

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

21 JUNE 2016

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY 2017-2020

1. Summary

This report presents the Children's Services Strategy. This non-statutory strategy sets out how the Council will deliver change and improvement in children's services 2017-20, to deliver key objectives and outcomes and implement this aspect of the Council Plan.

2. Recommendations

Members agree the Children's Services Strategy.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To set out a clear strategy for Children's Services to inform delivery of the Council plan, working with partners and workforce development.

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)

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

21 JUNE 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY 2017-2020

SUMMARY

This report presents the first Children's Services Strategy. This non-statutory strategy sets out how the Council will deliver change and improvement in children's services 2017-20, to deliver key objectives and outcomes and implement this aspect of the Council Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members agree the Children's Services Strategy.

DETAIL

1. This non statutory strategy is designed to set out the context, role and priorities of Children's Services.
2. It is an evolution of the first version of the strategy reported to Cabinet in July 2016.
3. It has been developed to provide a clear understanding of the role and remit of Children's Services, its key priorities and how these have been identified, and the way in which Children's Services seeks to work with partners.
4. The strategy is attached at Annex A.
5. The following points are made in summary:
 - a. This strategy sets out the vision, objectives and priorities for Children's Services;
 - b. It is based on a new approach, which translates the refreshed Council Plan into service priorities and clear action;
 - c. It has an explicit focus both on the WHAT and the HOW – what specific actions will be undertaken, and how we will work;
 - d. It includes the specific areas of focus post Ofsted inspection.
6. The strategy is intended to provide a clear framework for action, prioritisation which underpins reviews, the redesign of services in some areas and which provides a context for workforce development and financial management.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. This report is not subject to an 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 specific impact assessments as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no new financial implications from this Report. One specific aspects of the strategy is to develop a Financial Sustainability Plan which delivers the Medium Term Financial plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no new legal implications from this Report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. 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

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

CORPORATE PARENTING

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

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

13. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young people has been consulted. The Strategy will be presented to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Young People's Partnership for comment.

Name of Contact Officer: Martin Gray
Post Title: Director of Children's Services
Telephone No: 01642 527043
Email Address: martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers
None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:
Not applicable

Property
There are no implications for Council property