

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 FEBRUARY 2019

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY 2019-23

SUMMARY

This report seeks endorsement for the new Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the new Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23.

DETAIL

1. The current Children and Young People's Plan ran from 2015-18.
2. A workshop took place in July 2018 to discuss a proposed approach to the new strategy, and endorsed the development of a longer term and more transformative strategy which focused on creating the right conditions for children and young people to thrive.
3. The proposed new approach is based on the following:
 - a. A long term commitment to new ways of working backed by annual delivery plans is required, though the basis for our new approach is a long term vision which extends beyond this initial 4 year timescale.
 - b. A recognition of the collective role of agencies and organisations, and a shift towards a more concerted and integrated way of working which puts children and young people at the heart.
 - c. A shift away from a focus on specific programmes and projects and into the development of a different way of working, which recognises the limitations of traditional forms of commissioning and service delivery, and which is based on a set of common values and principles and a way of working which is based on learning and the importance of a whole system.
 - d. A fundamental re-appraisal that the role of agencies is to enable children and young people to discover and develop their own self or self, their ability to cope and learn, to overcome adversity, and to find their own self-expression, and to be supported in this by safe, stable and trusted relationships. Our role is therefore to support this at the heart of our approach.
 - e. A refocused and strategic approach to the identification of vulnerability, using an agreed and shared vulnerability and risk assessment approach which helps us to identify issue early, and relies less on the traditional model of referral into service.
 - f. The commitment to share data and information to support the implementation of this approach.

4. The building blocks for the strategy are centred on:
 - a. **Resilience** – a sense of self and life skills – the ability to control and self-regulate, think and deal with setbacks.
 - b. **Relationships** – safe, supportive, trusted relationships are the single biggest factor in overcoming hardship.
 - c. **Respect** – respecting and valuing children and young people in a strengths based approach.
 - d. **Response** - targeting vulnerability, adversity and stress.
5. A survey of young people based on these building blocks was undertaken as part of the BMBF initiative throughout 2018.
6. Partners have been consulted further on this draft, including the Bright Minds Big Futures Big Committee.
7. The details of the draft strategy are appended to this report.
8. Cabinet considered the draft strategy at its meeting held on 14 February 2019 and a copy of the relevant minute extract is attached to this report.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

9. An impact assessment will be developed for each annual action plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The strategy includes a range of proposals for change over the 5 year period. It is recognised that the majority of the changes will need to be implemented within the framework of existing budgets, and that there is unlikely to be a significant increase in available resources. The plan has been deliberately targeted at achieving the wider change in ways of working to enable this to be achieved. More detailed assessments will be undertaken on specific proposals which will be reported through the commissioning groups as appropriate.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The Council's constitution includes the Children and Young People Strategy as part of the constitution. This strategy fulfils that requirement.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. Risks will be managed within existing risk management controls.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

13. The key focus of the Strategy is to drive forward change for children and young people. This is related to all four of the Council's policy principles:
 - Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention – the focus on resilience, relationships which support and the need for effective early response contribute to this principle.
 - Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention – the emphasis on response is to ensure that our services are collectively targeted where they are most needed, and delivered in a way which can have most impact

- Developing strong and healthy communities – the clear focus on resilience and relation shops are specifically focused on a new way of promoting health and wellbeing
- Creating economic prosperity – the focus on valuing and respecting young people, and the emphasis on creating opportunities for young people to flourish are aimed at fulfilling their potential economically

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

14. Although not focused solely on children in our care, the principles of this strategy support the complementary children in, and leaving, our care strategy agreed in 2018, and the way of working outlined in the strategy supports the partnership focus on corporate parenting.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

15. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young people has been consulted. Members of the Children and Young People’s Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board have also been consulted.

16. The Bright Minds Big Futures group have also been consulted and support the proposals in this Plan.

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Education related? Yes, in part

Background Papers - None

Property - no specific implications