

Name of meeting: Council

Date: 13th January 2021

Title of report: Kirklees Children and Young People's Partnership Plan

Purpose of report: To present the Kirklees Children and Young People's Plan to council for endorsement, and to update members on the work and status of the Children and Young People's Partnership

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes – the Plan is for all Kirklees Children and Young People.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes. The Plan was discussed at the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel 17 January 2020
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs, Strategic Director for Children & Families - 31.03.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston – Service Director, Finance. 29.06.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning - 01.07.20
Cabinet member portfolio	Give name of Portfolio Holder/s Cllr Viv Kendrick Cllr Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected: All - The Children and Young People's Plan sets priorities to address the needs of the whole child population

Ward councillors consulted: Councillors nominated as representatives at the Children's Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children's Scrutiny Panel and Cllrs Kendrick & Pattison as Portfolio holders.

Public.

Has GDPR been considered? GDPR has been considered. This report contains no personal data that may identify an individual.

1. Summary

- This report updates members on the relaunched Children and Young People's Partnership and asks council to endorse its Children and Young People's Plan
- The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the Partnership's agreed priorities. These enable the council and its statutory and third sector partners to focus attention to work towards achieving a shared ambition to give children and young people in Kirklees the *Best Start in Life*.
- The plan provides a framework for partners to collaborate, share expertise, and work across the system to bring about positive changes that improve children's outcomes.
- The report is referred to council after endorsement at the Cabinet meeting on 13th July 2020.

Information required to take a decision

2. Background

The Children and Young People's Partnership

2.1 The Children and Young People's Partnership was relaunched in March 2019 at an event attended by 80 participants from a cross section of organisations working with children in Kirklees. The Children and Young People's Partnership had been paused for the previous 18 months to focus attention and resources on the Improvement Board and its work. The old Children and Young People's Partnership was a formal committee, with a closed membership of senior leaders and a traditional committee cycle.

2.2 A new Partnership model was developed at the March consultation and relaunch event. It aspires to bring together members' collective insight, expertise and resources to collaborate to achieve **the best start in life** for children and young people. Membership of the new Partnership is open to all organisations from the public and third sector, including strategic managers, frontline workers, elected representatives, and both specialist and universal service providers. Members are accountable to each other and to children, young people and families in Kirklees. There is no formal committee structure, no formal decision-making responsibilities. The people involved are there because they want to collaborate to achieve ambitions for children.

2.3 The Partnership has agreed that it will:

- Focus energy and expertise on agreed priority areas of work;
- Share intelligence and insight into children and young people's experiences so that children's outcomes and services are improved, and work is evidence-led;
- Use collective insight into children's voice and views to influence and shape its work
- Collaborate effectively to use partner organisations' resources to address to collective goals & priorities;
- Influence, inform and provide strategic leadership in the children's sector;
- Develop a Children and Young People's Plan and agree key, shared priorities, based on evidence of need that members bring their collective energy and focus to;
- Provide analysis to inform service improvements, transformation and cultural change, including an annual review of key outcome data and updates from related partnerships
- Provide coherence for a range of thematic partnerships and plans that affect Children and Young People's outcomes.

2.4 The Partnership has agreed that its members will:

- Work restoratively – with not to or for
- Listen to and value children's voices
- Share power and responsibility across sectors and agencies

- Provide challenge and support to hold each other to account
- Celebrate and serve the diverse needs of people and places in Kirklees.

2.5 The Children and Young People's Plan

2.5.1 There is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. However, there is consensus in the Partnership that a Plan provides a collective focus and clarity about the priorities to be championed and addressed across the Partnership. Work with the new Children and Young People's Partnership has focussed on assessing intelligence and insight from a range of sources to agree priorities. (e.g. KJSA, Year 9 Health Survey, Community Hubs' insight; young people's voice and influence work and commentary; service key performance data on outcomes for the child population and for specific vulnerable groups). A new Children and Young People's Plan has been developed and is attached.

2.5.2 The Children and Young People's Partnership has identified and agreed nine priorities that support good outcomes for all children. The priorities will help close the gaps in children's inequalities and their life chances.

