

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

17 JUNE 2021

MEDWAY PARENTING SUPPORT STRATEGY – ADDENDUM REPORT

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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.

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