

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD

**23RD JULY 2014
REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL CARE**

EARLY HELP STRATEGY UPDATE

SUMMARY

This briefing introduces the final draft of the Early Help Strategy for consideration and sign-off by the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Stockton Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the Early Help Strategy and agree sign-off in light of this consideration.
2. The Board is asked to consider the establishment of an Early Help implementation group, which could sit under the new Children and Young People's Partnership

DETAIL

1. The Strategy sets out how SBC aims to achieve its ambition for Early Help services, with partners. The ambition is to ensure that high quality, accessible and evidence-based early help services are in place and targeted to the children and families who need them most.
2. Stockton Borough Council and its partners undertake various existing Early Help services and strategic coordination of these is needed. A recommendation from the recent Ofsted inspection also highlighted the need for an Early Help Strategy for Stockton Borough.
3. An initial version of the Strategy was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2013 and was primarily focused on children who are at risk of entering the children's social care system.
4. Further work has been undertaken to broaden the focus of the Strategy to include prevention and early help for all children who need it, through both universal and targeted services. It gives an overview of the current work underway and sets out priorities for the future, together with a multi-agency implementation plan.
5. It is proposed that an Early Help implementation group is established to ensure delivery against the implementation; this group could sit under the new Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP). Multi-agency capacity will need to be dedicated to supporting this work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There will be resource implications associated with delivering the implementation plan; the Board is asked to support this and the CYPP will help identify the resources required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific legal implications of this proposal.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. Each commissioning partner organisation has clear governance arrangements in place to manage risk associated with commissioning services. Joint Commissioning activities would be considered through the proposed new Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Joint Commissioning Group.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

11. Implementing the Strategy will have a positive impact on both the Sustainable Community Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy themes.

CONSULTATION

12. Consultation has been carried out in generating the Early Help Strategy. Further consultation may be needed to inform delivery of the implementation plan.

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