

Health and Wellbeing Board

22 September 2021

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLAN 2020-23

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. Review the progress made in delivering the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 as set out in the Annual Report 2020-21, including partner and priority area updates.
2. Note the progress made by the Dorset Strengthening Services Programme to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people through partnership working.

Reason for Recommendation: To enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to have line of sight to the work being undertaken by partners to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council, working with its partners, the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, has produced its first Annual Report on progress against the partnership's three-year Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023. The Plan focuses on improving long term outcomes for children, young people and families. The Strategic Alliance is a multi-agency partnership which includes partners from police, health, schools and early years settings, voluntary and community sector. The vision for the partnership is:

“For Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive and families are supported to be the best they can be.”

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan priorities align to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims:

- Make sure that all children and young people have opportunities to have the best start in life
- Make sure all partners and communities work effectively together to improve health and wellbeing, especially for those most disadvantaged and make best use of our resources.

The Annual Report, approved by the Strategic Alliance Board in June 2021, identifies progress made over the first year of the Plan. It reflects on the work partnership has undertaken to co-produce delivery plans and work with young people during Dorset's "Takeover Challenge", where young people from across Dorset took the lead in delivering many activities and meetings.

The Annual Report shares feedback from partnership representatives and the contributions individual and collective partners have made in improving outcomes for our children, young people, and families.

The Annual Report identifies the progress and impact in each of the six priority areas of the Plan, as well as identifying some of the key achievements over the year and key next steps.

To support the longer-term vision in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan, the partnership is strengthening services for children and families in Dorset. The partnership continues to deliver its Strengthening Services Programme with the aim of this work to drive forward short and medium-term work to strengthen

and improve services for vulnerable children. A Strengthening Services Plan brings together partnership short and medium-term actions into one plan.

2. Financial Implications

None identified. The transformation priorities within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan relate to services provided or commissioned by the Council are aligned to Council plans. The partnership has adopted 'Delivering best value for money - spending the Dorset £ in Dorset on the things that get the best outcomes for children and families' as one of its shared values and principles.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

The priorities within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan seek to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.

4. Climate implications

None identified. The Best Place to Live within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan priority includes work to influence increased cycle lanes and improved public transport and to champion the use of green energy, reduction in waste, recycling, and reduction in the use of plastic and work to reduce carbon emissions.

5. Other Implications

None identified at this stage. The Strategic Alliance aims to have the involvement of voluntary and community organisations in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as: Low

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment was completed as part of the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan and published on Dorset Council's Website. Officers reviewed and updated the equalities impact assessment as part of the annual review of the Plan in the summer of 2021. Further reviews and updates will be undertaken at least once per year.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1) Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People Annual Report 2020-21

Appendix 2) Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023

9. Introduction and Background

9.1 The Children, Young People and Families' Plan has previously been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, including how the Plan was developed and created. The six priority areas are:

- Best start in life
- Young and thriving
- Good care provision
- Best education for all
- Best place to live
- Delivering locally

9.2. Over the first year of the Plan, Steering Groups across the six priority areas have worked across in partnership to develop and deliver actions plans that impact and progress the aspirations and commitments made in the Plan.

9.3 Progress against the Plan, in each of the six priority areas, has been reported at quarterly Strategic Alliance Board meetings. Additional "Spotlight" reviews have taken place to further identify and progress impact against the Plan's commitments.

9.4 The first Annual Report was created and presented to the Strategic Alliance Board in June 2021. The Strategic Alliance also held its Annual Conference, bringing together partners and external experts, in the fields of Mental Health and Restorative Practice, to share and celebrate our success to date and set the vision for the next 2-years of the Plan.

10. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Alignment

10.1 The Children, Young People and Families Plan aims to ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to have the best start in life; and that all partners and communities work effectively together to improve health and wellbeing, especially for those most disadvantaged and make best use of our resources.

10.2 The priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy align to Children, Young People and Families' Plan as follows:

Children, Young People and Families Plan Priority	Dorset Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities
Best Start in Life	Promoting healthy lives and support and challenge
Young and Thriving	Support and challenge
Good Care Provision	Support and challenge
Best Education for All	Support and challenge
Best Place to Live	Empowering communities
Delivering Locally	Empowering communities

11. Key messages from the Annual Report

Although Covid-19 restrictions have changed the way in which partners can work together, the Strategic Alliance Board has continued to meet, in a virtual media every quarter. Partners leading priorities and actions have worked together developing and delivering plans and reporting progress to the Strategic Alliance Board throughout the year.

Local Alliance Groups established in each of Dorset's six locality areas have continued to work together during the year. Local Alliance Groups are supporting the delivery of the Children, Young People and Families Plan at a local level with each locality using locality data, alongside their community knowledge to shape action plans that respond to the needs of their respective communities.

