined below.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 The following provides an overview of the key elements of each phase delivered to date (further detail was reported to the Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 May 2013, Report No 13/241 refers).
- 2.2 Activity completed during Phase 1 included:
- Engagement of a core group of area leaders from the CPP and establishing their commitment to supporting child well-being;
 - Designating a Programme Manager;
 - Establishing a timeline and project plan;
 - Development of initial capacity-building to help CPP services to understand the aims and activities of Evidence2Success.
- 2.3 Activity completed during Phase 2 included:
- Establishing leadership and oversight arrangements for Evidence2Success;
 - Provide as in-depth orientation on Evidence2Success for all partners, and continuing to build capacity in respect of staff understanding of the aims and activities of the project;
 - Identify a designated area for the piloting of the Evidence2Success community engagement approach;
- 2.4 Activity completed during Phase 3 included:
- Delivery of well-being surveys in schools and among parents of younger children;
 - Analysis of the survey data and development of a profile of how well children and young people are doing in respect of the identified developmental outcomes;

- Development of a profile of Perth and Kinross-wide funding for children's services, and initial estimates of the on-going investment needed to sustain Evidence2Success; and
 - Delivery of a series of Strategy Days that provided an opportunity for senior executives, elected members and managers to consider some of the key principles that will inform future strategic planning to deliver improvements for children and young people in relation to the priority developmental outcome areas.
- 2.5 Since the report to Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 May 2013 (Report No. 13/241 refers), a Perth City North Community Partnership has been formed and is supporting the piloting of additional work in the Letham, Hillyland, Tulloch and Fairfield areas for the City. The Partnership, which includes local community planning members, local community representatives and local elected members, has been examining the results of the well-being surveys for Perth City North and discussing what local priority areas are highlighted from them. The information from the Evidence2 Success well-being surveys is also being used to inform the review of the Integrated Children's Services Plan.
- 2.6 Phase 4 is also progressing on schedule and involves:
- Dissemination of the collated survey information;
 - Securing agreement for a set of priorities to improve the well-being of children and young people in Perth and Kinross;
 - Reviewing programmes that address the priorities and deliver the shared vision of Perth and Kinross Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to inform the development of the action plan below;
 - Developing and sharing an action plan identifying short- and long-term activity that guide how communities and public sector organisations improve practice, deliver evidence-based programmes, increase their focus on prevention and collaborate to finance and sustain change;
 - Development of financial planning to underpin delivery of the action plan; and
 - Identifying service providers to offer the agreed evidence-based programmes to children and families.
- 2.7 Further information about the dissemination of information gained through the Evidence2Success well-being surveys is set out below together with proposals for priority areas which will underpin the action plan to improve the well-being of children and young people within Perth and Kinross.
- 3. REPORTING ON THE EVIDENCE2SUCCESS WELL-BEING SURVEYS**
- 3.1 To develop a profile of how children and young people are progressing two Evidence2Success well-being surveys were completed in January/February 2013 to provide data that identifies how well children are progressing in relation to ten key developmental outcomes (Phase 3).

- 3.2 The data from the surveys has been compiled to form a number of reports:
- A Perth and Kinross level report from the Perth and Kinross community survey of 800+ parents;
 - A Perth and Kinross level report on the school survey of 8500+ children and young people aged between 9 and 15 years; and
 - A series of reports by school on the results for their pupils (drawn from the school survey data).
- 3.3 A summary of the findings of the key data in the Perth and Kinross level reports is attached at Appendix 1. The school reports are available on the Perth and Kinross Council [website](#). The full Perth and Kinross level reports will be available on the Councillor's Help and Information Portal and the Perth and Kinross Council [website](#) by the end of November 2013.
- 3.4 Together these reports provide an unparalleled insight into how well children and young people in Perth and Kinross are doing in respect of ten key developmental outcomes. They highlight that overall children and young people in Perth and Kinross appear to be doing well in relation to:
- Early behavioural development
 - Emotional regulation
 - Antisocial behaviour
 - Risky sexual behaviour
 - Physical health
- 3.5 It also suggests that outcomes for children and young people could be better in relation to:
- Influences on pregnancy and birth
 - School readiness
 - School engagement and commitment
 - Substance misuse (in particular alcohol)
 - Emotional well-being
- 3.6 An extensive programme of dissemination has been undertaken to provide information on the Perth and Kinross data and school reports and to discuss and gather feedback from staff from across the CPP and with parents. This included a newsletter for parents and several meetings with Headteachers, Parent Council representatives, staff from NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Children and Families Service and Culture and Communities Service, partnership groups and Councillors throughout August, September and October 2013.

