

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting – 14 February 2019

1. Title of Item/Report

Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the new Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23.

The Children and Young People's Plan ran from 2015-18, and was in need of refresh.

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.

The proposed new approach was based on the following:

- a. A five year 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 5 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.

The buildings blocks for the strategy were 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.

A survey of young people based on these building blocks was undertaken as part of the BMBF initiative throughout 2018.

Partners had been consulted further on this draft, including the Bright Minds Big Futures Big Committee.

The details of the draft strategy was attached to the report.

RECOMMENDED to Council that Children and Young People Strategy 2019-23 be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the Council continues to prioritise the needs and strengths of children and young people as part of the refresh of the Health and wellbeing Strategy.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensation

N/A

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

N/A

Chief Solicitor
Ged Morton
18 February 2019