

POLICY SCRUTINY GROUP – 13TH NOVEMBER 2018

Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services Cabinet Lead Member: Councillor Taylor

ITEM 6 DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

Purpose of Report

To provide Policy Scrutiny Group with an opportunity to consider the Draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2019 – 2024.

Action Requested

To consider the draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2019 – 2024, which is attached at Appendix 1.

Reason

To scrutinise the Policy in a timely manner in accordance with the Group's work programme.

Policy Context

The Council's Corporate Plan makes a commitment to:

- Keep our residents safe
- Provide opportunities to participate in social, leisure and cultural activities and in community life
- Encourage healthy lifestyles for all our residents through physical activity programmes and the provision of sports facilities and green spaces
- Listen to and communicate with our residents and act on their concerns

The Children Act 2004 places two core duties on Charnwood Borough Council. Under Section 10 we have a duty to co-operate with our partners and appropriately share information between professionals to protect children. Section 11 sets out our corporate responsibility to both safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 Statutory Guidance names District Council's in general and Sport and Leisure, Housing and Homelessness departments and Environmental Health in particular

as specific organisations that need to be named as part of the arrangements and who have key duties in relation to safeguarding.

Background

Cabinet at its meeting on 12th February 2015 approved the Children and Young People’s Strategy 2015-18 and Action Plan (minute 85).

The Strategy and Action Plan, including the recommended amendments, went live on 1st April 2015.

Performance Scrutiny Panel reviewed the progress of the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan at its meetings on 7th July 2015 (minute 6), 16th February 2016 (minute 45) and 14th February 2017 (minute 45). On each occasion the Panel were satisfied with the information provided.

The Strategy made a number of key recommendations. Considerable progress has been made since that time and by working together with a whole range of statutory and voluntary partners we have achieved many successes. The table below outlines the three Strategic Objectives contained within the Children and Young People’s Strategy 2015-18 and the progress made against them to date (April 2015 – end September 2018). In addition an update on the 2018/19 Action Plan is attached at Appendix 2.

2015 Strategic Objective	Progress
<p>Keeping Children and young people safe – we are committed to undertake high quality and effective action in relation to our safeguarding duties</p>	<p>Safeguarding Policies reviewed and published to staff annually</p> <p>Trained Designated Safeguarding Officer Team in place ensuring 100% of reported concerns meeting safeguarding threshold record action taken</p> <p>Over 700 safeguarding training (e-learning and face to face) and competency workshop (face to face) contacts with individual staff</p> <p>Annual Member safeguarding training session delivered</p> <p>100% of Early Help Locality Hub meetings between April 2015 and June 2017 (when Hubs ceased) provided with information and representation from CBC</p>

2015 Strategic Objective	Progress
<p>Integrated working and early intervention – working together with our statutory and voluntary partners to identify risks early and take preventative action, ensuring that children, young people and families receive help as soon as they need it</p>	<p>13 Think Family Partnership meetings co-ordinated by CBC to ensure that partners are informed and working together towards improving the wellbeing of children and young people</p> <p>An annual needs/ gap analysis event has taken place during each year of the Strategy</p> <p>Over the life of the Strategy to date, there have been over 27,000 attendances by children and young people at Charnwood Borough Council led sport and active recreation activities. Delivery of these programmes have been co-ordinated with other agencies and informed by young people's views</p> <p>19 multi agency targeted youth/ family interventions within priority neighbourhoods or with identified targeted groups have been supported and co-ordinated by CBC</p> <p>18 initiatives have been provided by CBC to assist voluntary and community sector partners to increase resilience and adapt to a changing funding landscape</p> <p>Co-ordination to agencies working with young people Not in Education, Employment or Training has contributed to Charnwood achieving the target of a level of NEET below 4% every year</p> <p>Co-ordination to agencies working with young parents has contributed to a year on year decrease in the number and rate of young parents. The rate of conceptions per 1,000 women aged under 18 in Charnwood was 40.1 in 1998, 23.4 in 2012 and 13.9 in 2016 (latest figures)</p>

2015 Strategic Objective	Progress
<p>Children and family voice – delivery and development of services should start by listening to the people who use our services and then consider what is achievable within the available resources</p>	<p>11 opportunities for children and young people to be involved in the design and delivery of Charnwood Borough Council services have been provided across Neighbourhood Services, Open Spaces, Human Resources, Strategic Support and inclusion in the Residents Survey</p> <p>7 initiatives to celebrate and recognise the contribution of people to the community have included young people specifically including Sports Awards, Don't Muck Around, Pride of Charnwood Awards and Bloom</p> <p>11 initiatives or events provided by Supporting Leicestershire Families to deliver family focused consultation and voice work</p>

Since 2015, a number of national policies and new statutory guidance have been introduced. Locally, this has involved the continued redesign of many children's services. For Leicestershire County Council, this remains a current and ongoing process.

