

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2019**

### **DRAFT MEDWAY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2019-2024**

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#### **Summary**

This report provides the Committee with the outcome of the consultation on the draft Children and Young People's Plan, which was reported to the Committee in March, prior to consultation.

The draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets key strategic priorities for partnership action to improve outcomes for Medway's children and young people and help them achieve their potential. It maintains Medway Council's momentum in promoting good practice as well as its commitment to ensuring a child-focused future for Medway. Central to this is that the Council helps Medway's children and young people to be "Thriving, Healthy and Learn Well". A copy of the updated draft plan is attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities and certain named partners (including health) to co-operate to improve children's well-being. The draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets key strategic priorities for partnership action to improve outcomes for Medway's children and young people and help them achieve their potential.
- 1.2 Elements of the CYPP are drawn from the Council's Council Plan, as well as the family of strategies that form the existing policy framework for Children's Services such as:
  - SEND and Inclusion Strategy
  - LAC Strategy
  - MSCB Strategic Plan
  - Youth Justice Partnership Plan
  - Early Help Strategy
  - Skills and Employability Plan
  - Education Strategy

## 2. Background / Context

- 2.1 In this current environment, there are a number of key challenges that require a whole-system approach, across social care, health, police and education to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people. With increased financial constraints on budgets, against rapidly increasing demand in some areas and increasing complexity of need across the Council's service user cohort, the situation is requiring creative attitudes with regard to organisational change.
- 2.2 Delivering improved outcomes for children and families requires an approach where the Council leads a multi-agency approach to planning and delivery – ensuring the provision of “strong, strategic local leadership and development of an increasingly autonomous and diverse education and children's services sector”<sup>1</sup>. We have sought to draw together key leaders from health, care, police and education services across the Children's sector into the Medway Children and Young People's Strategic Transformation Board (“The Board”) to ultimately improve outcomes for children and young people in line with the Council's duty under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to “co-operate to improve children's wellbeing”<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.3 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities and certain named partners (including health) to co-operate to improve children's well-being. The Director of Children's Service DCS and Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) must lead, promote and create opportunities for co-operation with local partners (for example, health, police, schools, housing services, early years, youth justice, probation, higher and further education, and employers) to improve the well-being of children and young people. Local authorities must also establish local co-operation arrangements to reduce child poverty, prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment, and prepare a local child poverty strategy.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.4 Following the Wood Review in 2016 and subsequent revision of the ‘Working Together’ Guidance, the Council, along with the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group now have a statutory duty to create a safeguarding partnership. In Medway, the new safeguarding partnership will also report into the Board.
- 2.5 The Board will strengthen joint working for both planning and delivery ensuring that key partners across the whole Medway system for children's services through a strong partnership approach. This will improve communication and engagement not only between organisations, but also with key stakeholders. This will enable partners to speak collectively with a shared vision that has been developed together with key agreed strategic priorities that can be taken forward through an annual business plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Directors of children's services: roles and responsibilities (2013)

<sup>2</sup> Directors of children's services: roles and responsibilities (2013)

<sup>3</sup> Directors of children's services: roles and responsibilities (2013)

### **3. Advice and analysis**

- 3.1 The new Plan will be championed by the Medway Children and Young People's Strategic Transformation Board, to improve outcomes for Medway's children and young people. It will also allow the Council to identify and maximise its individual and collective organisational resources and commission jointly where appropriate to get the best value for each pound spent.
- 3.2 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Medway. It sets out the vision for Medway to have a child-focused future in which all children and young people are 'thriving, healthy and learning well'. The updated draft CYPP is presented in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.3 The Plan covers the period 2019 to 2024 and takes account of the current national picture, and evolving local challenges.
- 3.4 The Plan focuses on three key outcomes for children and young people in Medway:
- Thriving in Our Community
  - A Healthy Start
  - Learning Well

This will provide a high-level framework for helping children and young people in Medway to achieve their potential. The Plan will be used to inform commissioning in the children's services system. Achieving these high level outcomes form strategic objectives.

- 3.5 The 10 priorities within the Plan, with a number of associated key actions, reflect those areas where the Council and its partners need to work together to achieve real progress on behalf of children and young people in Medway.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 to the report contains the draft Plan (including priorities and indicators) that has been updated following consultation. When the final version has Cabinet approval it will be taken forward as a high level strategic approach for Children's Services in Medway.
- 3.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment is set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

#### 4. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
The Children and Young People's Sector does not engage with the Strategy	The Children and Young People's Sector is not responsive to the needs of the community or influencing the planning of services by statutory agencies	Establish strong communication arrangements (primarily through the Children's Strategic Transformation Board) to ensure delivery of the outcomes in the Strategy	D1
Inadequate Resourcing	The Children and Young People's Sector is unable to achieve the outcomes of the Strategy due to lack of resources.	Clear and Robust action planning to ensure proper use of resources targeted to achieve the agreed priorities with in the strategy.	C2

4.1 Regular reporting is the key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges.

4.2 It is intended that there will be a short annual report to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress with the strategic Plan. The Medway Children and Young People Strategic Transformation Board, chaired by the Lead Member, will also receive six-monthly updates on the progress against the priorities.

