

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th September 2021

1. Title of Item/Report

From Conception to Reception: Stockton-on-Tees Strategy To Give Every Child the Best Start in Life

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet was presented with the Stockton-on-Tees strategy which sought to give every child the best start in life.

The strategy 2021-23 had been developed jointly by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Acute and Community Health Service Providers, Early Years Providers including schools and the private, voluntary and independent sector, alongside families. Families had been involved throughout all stages of development and proposed the title of the strategy 'From Conception to Reception' to affirm our commitment to the ante-natal period alongside a child's earliest years of life.

The strategy outlined the Borough's commitment to driving developments across our system and the services within it so that collectively we empower families and communities to support their children's development and improve outcomes. We recognise that communities which seek to improve the health and development of its children are helping to build strong foundations for future economic growth and prosperity and happy, healthy and nurturing families.

The Strategy identified five key priorities:

- Work alongside families to develop a clear offer of support for all children from conception to five years;
- Building and strengthening early relationships;
- Supporting children and families with the development of early speech, language and communication;
- Supporting families to provide a positive home learning environment;
- Encouraging access to high quality, inclusive and affordable Early Years education.

Each of the priorities had a clear set of partnership commitments which

would form an action plan which would be monitored by the Best Start steering group and reported to the Children and Young People's Partnership.

It was envisaged that additional investment would be required to deliver the strategy, including support for early years speech, language and communication programmes, and improving the quality of early years provision and learning environments which can help to support these ambitions. Funding would be sought from a variety of sources as opportunities arose.

The strategy would be considered by Cabinet, Health and Wellbeing Board and Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group committees during May, August and September. Subject to Cabinet approval, the Strategy would be promoted through a multi-agency shared communications plan to support wider communication across the borough.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Endorse the proposed Strategy and its five key priorities;
2. Note that the Strategy has been coproduced by families and a range of partners who are committed to improving pregnancy and early childhood outcomes;
3. Note that an accompanying action plan will be developed to ensure accountability for key partnership actions and progress towards the strategic outcomes framework.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The 'Best Start' strategy supports the key priority of making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm. It is specifically focused on the priority to:

Develop a new approach to support the best start in life through a focus on 'pregnancy, birth and beyond', and an emphasis on speech, language and communication development.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight-Friday 24th September 2021

Proper Officer
20 September 2021