2.5.3 Six of the Priorities are already being addressed by existing cross sector thematic partnerships. For these, the Children and Young People's Partnership will support and share that work more widely, but not seek to undertake additional work to avoid confusion, duplication and displacement. The six priorities where work is ongoing are:

- **Emotional health and resilience** –Children's Integrated Commissioning Group manages this priority
- **Early Support in communities** – Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Partnership Task & Finish Group, and the Best Start Partnership manage this priority
- **Food & Physical Activity** – Health & Wellbeing Board; Thriving Kirklees, Active Kirklees manage this priority
- **Vulnerability to criminal exploitation** – Youth Development Programme Board; Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Partnership; Communities Board manage this priority.
- **Gaps in educational attainment** between some population groups and the Kirklees attainment rates –Education and Learning Partnership Board & Community Hubs manage this priority.
- **Outcomes for Looked After children** –Corporate Parenting Board; Improvement Board; Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership manage this priority.

2.5.4 Three new priority areas identified required new cross sector management arrangements. They are:

- **To reduce the effects of poverty on children**– This priority is being developed in collaboration with Tackling Poverty Partnership. This cross sector group is developing work to reduce the effects of poverty across the Kirklees population, including addressing child poverty as part of family& household poverty.
- **To support inclusion and better outcomes for LGBT+ young people** – a new cross partnership working group is leading and developing this work.

- **To grow our youth offer – places to go, people to see, things to do.** This work is being developed and delivered through the new Youth Programme Development Board arrangements, and its workstreams on detached youth work; prevention & community-based youth offers; a new practice model, & developing appropriate places to go – facilities and safe spaces for youth work

2.5.6 The covid-19 pandemic has changed the wider context that this work happens in, how partners deliver services, and who experiences the inequalities that often underpin poorer outcomes. The identified priorities remain relevant during and post pandemic. Partners will review intelligence and adjust planning and interventions to respond to the consequences of the pandemic and to re-shape provision where needed.

2.6 Governance and Accountability

The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to take on the oversight of this work (21 November 2019). The rationale for this includes:

- The Board already has oversight for a range of local planning and services
- The Board's membership includes the relevant cross-sector organisations
- The contribution that the Children and Young People's Plan makes to achieving the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Children and Young People's Partnership has committed to working restoratively, and to listen to and value children and Young People's voices. The insight used to determine the priorities in the plan included looking at and listening to the views of children. The agencies involved in the partnership work directly with local children and families, listening to and sharing their views. Partners are asked to canvass and share the views of service users as we address different topics. There are a range of ways that we consult with and listen to children and families – including surveys, advocacy groups, service user groups, structures such as reference groups, voice and influence groups and using insight already gathered or commissioning / undertaking new consultation where necessary. This insight provides a rationale for how we work and what we prioritise.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Plan is an important platform for engaging partners, agreeing shared values and identifying shared priorities. The Children and Young People Plan has been co-produced by cross-sector partners – including statutory services (including council, health, police, probation, schools) and community and voluntary organisations – from large commissioned organisations to neighbourhood youth groups. There are currently 56 organisations represented, and an open door for new members who share the Partnership's principles and objectives to join. Partners are involved in developing, managing, delivering and challenging the Plan and the work of the Partnership.

3.3 Place Based Working

Where children live shapes their experiences and outcomes, and their economic and social circumstances. Place and neighbourhood are important and influential, to both everyday experience (for learning, play, neighbourliness or isolation, access to opportunities and services) and longer-term outcomes – such as health and economic activity and status. The evidence and intelligence that the Plan is based on included an analysis of how place-based information can shape interventions, by evidencing different rates of demand, unequal outcomes between areas, for example. Our understanding of Place influences the way that we work and how we deploy resources.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not directly applicable. Action plans to address the priorities will consider their responsibilities to reduce environmental impacts as part of their planning and monitoring.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Giving children the Best Start in life is at the heart of the Children and Young People's Plan. This shared outcome provides the core rationale for the Plan and the Partnership. The Plan sets out the overarching priorities for partners to address collaboratively in order to improve outcomes in learning & achievement, safeguarding, health, economic wellbeing, reducing inequalities of outcomes for some population groups (including looked after children, children living in poverty and LGBT+ children and young people). The Children and Young People's Plan's appendix records key outcomes and indicators for the Partnership to track. Regular reports on work to address the key priorities will be made to the Health and Wellbeing Board to review progress.

