

# Fostering & Continuing Care Service



Our vision is to ensure that every child and young person who is looked after by West Dunbartonshire Council has the opportunity to reach their full potential and achieve the best possible outcome.

Our children range in age from infants to young adults in continuing care placements up to 21 years old and can be single children or sibling groups. They may need care for a few days, weeks, months or for their whole childhood into adulthood. Some may return to live with their birth family or may become adopted and become part of their new family

Children need a safe and stable home in which they thrive and grow. Our foster carers provide a high level of care to our children and help children understand their experiences and support them to grow into their future.

## Aims of our Service

The aim of West Dunbartonshire Fostering & Continuing Care Service is to improve the outcomes of children and young people in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the 8 Wellbeing Indicators (SHANARRI)

**Safe** - Protected from abuse, neglect or harm at school and in the community

**Healthy** - Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare and support in learning to make healthy safe choices

**Achieving** - Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community

**Nurtured** – Having a nurturing place to live in a family setting, with additional help if needed, or where possible, in a suitable care setting

**Active** - Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contributes to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community

**Respected** - Having the opportunity along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them

**Responsible** - Having opportunities and encouragement to play active roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision, and being involved in decisions

**Included** – Having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn

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## How to achieve our aims:

Foster Carers have an important role to play in helping us to achieve these aims and will be supported by Social Work Services and the Team Around the Child.

In order to achieve our aims we must:

- Safeguard children and young people in our care
- Promote the welfare of children and young people
- Ensure that the welfare of children and young people is paramount in all decisions
- Seek and have regard to the views of children and young people and their families in decisions that affect them
- Treat each child, young person and their family with dignity and respect and in a manner that reflects a non-discriminatory approach.
- Protect the privacy of children, young people and their families and create a safe environment for children to grow and develop
- Assess and respond to the changing needs of children, young people and their families timeously and appropriately
- Provide for the physical, social and emotional needs of individual children and young people

## Keeping our Vision & The Promise at the Heart of our Practice:

*"...to ensure that every child and young person who is looked after by West Dunbartonshire Council has the opportunity to achieve the outcomes we would want for our own children"*

*'to be the best place in the world to grow up so that children are loved, safe, and respected and realise their full potential...to come together and love our most vulnerable children to give them the childhood they deserve' #KeepThePromise*