11.1 The partnership has made good progress in the first year of the plan which is reported in more detail in the Annual Report. Below are examples of progress made:

11.2 Best Start in Life

Achievements include:

- Multi-agency partners are developing a shared workforce development plan with an initial focus on working in the antenatal period.
- Teams from across the partnership are reviewing school readiness information with professionals and parent with a view to supporting transitions.

- Another important focus of this priority is the project to develop intensive support for women who have had multiple children removed from their care. This project will progress to the implementation stage in the next year of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

11.3 Young and Thriving

Achievements include:

- Detached and outreach youth work is being delivered in all six Localities. This is being co-ordinated through Youth at Risk Meetings which have been established to identify and support young people at risk of exploitation. Each locality is different, but in each Locality, Targeted Youth Workers are working in partnership with voluntary and community sector organisations, with support and liaison with Dorset Police.
 - The Dorset Care Leaver offer has been significantly enhanced including a clear framework for Care Leaver finance and the allocation at the age of 16 of a Personal Advisor for children in care. There has been a significant reduction in the number of Care Leavers in Unsuitable Accommodation and additional support to support Care Leavers to enter employment, education and training.

11.4 Good Care Provision

Achievements include:

- The Harbour has been implemented and is now operational and supporting our most vulnerable young people. This is a multi-agency approach with key partners signed up and two police officers working in the team. There is a clear model of support and intervention and plans for the residential element of the project are well advanced.
- In addition to The Harbour, as part of the Sufficiency of Placements Strategy, work to expand care placements in Dorset continues with additional provision expected to be available during 2021/22.

11.5 Best Education for All

Achievements include:

- Work has continued to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs with the Department for Education formally recognising these improvements in the spring of 2021. The adherence to the timescales for Education, Health and Care Plan work during the pandemic was good and remained consistently above the national average.
- A bold and ambitious programme to create a “Centre of Excellence” at the former St. Mary’s School in Shaftsbury has progressed. Dorset Council have bought the old school with a view to create an innovative and sector leading provision, catering for the needs of children and young people with special educational, health and care needs. The Council is looking to develop the provision to offer a wider range of services to support our children, young people and families such as short breaks, care leaver services, outdoor education and many other valuable services over the coming years.
- School attendance in Dorset was strong throughout the pandemic period with Dorset often ranking in the top 25 of all councils nationally. The tracking of vulnerable students continues and the locality response to supporting students has meant that where students are not attending when required there is rapid and productive contact made.

11.6 Best place to live

Achievements include:

- Takeover Challenge - we are particularly pleased that 23 young people aged 13-21 engaged with a month of activities in the “Takeover Challenge” running meetings, workshops and helping to progress our delivery plans. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Takeover Challenge became virtual this year. Instead of face-to-face, young people joined Decision Makers on their Microsoft Teams calls. Before young people started attending meetings with decision makers, they were invited to attend a Confidence Building Workshop to help them identify the skills they would need to get the most out of Takeover Challenge. Young people provided some strong feedback on how best to deliver key aspects of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust’s engagement with children, young people and families and Public Health in coproducing a series of events. These included Stepping into Nature, a Mental Health Awareness Week (10-16 May) which promoted the importance of “getting out in nature” as well as

establishing a young journalist programme providing experience and skills in producing podcasts, blogs and social media posting

11.7 Delivering Locally

Achievements include:

- Over the first year of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan the Dorset Children Thrive, children's services place-based locality model of delivering multi-disciplinary services, has embedded.
- To support the Dorset Children Thrive model, a Performance Management Framework has been developed.
- The partnership has developed and published a new Early Help Strategy. The strategy provides the vision and strategic direction for embedding a culture of early help in Dorset. It both unites agencies and underpins the successful delivery of the Dorset Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020 – 23.

12. Strengthening Services Programme

- 12.1 The aim of the Strengthening Services Programme is to drive forward the work to strengthen and improve services for vulnerable children in Dorset. Strategic accountability of the programme is through the multi-agency Strengthening Services for Children and Families in Dorset Board, comprised of executive level senior leaders across the partnership including Elected Members.

The Strengthening Services Board is the place-based delivery arm of the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The work of the Strengthening Services Board sits alongside the work to deliver good longer-term outcomes for children and young people in Dorset through the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2020-2023. The partnership is working together at a strategic and operational level to strengthen the shared 'system' of services with the aim of achieving the very best outcomes possible for children and families in Dorset.

The partnership continues to make good progress in delivering the actions in the Strengthening Services Plan and as at September 2021 88% of the actions are either complete or embedding.

13. Next Steps

- a) The Strategic Alliance will continue to drive forward delivery plans impacting on the priorities in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan and continue to monitor progress at its quarterly meetings and reporting into the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Progress and impact on year-2 (2021-22) activities will be reported in the second Annual Report in the summer of 2022. The second Annual Report will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b) The Strengthening Services Board will continue to drive forward their work to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people in Dorset.

14. Recommendation: Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

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Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.