4 PROPOSAL - AGREEING A SET OF PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 4.1 To inform proposals for a set of priorities three Strategy Days were held on 24 and 25 April and 12 June 2013. These days were attended by representatives of strategic partner organisations involved in the delivery of children's services, including some elected members from the Lifelong Learning Committee. The Strategy Days provided participants with the

opportunity to discuss the high level analysis of the information gathered through the school and community Evidence2Success Well-being Surveys. The financial mapping of expenditure on services for children and young people delivered by Perth and Kinross Council, NHS Tayside and Police Scotland (Tayside Division) was also considered.

- 4.2 These consultations resulted in a proposal that five areas of well-being, at specific ages in children's lives, are identified as priorities for improvement. These priorities were selected based on the collective aspirations of the Community Planning Partnership for all the children and young people in Perth and Kinross, and includes reflection of the existing prioritisation of the early years.
- 4.3 Consultation on this draft set of priorities has been undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders including Parent Councils, the Evidence2Success Partnership in the Perth City North ward, a range of managers and staff in the CPP organisations and through briefings with Councillors. This consultation has established that, across those involved, there is recognition of the relevance of prioritising improvement in these developmental outcomes for children and young people within Perth and Kinross.
- 4.4 The five proposed priorities areas and the rationale for why they should be priorities are outlined at 4.5-4.9 below.
- 4.5 **Healthy gestation and birth:** A wide range of research indicates that intervention at this early stage can have a significant influence on improving the longer-term likelihood of positive outcomes for children. Within Perth and Kinross 17.7% of parents participating in the community survey reported that their children were born either prematurely or with a birthweight lower than 2,500 grams. The data also showed that these children were more likely to not be 'ready for school' and had increased likelihood of demonstrating 'early anti-social behaviour'. This links closely with the on-going activity being undertaken by the CPP in relation to the development of the Early Years Collaborative. In particular it will support delivery of the national stretch aim for Work Stream 1 of the Collaborative - To ensure that women experience positive pregnancies which result in the birth of more healthy babies as evidenced by a reduction of 15% in the rates of stillbirth and infant mortality.
- 4.6 **School readiness (4 months–5 years):** As with healthy gestation and birth improvement in this developmental outcome is widely supported in research as fundamental to improving long-term outcomes for children and young people in later childhood and into adult life. The data gathered from parents in the community survey indicates that over 1 in 5 parents feel that their child (aged between 6 months and 5 years) is not managing skills in key areas that relate to their progress towards being ready for school. This reflects feedback from teaching staff in relation to their experience of children starting Primary 1. This area also relates to a Work Stream of the Early Years Collaborative and improvement in this developmental outcome will support delivery of the national stretch aim 3 - 90% of all children within each CPP have reached all of the expected developmental milestones at the time the child starts primary school.

- 4.7 **Engagement with school & learning (9-11 years):** Levels of low school engagement emerging from the survey have generated discussion and highlighted the need to look more closely at the possible reasons underpinning the views of children and young people in relation to this area. Although this data initially appears to be contrary to some of the existing information gathered on children's engagement with school the context of the different processes need to be taken into account. The importance of children gaining the best educational outcomes they can do is recognised as key to improving life chances in respect of employment, economic independence and health in later life. Good school engagement in the latter years of Primary School can also improve the development of aspirations that can act as a protective factor during adolescence that can reduce a series of other risks, such as poor emotional well-being or risky sexual behaviour.
- 4.8 **Substance misuse (9 – 14 years):** The data gathered in the survey of 9-15 year olds indicated high levels of substance misuse, predominantly alcohol use. This included approximately 1 in 10 young people aged between 9 and 11 years identifying they had had a drink of alcohol in the month prior to the survey. Research indicates that the early initiation of substance use by children and young people increases the risk of alcohol related problems, social and health, in later life. There is also close correlation between substance misuse and higher risk taking behaviour in relation to anti-social behaviour, offending and risky sexual behaviour which can lead to a higher level of dependence on public services in the long term. Therefore by focusing on improving outcomes in the levels of alcohol use by young people in Perth and Kinross the CPP aim to also improve developmental outcomes in a range of other areas.
- 4.9 **Emotional well-being (11-15 years):** 10% of young people aged between 11 and 15 years reported issues related to poor emotional well-being, when interrogated further this data showed that 15% of the girls between 11 and 15 years reported these issues. Poor emotional well-being is often a difficult issue for parents and professionals to identify and can have a serious effect on many areas of a young person's life including impacting negatively on their health, ability to achieve academically and manage social elements of life. Again this can lead to a higher dependency on public services in the longer term. Although a direct correlation cannot be made with the data emerging from the community survey it is noted that 15 % of parents of children aged between 0 and 8 years also reported poor mental/emotional health.

