

# Health and Wellbeing Board – Supplementary agenda no. 1

**A meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be held on:**

**Date:** 17 June 2021

**Time:** 3.00pm

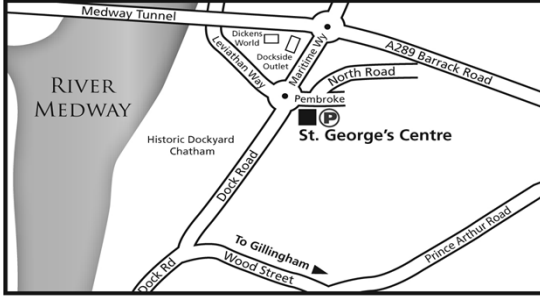
**Venue:** St George's Centre, Pembroke Road, Chatham Maritime,  
Chatham, ME4 4UH

## Items

- 9 Medway Early Help Strategy** (Pages 3 - 4)
- The report was considered, initially, by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2021. The comments of this Committee are set out in the attached addendum report.
- 10 Medway Parenting Support Strategy** (Pages 5 - 6)
- The report was considered, initially, by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 June 2021. The comments of this Committee are set out in the attached addendum report.

For further information please contact Debbie Yau, Democratic Services Officer on Telephone: 01634 332947 or Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)

Date: 14 June 2021



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A summary of this information can be made available in other formats from **01634 333333**

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If you have any questions about this meeting and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring **01634 335577**

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## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**17 JUNE 2021**

### **MEDWAY EARLY HELP STRATEGY ADDENDUM REPORT**

Report from: Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People – Children and Adult Services

Author: Kelly Cogger, Head of First Response and Targeted Services  
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

#### **Summary**

This addendum report sets out the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered this report on 9 June 2021.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1. The Head of First Response and Targeted Services introduced the draft Medway Early Help Strategy which set out Medway's early help offer and covered a period of three years.
- 1.2. Members then raised a number of questions and comments which included:
  - 1.2.1 Lead professionals – in response to a question about how to ensure a family is designated with the right lead professional, it was explained that the aspiration was for all agencies to use the same information system to make the sharing of information seamless and the discussion around who the appropriate lead professional easier.
  - 1.2.2 Sharing of data – officers confirmed they would share the strategy dashboard data with the committee.
  - 1.2.3 Proactive support – comments were made about whether the early help offer could be highlighted to families who were vulnerable, for example, where a child has complex needs. Officers confirmed that early help support needed to be consensual and there was no statutory right to intervene unless a serious safeguarding concern arose. It was therefore key to ensure that the early help offer was well advertised across the partnership.

- 1.2.4 Public awareness – in response to a question about how the Council was to ensure parents and carers knew how to access support, officers confirmed that the single point of access (SPA) information was widely advertised across the Council website, social media, libraries, family hubs, schools, Citizens Advice Bureau and many other partner organisations.
- 1.3. The Committee recommended the Medway Early Help Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, to the Cabinet for approval.

### Lead officer contact

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

17 JUNE 2021

### MEDWAY PARENTING SUPPORT STRATEGY – ADDENDUM REPORT

Report from: James Williams, Director of Public Health

Author: Michael Griffiths, Programme Lead, Children and Families  
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

#### Summary

This addendum report sets out the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered this report on 9 June 2021.

#### 1. Background

1.1. The Head of Public Health Programmes introduced the Medway Parenting Support Strategy which set out a clear vision to work in partnership with parents and carers to continue to improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people and families across Medway. It had been developed and co-produced with parents, carers and partner organisations across Medway.

1.2. Members then raised a number of questions and comments, which included:

1.2.1 Stop and search – the report stated that 1230 10-17 year olds had been stopped and searched between February and July 2020 and it was asked if this could be broken down by ethnicity, which officers undertook to investigate.

1.2.2 Medway Oral Health Strategy – officers undertook to ensure a copy of this was sent to Members of the Committee.

1.2.3 Target dates – it was confirmed these would be inputted into the programme of work (appendix 3 to the report) and once these had been inputted, this would be shared with the Committee.

1.2.4 Persistent Absences – officers confirmed that a child was recorded as persistently absent from school if their overall absence within a year was 10%

or higher. It was added that one of the strategy's priorities was to make pathways of help and access to support clearer and easier.

- 1.2.5 Teenage pregnancy – officers confirmed that this was on a continuum decline and now in line with the national average but still a focus for Medway.
- 1.2.6 Pregnancy and alcohol – comment was made about the importance of this and how damaging it can be to very young foetus. Officers confirmed that it was difficult to measure this amongst pregnant women as it was reliant on self-reporting but a foetal alcohol syndrome disorder partnership had been established which had developed businesses cases to improve clinical practice around diagnosis and also to do preventative and awareness raising.
- 1.2.7 Resourcing – concern was raised about the resourcing needs for parental support. Officers explained that during consultation and preparatory work in drafting the strategy, they had found that there was a significant amount of support available but that it lacked co-ordination and an understanding of what was on offer by practitioners and families. Therefore, the first piece of work to be done would be mapping out all support available and developing a way to raise awareness and identify any possible gaps.
- 1.2.8 Medway wide strategy – it was emphasised that this needed to be a Medway the place strategy, beyond Medway Council and was a ten year strategy in order to allow time for the cultural change needed.
- 1.3. The Committee recommended the Medway Parenting Support Strategy to the Cabinet for approval.

### Lead officer contact

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