

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 November 2024

Strategic Alliance's Children, Young People and Families' 2023-33 Plan – Annual Report 2024

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr. C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author:

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Report Status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Brief Summary:

Dorset Council is one of the strategic lead partners in Dorset's Strategic Alliance Partnership. The Strategic Alliance was formed in 2020. It co-produced and published its Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2020-23.

In June 2023, the Partnership published its updated 10-year plan, the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33.

The Plan's aim is:

“We want 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 Strategic Alliance is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services. Board members are Executive level representatives from partners across Dorset, including:

- Dorset Council
- Dorset Police
- NHS Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue
- Voluntary Community Sector
- Educational settings and Providers
- Dorset Parent Carer Partnership
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Joint Youth Justice Services

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33 contributes to the existing council priorities:

- Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology
- Creating stronger, healthier communities
- Creating sustainable development and housing
- Driving economic prosperity
- Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council

This Annual Report 2024 identifies the progress and impact the Partnership has made against our Plan to date. This is in addition to focussed and detailed progress updates, in relation to specific Plan priorities, the Strategic Alliance Board receives each quarter.

Recommendation:

Note annual progress against the Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33 up to October 2024.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure progress towards delivery of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan aligns to and contributes towards the delivery of the Council Plan.

1. Report

- 1.1 The Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33 overarching aim is: "We want Dorset to be the best place to be a child, where communities thrive, and families are supported to be the best they can be."

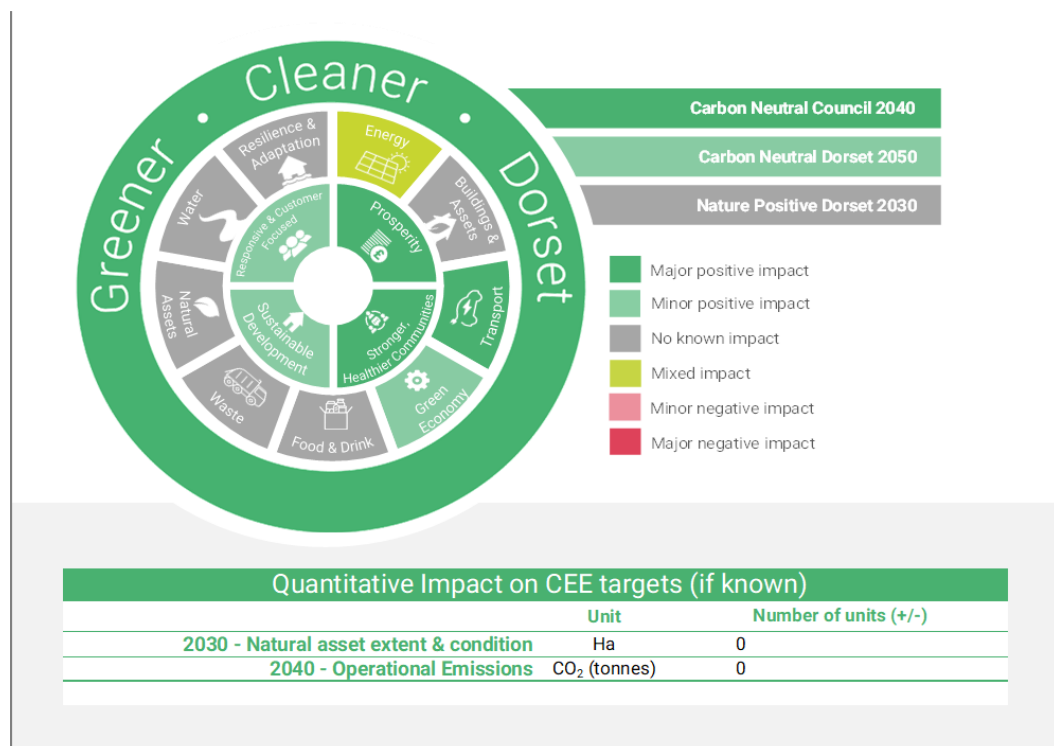
- 1.2 There are 7 priority areas in the Plan, contributing to deliver this aspiration, these are:
- Best Start In Life (BSIL)
 - Young And Thriving (YAT)
 - Good Care Provision (GCP)
 - Best Education For All (BEFA)
 - Best Place To Live (BPTL)
 - Local Family Help (LFH)
 - Safe at Home and in the Community (SHC)
- 1.3 Within the 7 priority areas, there are 99 actions listed as ‘we will’ statements within the Plan. These are long-term objectives, contributing towards improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.4 The Strategic Alliance meets each quarter to review the progress and impact against the actions and priorities.
- 1.5 The Annual Report 2024 identifies some of the summary highlights for each of the priority areas as well as the impact this has made for our children, young people and families since June 2023 to date.
- 1.6 Noting that our Plan is a 10-year plan, we will review the Plan and its priorities each year. Our next steps are to review the new Council Plan, once published, to ensure we maintain links towards impacting on its objectives. We will also review emerging local and national needs and policy to ensure our Plan remains relevant and reflects the needs and rights of our children, young people and families in our communities.
- 1.7 We will provide another Report in 2025 to inform the Council’s compliance in delivering its statutory duties in Children’s Services. This will be progressed through our partnership working, overseen by the Strategic Alliance. The Strategic Alliance will review the Plan at the Summer Conference in June or July 2025.
- 1.8 Strategic Alliance Annual Report 2024 - Appendix

2. Financial Implications

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33 and its Delivery Plan is costed and will be delivered in line with the council's budget strategy and medium-term financial plan (MTFP).

The MTFP shows how we intend to ensure that money will be prioritised to those services that matter most to residents and how the council will reshape itself to be better able to deliver those services within the available funding. This year's budget setting exercise takes place against a national and global background of extreme pressures for councils. Partners are committed to continue to work together to deliver the shared actions and aspirations of our Plan.

3. Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Implications



There are no immediate direct implications, however secondary benefits may be realised, for example, improved access to local resources reducing individual journeys taken, or increased investment in access to nature.

The Strategic Alliance, through its partner organisations, is committed to preserving and enhancing the natural environment. Each organisation is delivering its own Climate Emergency Strategy, which the partnership's Plan contributes towards.

For Dorset Council, delivering the Natural Environment, Climate and Ecological strategy, linked to the Council Plan, ensures a joined-up and consistent approach across all council services to ensure that we improve access to and use of Dorset's natural environment in a sustainable way which protects it for future generations, as well as reducing our impact on the climate.

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

The Strategic Alliance Partnership continues to deliver services to support residents with their specific needs. The Children, Young People and Families' Plan is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of children, young people and families, through the joined up, consistent delivery of across it partners. This includes the provision of universal and specialist services.

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

6.1 The level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The Strategic Alliance Partnership is committed to ensuring fair and accessible services for everyone in Dorset through the delivery of services and activities as set out in our Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33. Where the partnership makes changes to a service or offer, an equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure due regard of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan has a published [Equality Impact Assessment](#) (EQIA). A further review of the EQIA has been undertaken in October 2024, due to be published once approved by Dorset Council's Equality Panel.

8. **Appendices**

Strategic Alliance – Annual Report 2024

9. **Background Papers**

[Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2023-33](#)

10. **Report Sign Off**

- 11.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)