5. NEXT STEPS - DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

- 5.1 Once the priorities are agreed an action plan identifying short- and long-term activity, including workforce development priorities, will be established to support improvement.
- 5.2 The development of the action plan will include the selection and phased implementation of a portfolio of relevant evidence-based programmes that have been proven to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people in relation to the agreed priority areas. Work has commenced to scope options for evidence-based programmes to support parenting including the

Family Nurse Partnership, Incredible Years and Strengthening Families programmes. Once this review has been completed, the proposals for a portfolio of evidence-based programmes will be presented to Committee for approval. This will include a consideration of the financial implications arising out of the implementation of the proposals.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Significant progress has been made in the development and delivery of the Evidence2Success project. This has included gathering, analysing and reporting data provided by children, young people and parents on their needs and analysis of current service delivery models and financial commitments. This has informed the identification of a set of proposed priorities and once agreed improvement in these priorities will be supported by the development of an Evidence2Success Action Plan, including workforce development activity and the introduction of several evidence-based programmes.
- 6.2 The action plan and proposals for which evidence-based programmes should be implemented to scale within Perth and Kinross will be developed by the Early Years, Early Intervention Programme Board. This group has representation from Perth and Kinross Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland and the voluntary sector and will take forward the role of overseeing planning and implementation of the action plan, including the portfolio of evidence based programmes. The action plan and proposals for evidence-based programmes will be submitted for approval to the Children and Young People's Strategic Group and the relevant governance groups for partner agencies.
- 6.3 In respect of Perth and Kinross Council, proposals for the evidenced-based programmes and action plan will be submitted for approval by Committee.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Lifelong Learning Committee:
- i) Notes the findings emerging from the data gathered through the Well-being Surveys conducted earlier this year;
 - ii) Agree the priorities proposed in paragraphs 4.5 – 4.9 which will underpin the action plan to improve the well-being of children and young people within Perth and Kinross; and
 - iii) Instruct the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to submit proposals for a portfolio of evidence-based programmes.

Author

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Fiona Mackay	Service Manager (Evidence2Success)	fmackay@pkc.gov.uk Ext. No. 75057

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Fyffe	Executive Director	10 October 2013

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E-mail: ecsgeneralenquiries@pkc.gov.uk



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	No
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life.

1.2 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area: Change and Improvement.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no additional resource implications contained within this report out with the agreed budget for the Evidence2Success project. The resource implications arising out of the implementation of the evidence-based programmes and action plan will be included in future Committee Reports as appropriate.

Workforce

- 2.2 Not applicable (n/a)

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 Not applicable (n/a)

3. Assessments

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The Evidence2Success project has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA), and it has been concluded that the short and long-term action plan that will shape the delivery of improvement in respect of the agreed priorities for the next five years should be subject to an EqIA to inform its development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The proposals have been considered under the Act and pre-screening has identified that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Not applicable (n/a)

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 Perth and Kinross Legal Services have been consulted on several areas relating to the delivery of the project to date. In particular the Service has been consulted and provided assurance on the legality of the contract with the Social Research Unit and on aspects of the survey processes, such as data protection requirements. The Head of Democratic Services and Head of Legal Services were consulted on the content of this report.

Risk

- 3.7 Delivery of Evidence2Success will support effective controls of the following Corporate Risks:
- Protect vulnerable children and families
 - Plan for demographic change (including planning for housing growth)
 - Effectively manage changing financial circumstances

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The development of the proposals in this report has been informed by discussion undertaken at the Evidence2Success Strategy Days attended by the Convenor, Vice-Convenor and Conservative spokesperson on the Lifelong Learning Committee. Extensive consultation with management teams within Education and Children's Services has been undertaken during the dissemination of the consultation findings.

