

## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**3 December 2024**

### **Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report 2023-2024**

Report from: Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive

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#### **Summary**

The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report aims to showcase the highlights of events, activities and projects from the previous year. The report documents the teams progress and achievements throughout the year and how Child-Friendly Medway's programming has evolved as a response to feedback from children and young people. The annual report also gives an opportunity to feature the feedback received from children and young people and what has been done to amplify their voices, and make Medway a better place to live, work, learn, visit and play.

#### **1. Recommendation**

1.1. The Committee is asked to note and comment on the Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report 2023-2024.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 Child-Friendly Medway was created as a platform for children and young people's voices to be heard, amplified and responded to.

2.2 The first Annual Report was launched last year and showcased the first two years of Child-Friendly Medway's work (2021-2023). This 2023-2024 report contains the story of Child-Friendly Medway so far, details and images of some of the teams' events, activities and projects, partnership working, funding streams and includes feedback from children, young people and a variety of partners. It also contains audience and event data.

2.3 The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report 2023-2024 was launched to internal and external partners on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 and is now available to the public via the Child-Friendly Medway website.

### 3. Advice and analysis

- 3.1. Child-Friendly Medway recognises Climate Change & Sustainability as a key issue for children and young people in Medway and therefore encourages these themes within the team's work.
- 3.2. The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report is available digitally with limited paper copies to make this document as sustainable as possible. We have ensured that this digital document is accessible to all according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.
- 3.3. Child-Friendly Medway ensures that all children and young people are able to have their voices heard as well as having equal opportunity to access events and projects. The team aims to be as inclusive as possible.
- 3.4. The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report showcases the wide diversity of their audience and how they ensure the inclusion of minority groups within their work.

### 4. Risk management

- 4.1. The publication of the Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report aligns with Medway Council's commitment to openness by publishing an accurate representation of the work completed by Child-Friendly Medway.
- 4.2. Publishing this document supports accountability, transparency, accessibility and understandability for all stakeholders in Child-Friendly Medway.
- 4.3. Publication also reduces future risks that could have occurred due to lack of transparency.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Critical response to the report from stakeholders	Receiving negative comments/ poor response from internal and external partners and members of the public.	Child-Friendly Medway's Annual Report contains an accurate representation of the work completed by Child-Friendly Medway and has been through multiple consultations to ensure transparency to stakeholders.	CIV

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely	I Catastrophic
B Likely	II Major
C Unlikely	III Moderate
D Rare	IV Minor

## 5. Consultation

- 5.1. Child-Friendly Medway's Partnership Board consists of representatives from within Medway Council and external partners including Kent Police, NHS, cultural and sports organisations, voluntary sector, youth and family support services, local schools and MidKent College. This board is given opportunities to comment on Child-Friendly Medway's work throughout the year.
- 5.2. Consultation and approval were also sought from the Chief Executive, Richard Hicks, Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and the communication and marketing team.

## 6. Climate change implications

- 6.1. The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report is available digitally with limited paper copies to make this document as sustainable as possible.
- 6.2. The Child-Friendly Medway Annual Report will highlight some of the work Child-Friendly Medway has done surrounding Climate Change & Sustainability and how children and young people have influenced work in this sector.

## 7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The work of Child Friendly Medway is funded from existing revenue budgets along with contributions from partners and external grant funding.

## 8. Legal implications

- 8.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the publication of this document for the public or wider council.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

Appendix 1 CFM Annual Report 2023-24

### Background papers

None