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Producing a Children and Young People's Plan is no longer a statutory requirement. However the Council's constitution requires approval by Full Council where one is developed, as it is part of the Council's policy framework.

There are no specific legal or resource implications from the CYP Plan. As work develops to address its priorities, opportunities for changing systems and services to improve outcomes will be identified, which may have implications for resource allocation. Where appropriate, these will be reported separately.

4 Consultees and their opinions

4.1 The Children and Young People's Plan has been developed collaboratively by members of the Partnership participating in three Partnership Events.

In March 2019, 70 people attended the event, from a range of services and agencies in the public and voluntary sector, including safeguarding, learning providers (from pre-school to higher education), youth offending, criminal justice; health (Clinical Commissioning Groups, Public Health, family support, young people's activity programmes, voice and influence, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) services; commissioning, housing & housing support, community development, research & intelligence; careers, training & development. This event was designed to consult about whether we should re-launch a CYP Partnership and, if so, what its main objectives and operating principles should be. Attendees assessed a range of available insight and data about children's lives and outcomes. Participants were asked to identify areas of concern and assess whether those concerns were both sufficient in scale and likely to benefit from a partnership system wide response. This process gave us a 'long list' of priorities.

4.2 The June 2019 event further tested out the priorities suggested in March, and identified whether issues were of high concern, were already in view and the subject of collective action. It asked attendees to identify effective actions and practice to find out more about what is already happening to address a priority, and the effectiveness of impact of that work – and what else we could do or should stop doing.

4.3 The September 2019 Event fed back the outcomes of the consultation exercise and agreed the Plan's nine priorities.

4.4 Elected members have been consulted as portfolio holders for children's services, as members of the Partnership, the Health & Wellbeing Board and through discussion at a Scrutiny panel. Their insight and comments have contributed to the final shape of the Plan.

4.5 Children and young people's views and experiences are a key strand of the evidence that is used to set priorities, determine interventions and to evaluate impact. Their views are captured through formal and informal routes. These include working with focus groups, school councils, the Youth Council and Children in Care Council. We receive feedback through specific projects (such as the LGBT+ yOUTH Mystery Shopper project), by talking to service users about their experiences, inviting them to work with us to plan or comment on proposals and through the now annual Year 9 Health Survey. Members of the Partnership engage with the children and young people who they work with and use this insight to advocate for them. Where it is appropriate, the Partnership and its members commission specific pieces of work to engage with children and young people.

5 Next steps and timelines

5.1 Council will be asked to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan (as part of the policy framework).

5.2 The Plan will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership, with specific priorities being the responsibility of identified thematic partnerships. The Health and Wellbeing Board will provide governance oversight, receiving reports on the work to address new priorities and the impact on children's outcomes. The Children and Young People's Partnership will review key indicators of children's wellbeing and outcomes as a regular part of its work, and formally as part of an annual review of the Plan.

5.3 It is anticipated that work on the Plan will result in changes to service delivery as this is an explicit intention – to identify where we can improve children's outcomes by delivering services differently. The ways in which this happens will also be reported through partners' management and governance arrangements.

6 Officer recommendations and reasons

Council are asked to endorse the new Children and Young People's Plan.

7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out how we work with skilled and committed partners to support Kirklees' children to have the Best Start in Life. The Plan is no longer statutory, but it is still an important tool to set out how agencies working with and for children and families choose to collaborate to achieve our ambitions and outcomes for children. Council are asked to endorse the new Children and Young People's Plan.

8 Contact officer

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9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

The Children and Young People's Plan 2019 – 2022 is appended.

13th July 2020 – Cabinet approved the Children and Young People’s Plan & accompanying report and referred the CYP Plan to council for endorsement.

24th January 2020 - Corporate Governance and Audit Committee approved a report recording that the Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed to provide governance for this work and to amend its Terms of Reference to do so at their meeting on 21st November 2019. The proposed changes to Terms of Reference will now progress to council

The 17th January 2020 Children’s Scrutiny Panel discussed a report on the new Children and Young People’s Plan and gave their insight and comments on the arrangements described and the contents of the Plan.

10 Service Director responsible

Tom Brailsford, Service Director for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships, Children’s Services. Tom.brailsford@kirklees.gov.uk 01484 221000 / tel:07711 015748.