As the current Children and Young People's Strategy comes to an end, it is timely that Charnwood takes this opportunity to review and plan our own approach to working with and involving children and young people.

Progress to Date in Preparing the Strategy

Charnwood Borough Council has made significant progress in expanding our partnerships and influence in local matters relating to children and young people since the original 2008 Strategy. The Borough, particularly the Neighbourhood Services Team, is now seen as leaders alongside Leicestershire County Council in co-ordinating provision and services for 0-19 year olds. The Children, Families and Partnerships Manager has led a number of locality networks and delivery plans that draw on the voice of young people and front line practitioners. Thus the views and experience of a wide range of people have informed the development of this Strategy.

Leicestershire County Council's Children and Families Directorate is once again in a period of significant change due to the County Council's need to make significant financial reductions. The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and the Children, Families and Partnerships Manager have all contributed to the consultation

associated with this redesign. The ethos and priorities which the County have included within the Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership Plan 2018-21 (see below for more detailed information on this), have also contributed to this local Strategy.

In preparing the Strategy to this point, the Children, Families and Partnerships Manager has consulted with a range of stakeholders including:

- the Charnwood 5-19 Network Group,
- the NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training) Advisory Group,
- colleagues in Leicestershire County Council's Early Help Service (to be renamed the Children, Families and Wellbeing Service as part of the current Action Plan) and
- the CBC Equalities Working Group.
- The priorities raised by colleagues at the internal Charnwood Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) Group and external counterparts at the Leicestershire County DSO Group are also contained in the Strategy.

Following consultation with Policy Scrutiny Group, further consultation will be undertaken with internal and external partners.

The Family Voice Worker within Leicestershire County Council's Early Help Services has been particularly useful in supporting children and young people's views to influence the priorities included within this Strategy. Colleagues within statutory and voluntary sector agencies that work directly with some of Charnwood's most vulnerable and disengaged young people have also provided key feedback about the concerns and emerging needs for the families they work with.

The Children and Young People's Strategy is currently in draft form. The associated Action Plan will be populated following consultation, save for a number of statutory actions relating to our safeguarding functions, which have already been included.

Connectivity of the Strategy to other Strategies and Policies

The draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2018 - 2024 and Action Plan are informed by national legislation and statutory guidance including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Children Act 1998 and 2004, Academies Act 2010, Education Act 2011, Children and Families Act 2014 and Working Together (to safeguard children) statutory guidance 2018.

Locally, the Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership is a sub group of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board and is made up of the key organisations that work with children, young people and families across the

county including Charnwood Borough Council. The Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership Plan 2018-21 is a shared vision based on five priorities:

- Ensure the best start in life
- Keep children safe and free from harm
- Support children and families to be self-sufficient and resilient
- Ensure vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support
- Enable children to have good physical and mental health

The Partnership Plan includes the cross cutting themes of communication strategy and workforce development. The priorities for which the Borough Council have a degree of responsibility and/or work in partnership to support alongside other agencies will be reflected in the Action Plan that accompanies this Strategy and contribute to the more detailed delivery plans that are allocated to themed work.

The Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership can be found on the Leicestershire County Council website:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/leicestershire-children-and-families-partnership>

The Partnership is a sub-group of Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and as such forms part of the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy which addresses the needs identified by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that the NHS and County Council are jointly responsible for preparing.

At a Borough level, this Strategy is linked with the Sport and Physical Activity Commissioning Plan and in turn with the Leicestershire Obesity Strategy, the Charnwood Equalities Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership Plan. Through the Think Family Partnership local governance arrangements, Charnwood Borough Council has also had input into and oversight of the Charnwood 0-5 Delivery Plan which is currently led through the Children's Centre Programme. Charnwood Borough Council lead the counterpart, Charnwood's 5-19 Delivery Plan. Each of these Plans is reported on through the Think Family Partnership to Charnwood Together. A copy of the governance structure is attached at Appendix 3.

Links with the current Supporting Leicestershire Families Team (to become part of the Children and Families Wellbeing Service as part of the Leicestershire County Council restructure), are well established.

Consultation Approach

In addition to the consultation already undertaken to guide the structure and main focus of the Strategy, it is proposed that the Strategy is circulated through the local children and young people networks, including the Think Family Partnership, along with circulation to a range of stakeholders. It is also proposed to make it available for comment by the public on the Council's website.

It is proposed that consultation is undertaken during the latter months of 2018 with the final version of the Children and Young People's Strategy being submitted to Cabinet in early 2019.

Legal Implications

The Children and Young People's Strategy, along with its associated Policies, supports the organisation to ensure that we comply with our two duties under The Children's Act 2004. Under Section 10 we have a duty to co-operate with our partners and appropriately share information between professionals to protect children. Section 11 sets out our corporate responsibility to both safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the Strategy. All associated activities will be covered from within existing budgets.

Equality and Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Draft Strategy and is attached at Appendix 4.

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