

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2022

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Report from: Dr. Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People

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Summary

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets out our partnership vision and priorities to support and help young people in Medway over the next 3 years. The plan has been based on consultation with children, young people, carried out through the Child Friendly Medway initiative. This plan applies to a wide range of organisations that are committed to making children's lives better, including Children's Services, Health, Police, Schools, and voluntary and community organisations. It is important that these organisations work together to better meet the challenges and utilise resources in an efficient and cost-effective way.

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the overarching direction we need to take in partnership to enable children and young people in Medway, to reach their full potential.

1. Budget and policy framework

- 1.1. There is no longer a statutory requirement for local authorities to have a published Children and Young People's plan, but it is a document which supports collaborative partnership working and is a way of demonstrating engagement and commitment to a set of shared priorities across the partnership.
- 1.2. The Plan is aligned with the Council Strategy priority "Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential"
- 1.3. It is consistent with the Medway's People's Strategy, and provides a golden thread of shared priorities for all people in Medway

2. Background

- 2.1 Since the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services carried out by Ofsted in 2019 found services in Medway to be 'Inadequate', partners have worked together through the Children's Improvement Board to support the implementation of shared priorities as set out in Medway's Improvement Plan.
- 2.2 The council continues to work to a Statutory Direction issued by the DFE in January 2021, which requires regular reports on a quarterly basis to the Secretary of State from the DFE appointed adviser and the Chair of the Improvement Board on progress in delivering the Council's improvement plan.
- 2.3 Medway has now had five Monitoring Visits carried out by Ofsted inspectors between August 2020 and September 2022. One further visit is anticipated in early 2023 prior to a full re-inspection under the ILACS framework in spring/summer 2023. Depending on the outcome of that inspection, it is likely that the Statutory Direction will be either varied or rescinded, and partners will be expected to then work together to a shared set of priorities and agreed actions, to build on and expand the work which has been undertaken through the Improvement Plan. The Children and Young People's Plan will be the vehicle which will support that.

3. Vision and Strategic Outcomes

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is consistent with the People's Strategy which is underpinned by a strengths-based approach, which champions resilience and independence; focus on strengths within individuals, families, and wider community;
- 3.2 The vision statement within the plan is:

Working together, keeping children and families at the heart of what we do.

- *We will work together with children, young people and families to help them feel safe, secure, valued and supported.*
- *We will work with children and families, to live in stable supportive homes building caring and consistent relationships that help them to develop into independent adults.*
- *We will value strengths, celebrate differences and listen to children to keep them at the heart of what we do.*

- 3.3 The Plan sets out the following strategic outcomes:

- Children and young people will be safe
- Children in Medway will have the best start in life
- Children and young people in Medway will develop well

- Children and young people in Medway will aspire to become independent and fulfilled adults
- Children and young people in Medway will participate in and contribute to their community and have a meaningful say in decisions and services that shape their lives

4. Governance

- 4.1 An Outcomes Framework has been developed to help us to measure progress against the difference we are making to improve children’s lives (**see Appendix A in the plan**), and as a way of holding each other to account. It is proposed that the progress in delivering the Children and Young People’s Plan will be monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.2 Key elements will also be monitored on a quarterly basis through the Council Plan and an annual report to Cabinet to demonstrate progress in achieving actions and targets.
- 4.3 These key performance measures will be finalised with partners to be consistent with the People’s Strategy and linked through to the Council Plan monitoring.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 The risks associated with the Children and Young People’s Plan are outlined in the table below:

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Children and Young People’s Plan not aligned with partner priorities	Plan is not aligned which results in opportunities lost to sustain joined-up, efficient and effective services in collaboration with all our partners,	Consultation with all key stakeholders including partners.	C2

6. Consultation

- 6.1 There is no requirement for a formal consultation as part of the process for this Plan

7. Climate change implications

- 7.1 There are no implications as a direct result of the recommendations of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no implications as a direct result of the recommendations of this report.

9. Legal implications

9.1 There are no implications as a direct result of the recommendations of this report.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Committee is asked to consider and provide any comment on the plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report prior to it being presented to Cabinet at its meeting of 13 December 2022 for approval.

10.2 The Committee is asked to note the minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting of 17 November 2022.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People’s Plan 2023-25

Appendix 2 – Minutes from Health and Wellbeing Board

Background papers

None