#### 5. Consultation

5.1 The CYPP has strategic priorities that will ultimately affect a wide range of stakeholders. This includes children, parents, professionals, providers, regulators/Ofsted/CQC/HMIP, and politicians.

5.2 Following Cabinet approval to consult on the draft CYPP, an 8 Week consultation took place between 6 May 2019 and 30 June 2019.

5.3 During that period, consultation occurred in a number of ways, which included:

5.3.1 A survey was sent to the Medway Citizens' Panel, which is a sample of local residents who have volunteered to regularly take part in local consultation. The panel is made up of a group of residents who are representative of the area by geographical location, age, sex and ethnicity. There were 224 responses to the survey;

5.3.2 The supply of a survey link asking opinions of the proposed children and young people priorities via social media pages, with reposts to raise awareness. 28 responses were received;

5.3.3 During the month of May 2019, Quality Assurance and Engagement Officers, visited parks and green spaces across Medway to ask a random selection of 100 young people:

- What is most important to them
- What they worry about the most
- What they hope for the future

**Outcome of Medway Citizens' Panel survey:**

5.4 In relation to the first key outcome, thriving in our community, the majority of respondents agreed that each of the three priorities were the right priorities for this key outcome and ranked them in importance as follows:

- Over half of respondents cited '*protect those at risk of harm*' (58%).
- Almost a third felt that the priority '*empower families to be resilient and economically secure*' was the most important (30%)
- Whilst 11% felt that, the priority '*have fun growing up and have a voice*' was the most important.
- A further 1% gave no response to this question

5.5 In relation to the second key outcome, having a healthy start, the majority of respondents agreed that each of the three priorities were the right priorities to help children and young people have a healthy start and ranked them in importance as follows:

- Almost half of respondents cited '*improve social, emotional, mental health and resilience*' (49%)
- Followed by the priority '*promote health and wellbeing through positive choices*' was the most important (30%)
- 17% felt that, the priority '*reduce health inequalities*' was the most important.
- A further 4% gave no response to this question.

5.6 In relation to the third key outcome, learning well, the majority of respondents agreed that each of the four priorities were the right priorities to help children and young people to learn well and ranked them in importance as follows:

- Almost a third of respondents cited '*focused help to where it is needed earlier*' (32%).
- Just over a quarter of respondents felt that the priorities '*ensure children have access to good provision*' and '*equip young people for life and work in a strong Medway economy*' were the most important (28% for both);
- whilst 9% felt that the priority '*raise achievement and progress for all*' was the most important.
- A further 3% gave no response to this question

**Outcome of social media feedback:**

5.7 Respondents via social media provided similar outcomes in terms of thoughts relating to the priorities underpinning each outcome and their importance.

5.8 Additional comments and suggestions that were also raised under the various priorities included:

- Providing families (particularly new parents) with support through children's centres, building peer support with skilled support in local community settings;
- High quality youth provision
- Access to medical care (including mental health support) that is prompt and accessible.

### **Outcome of feedback provided by the random selection of 100 young people**

5.9 The following summarises the main responses that were obtained from the young people that were surveyed at random in the community:

\*\*The young people were able to provide more than one answer so percentages are based on overall responses.\*\*

5.10 When asked what is important to young people, the most common answers included:

- 30% family
- 22% feeling happy
- 19% feeling safe and looked after
- 16% things to do and places to go
- 12% friends
- 9% having enough money

Twenty-four young people gave various other answers.

\*\*The young people were able to provide more than one answer so percentages are on overall responses.\*\*

5.11 When asked what young people worry about the most, top answers included:

- 30% crime
- 15% dying young
- 13% said they did not know
- 12% family in general
- 11% family members dying
- 9% not worried about anything

Other concerns that raised included not having enough money passing exams

5.12 When asked what young people's main hopes for the future were, answers included:

- Feeling safe
- The environment
- Health
- Friends and family
- Education, training and employment
- Money and being successful
- Housing
- Things to do

## 6. Governance Pathway for agreeing the CYPP:

Committee / Board	Meeting Date
CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25/07/2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	10/09/2019
Cabinet	24/09/2019

## 7. Implications for Looked After Children (LAC)

7.1 The Medway LAC Strategy and its priorities feed into the CYPP. This is a Plan for all children and young people.

## 8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no specific financial implications as a result of this report.

## 9. Legal implications

9.1 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities and certain named partners (including health) to co-operate to improve children's well-being. The draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets key strategic priorities for partnership action to improve outcomes for Medway's children and young people and help them achieve their potential.

## 10. Recommendation

10.1 The Committee is asked to send comments on the updated draft Medway Children and Young People's Plan, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, to the Cabinet.

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### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Medway Children and Young People's Plan

Appendix 2 – Diversity Impact Assessment

### Background Papers

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) -

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/729914/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children-2018.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)

Directors of children's services: roles and responsibilities (2013) -

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/271429/directors\\_of\\_child\\_services\\_stat\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/271429/directors_of_child_services_stat_guidance.pdf)