External

- 4.2 Partners from NHS Tayside and Police Scotland significantly contributed to the discussions in the Evidence2Success Strategy Days. Extensive consultation with management teams from these partner organisations have also been undertaken during the dissemination of the consultation findings. Children, young people and parents provided their views through the Well-being surveys. Parent Council representatives from all Parent Councils in Perth and Kinross schools have had an opportunity to attend briefings on the survey results during September 2013.

5. Communication

- 5.1 A range of communication approaches are required to take forward the Evidence2Success project. This has involved briefings and presentations for staff groups and decision makers involved in planning and/or delivering services for children and young people; children, young people and parents have received information through letters and a newsletter and engagement with Parent Councils has been completed; furthermore and additional locality based engagement opportunities are scheduled.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following report has been relied on in preparing this report:

Early Years, Early Intervention - The Best Start in Life for Children in Perth and Kinross (Report No. 12/341)

Evidence2Success Progress Report (Report No. 13/241)

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Summary of Evidence2Success 0-8 Years and 9-15 Years Report

Summary of Evidence2Success 0-8 Years and 9-15 Years Report

The Evidence2Success well-being survey measured a number of 'Key Developmental Outcomes', risk and protective factors and related information. Key Developmental Outcomes are developmentally specific indicators that are predictive of children's subsequent well-being. If children have difficulties in these areas then their longer term outcomes are more likely to be negatively affected. Risk and protective factors are characteristics or experiences that decrease or increase the likelihood of these good outcomes, respectively. The related information consists of additional indicators relevant to each of the overall topics.

In the 0-8 years Perth and Kinross and North Perth level reports provide data on physical health, school readiness, behaviour, family influences in pre-birth, during infancy and in early childhood, community risk factors and economic risk factors is presented.

In the 9-15 years Perth and Kinross and North Perth level reports provide data on emotional regulation, academic performance, substance misuse, individual/peer risk factors, family risk factors, community risk factors and economic risk factors is presented.

The school reports provide summarised data on the Key Developmental Outcomes, risk and protective factors and related information for pupils in each school and how they compare to Perth and Kinross pupils as a whole. If there are a small number of pupils experiencing difficulties in a particular area of well-being, survey results at a school level will not be provided. This is to help ensure pupil anonymity is protected. If there are less than six pupils experiencing problems, results will only be provided at the cluster and local authority level.

Key findings in 0-8 years Survey

In Perth and Kinross:

- Over eight in ten parents (83%) reported a healthy gestation where their baby was born full-mature or weighing more than 2,500 grams at birth.
- Almost seven in ten mothers (68%) reported no substance misuse during pregnancy.
- Almost eight in ten parents (77%) of children aged 4 months – 5 years had no concerns about the school readiness of their child.
- Almost nine in ten children (87%) aged 4-8 years are able to regulate their emotions.
- Over nine in ten children (92%) aged 4-8 years are below the clinical threshold for likely anxiety related concerns.

- Over nine in ten children (91%) aged 4-8 years are below the clinical threshold for a likely conduct disorder.
- Over six in ten parents (62%) reported a high involvement in their child's learning between the ages of 6 months and 5 years.
- Only two in ten parents (22%) reported having rules and routines for their children (aged 3 – 8 years) for bedtimes, food and TV viewing.
- Over half of parents (53%) reported inconsistent implementation of rules for their children.
- Almost nine in ten parents (89%) reported having emotional support from extended family or friends.
- Almost nine in ten parents (85%) reported having good mental well-being.
- Over six in ten parents (64%) reported not being in relative poverty.

Key findings in 9-15 years Survey

In Perth and Kinross:

- Over nine in ten children (91%) are below the clinical threshold for a likely conduct disorder.
- Over eight in ten children (84%) are able to regulate their emotions.
- Just over half of children (53%) have good engagement with school.
- Almost six in ten children (56%) report that family management such as rules and boundaries is strong.
- Almost six in ten children (57%) report that they have opportunities for pro-social family involvement.
- Over three-quarters of children (77%) report no substance misuse in the past month.
- Over nine in ten pupils (91%) are below the clinical threshold for likely significant emotional difficulties, specifically anxiety and depression.
- Almost seven in ten children (69%) reported no chronic health problems.
- Over seven in ten children (74%) aged 14 or 15 years reported no delinquent behaviour.
- Over nine in ten children (92%) aged 14 or 15 years reported no risky sexual behaviour.