

Health and Wellbeing Board

24 March 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. Note the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23 and the progress towards delivering improved outcomes for children, young people and families of Dorset.
2. Note the work being undertaken through the Dorset Strengthening Services Programme to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people.

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, published its new three-year strategic plan to improve long term outcomes for children, young people and families in 2020. 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 Plan has been co-produced with children, young people and families and has six main priorities; Best start in life, Young and thriving, Good care provision, Best education for all, Delivering locally and the priority directly identified by children and young people, Best place to live.

The final Children, Young People and Families’ Plan was agreed by the Strategic Alliance on the 15th September 2020 and adopted by Full Council in October 2020.

The Children, Young People and Families Plan priorities align to the draft 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.

Work on delivery of the Children, Young People and Families Plan is underway and is reported to the Strategic Alliance Board. Priority Lead Officers and representatives from the Partnership have been agreed for each of the priorities and have created Delivery Plans to drive forward each priority area. Governance to review the progress and impact of the delivery plans is reported through the Strategic Alliance Board.

To further develop and strengthen services for children and families in Dorset, the partnership has embarked on a Strengthening Services Programme. The aim of this work is to drive forward the 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 will review and update the equalities impact assessment as part of the annual review of the Plan in the summer of 2021.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1) Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-2023

9. Introduction and Background

- 9.1 On behalf of the partnership, Dorset Council coordinates the work of the multi-agency Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, and following a review of governance and terms of reference in 2019/20, it was agreed that the partnership would develop a new 3-year Children, Young People and Families' Plan to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 9.2. Following an analysis of data and a partnership workshop in March 2020, a set of initial priorities were identified. These priorities were then further developed through a series of 'Think Tanks' attended by over 100 professionals from across the system, parents/carers and children and young people. Employee engagement with children's services was also undertaken through "Think Tanks" in June 2020 and the "I live in Dorset" campaign in July 2020 ensured that children and young people across Dorset were able to have their say on priorities.
- 9.3 The Plan priorities were co-produced though building on what we already knew about Dorset as well as including the views of children, young people, parents and carers. Views from participation and engagement events resulted in co-production of the Plan's priorities with the priority of Best Place to Live being added as a direct result of the engagement. The emerging priorities were shared with a wide range of colleagues from across the partnership, including strategic partnerships, Elected Members, and voluntary and community sector, through e-newsletters and presentations.
- 9.4 The final Children, Young People and Families' Plan was agreed by the Strategic Alliance Board on the 15th September 2020 and adopted by Full Council in October 2020.

10. Development of the plan

- 10.1 The vision for Dorset Children and Young People agreed by 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 that they can be"

- 10.2 In developing the plan, the partnership also developed a set of values and principles that underpin all priorities and the wider work of the partnership:
- Always putting children and families at the heart of everything we do - including in how we develop and shape services.

- No child or family left behind - we will strive for equity of outcomes for our children, young people and their families.
- Focussing on early intervention and prevention aiming to help early in the life of a problem and provide a graduated response to need - the right help, in the right place at the right time.
- Working restoratively, doing things with families instead of to them, for them or doing nothing.
- Thinking Family and working together so that children and families receive a joined-up response and good transitions.
- Focussing on strengths within families and communities, understanding the lived experience of children.
- Staying with families until outcomes are delivered, embedded and change is sustained.
- Being inclusive - we want our children and young people to be able to get the help they need in the county that is their home.
- Empowering young people and families to use the information we give them to make decisions for themselves.
- Delivering best value for money - spending the Dorset £ in Dorset on the things that get the best outcomes for children and families.

10.3 Using analysis of data and information already known to the partnership about outcomes and performance gaps, six priorities have been identified to deliver the partnership's vision. These priorities focus on improving outcomes for all children and young people and are summarised below:

- **Best start in life:** focused on: re-imagining how services are delivered to families who are expecting and have pre-school children; ensuring the best possible start in life; and improving school readiness.
- **Young and thriving:** focused on: setting up our young people for success in adulthood; ensuring young people have a strong voice; good emotional wellbeing and mental health; preparation for adulthood; and preventing family breakdown.
- **Good care provision:** focused: on keeping our children close to home; ensuring partners are the best corporate parents; making sure there is sufficient care provision locally (foster care, residential and short breaks); supporting young people at risk of homelessness; and suitable and safe housing for care leavers.
- **Best education for all:** focused on: supporting schools and educational settings to deliver the best education possible; ensuring all children and young people can achieve their full potential; meeting the needs of children with SEND and building inclusive school cultures.
- **Best place to live:** focused on: ensuring our children and young people have accessible things to do and places to go; can get involved and influence decision making; that they experience safe, welcoming and inclusive places; contextual safeguarding; and that we work as a

partnership to provide a cleaner, greener environment for our children and young people to grow up in.

- **Delivering locally:** focused on: joining up services in Dorset to become a whole system that strengthens the ability of families to care and sustain their children; embedding the new model of children's services; identifying opportunities for service integration; and building on community assets.

11. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Alignment

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 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

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. The workplan delivers to the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Partnership priorities for Dorset and 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.

12.2 Strategic accountability for Strengthening Services is through the Strengthening Services for Children and Families in Dorset Board, a multi-agency Board comprised of executive level senior leaders across the partnership and including Elected Members. As at February 2021, good progress is being made with 58% of actions complete and embedding.

13. Next Steps

- a) The Strategic Alliance will produce an Annual Report to provide an update on progress and impact on activities delivered in the first year of the Children, Young People and Families Plan. The Annual Report will be shared with partners, Elected Members and be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the September 2021 meeting.
- b) The Annual Report will also be shared through activities and events including the wider partnership, children, young people, parents and carers. The Strategic Alliance is currently planning for an Annual Conference which it is anticipated will take place during the Summer of 2021.
- c) The Strengthening Services Board will continue to drive forward their work to strengthen services for vulnerable children and young people in Dorset and a further update will be provided within the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2021.

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.