

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**14 JULY 2016**

**REPORT OF STRATEGIC  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs McCoy**

#### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY FOR CHANGE AND IMPROVEMENT**

1. Summary

This report presents the first Children's Services Strategy for Change and Improvement. This non-statutory strategy sets out how the Council will deliver change and improvement in children's services 2016-18, to deliver the Council Plan priorities.

2. Recommendations

1. Members approve the Children's Services Strategy for Change and Improvement.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To set out a clear strategy for Children's Services.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or

- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SUMMARY**

This report presents the first Children's Services Strategy for Change and Improvement. This non-statutory strategy sets out how the Council will deliver change and improvement in children's services 2016-18, to deliver the Council Plan priorities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Members agree the Children's Services Strategy for Change and Improvement

**DETAIL**

2. This non statutory strategy is designed to set out the context, role and priorities of Children's Services.
3. It has been developed in response to:
  - a. The development of the Council Plan and the need for clearer threads to operational activity;
  - b. The need for a sustained focus on self-assessment and improvement, at least partly in response to forthcoming Ofsted inspection;
  - c. The need to bring greater clarity to priorities for employees and partners to assist in the redesign, review and recommissioning of services and collaboration on priorities.
2. The detailed strategy is attached at Annex A.
3. The following points are made in summary:
  - a. This strategy sets out the vision, objectives and priorities for Children's Services for the first time;
  - b. It is based on a new approach, which translates the refreshed Council Plan into service priorities and clear action
  - c. It is in two parts:
    - i. Part 1 provides a standalone strategy, including high level summaries of context, story and priority, and is intended more as a public facing document
    - ii. Part 2 provides a detailed change and improvement plan largely for internal action and implementation

- d. It includes both those actions which form part of the transformation programme and those which relate to business improvement actions for Children's Services as a whole
- e. It draws together:
  - iii. The range of strategies and partnership activity already underway
  - iv. Planning and self-assessment for Ofsted, and post inspection will serve as the basis for improvement activity
  - v. Improvement planning
- 4. The strategy is intended to provide a clear framework for action, prioritisation and for service planning, appraisal and as the basis for workforce development, systems refresh.
- 5. It has also be shared with partners to be transparent and open about Council priorities, and been well received on this basis.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6. There are no new financial implications from this Report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7. There are no new legal implications from this Report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8. This issue is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk. Individual elements in the Strategy link to specific risk assessments.

## **COUNCIL PLAN THEMES**

- 9. The Strategy has clear proposals for:
  - 10. Protecting the most vulnerable through the proposals for early help, assessment and targeting of services
  - 11. Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention through the emphasis on early intervention, prevention, targeted an specialist services
  - 12. Developing strong and healthy communities through the continued emphasis on the provision of universal and open access support
  - 13. Creating economic prosperity by supporting strong, effective and inclusive education and learning opportunities.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 14. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it is in effect a delivery plan for those aspects of the Council Plan which relate to children's services. Individual elements of the strategy, where they relate to major or significant changes will include

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

15. The strategy includes a range of actions to support looked after children as one of the key priority areas.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

16. The Children and Young People's Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

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### Background Papers

### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable

### Property

There are no implications for Council property