

## Central Bedfordshire Council

### Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 September 2017

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## Developing a new Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire

Report of:

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### Purpose of this report

1. To present the draft Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Review the draft Children and Young People's Plan **Appendix A**.
2. Comment on any further areas for partners to consider as part of the Plan development.

### Background

2. The Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire is used as a key mechanism to enable the Council and partners to consider together where outcomes need to be improved, and to measure whether actions have made a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families.
3. Work is underway to develop a new Children and Young People's Plan to 2020.
4. The Children's Leadership Board is leading on this piece of work and the position reached is set out in **Appendix A** 'Draft Children and Young People's Plan'.
5. Membership of the Children's Leadership Board includes representation from:
  - Children's Services

- Public Health
  - Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
  - Bedfordshire Police
  - Adult Services
  - Head Teachers
  - East London NHS Foundation Trust
  - Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (previously South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust)
  - Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
6. A partnership approach is being taken to improving outcomes for children and young people – with the development of a plan shaped, delivered and measured for impact with partners. The Children’s Leadership Board is being used as the vehicle for the creation of the Plan which will help to ensure partnership governance of the outcomes we are seeking.

### **Development of the New Plan**

7. The approach being taken is to develop a short, concise plan – focussed on tackling key issues that would make a difference to the lives of children and young people.
8. Data and demand analysis that supported Children’s Services Transformation Programme and the Medium Term Financial Plan have been used to determine key priorities. The following has also been subject to review:
- The latest JSNA Executive Summary
  - Director of Public Health report ‘Aiming for the best for children, young people and families in Central Bedfordshire’
  - Council and partner plans e.g. Partnership Vision for Education, SEND Vision, Children’s Services Transformation Programme and plans from Public Health, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Community Health Services.
9. The draft Plan embraces the ambition of the Children’s Services Transformation Programme with a commitment to becoming even more family centric - building an integrated multi-agency locality model.
10. From the work undertaken, the Children’s Leadership Board defined 3 core obsessions which we will seek to have a greater impact on from working together. These are:
- Reducing the number of children exposed to domestic abuse incidents
  - Improving emotional health, wellbeing and resilience
  - Improving educational outcomes across every key stage.
11. **Appendix B** provides further detail of information used to shape the Plan and define priorities and obsessions.

12. The Plan also supports delivery of the following:

- Supporting good parenting to enable children to have the best start in life;
- Focussing on self help and prevention – tackling root causes and parental risk factors to achieve positive sustained family outcomes;
- Improving the learning outcomes of children and young people in Central Bedfordshire – in particular for disadvantaged pupils;
- Recognising the unique challenges faced by adolescents - ensuring children are supported into adulthood;
- Improving the emotional wellbeing, resilience and mental health of children, young people and their families in Central Bedfordshire;
- Ensuring the voice of the child helps to shape services.

### **Engagement on Plan Development**

13. Engagement is taking place on the draft Plan which includes with:

- Children and young people – e.g. Youth Central, Youth Parliament and the Children in Care Council
- Key stakeholders e.g. Partnership Vision for Education Board and school clusters, Support and Aspiration Board, Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, Adult Safeguarding Board, Community Safety Partnership, Chief Officers Group (Youth Offending).

14. An update will be provided at this meeting on feedback received to date.

15. The final plan will be presented to the Children's Leadership Board for sign off. The Council Executive, and the Health and Wellbeing Board will be asked to endorse the Plan.

### **Council Priorities**

16. The new Children and Young People's Plan supports the Council's priorities in particular:

- Improving education and skills
- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing.

17. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive an Annual report – setting out progress against the Plan. Feedback will also be provided to the Member Reference Group and Children and Young People's Board.

### **Corporate Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

18. Children's Act 2004 places a duty on the Council to make arrangements to co-operate to improve the well-being of children.

19. The requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan was removed from Children's Trust Boards but remains with the Local Authority pursuant to the Children and Young Peoples Plan (England) Regulations 2005.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

20. Working with partners to deliver services in a more integrated way, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, remains a key driver of the Children and Young People's Plan, which also aims to deliver efficiencies. All priorities set out in the Plan will be delivered within partners' agreed financial resources.

### **Equalities Implications**

21. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
22. An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken alongside the development of the Plan to ensure that there is due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of protected characteristics. Findings to date include that support to young carers could be made more explicit in the Plan. The priority 'Protecting vulnerable children and young people' includes young carers but this will be considered further with the development of the Plan.
23. The draft plan already has a strong focus on a range of important issues, such as supporting good parenting, early intervention, domestic violence, SEN, attainment, mental health, adolescence, education, training and employment all of which will help improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

### **Risk Management**

24. Risk management will be embedded through the processes of delivery planning and performance monitoring.
25. Partner capacity is a risk to the delivery of the Plan. The development of the Plan – which includes consideration of priorities and outcomes is being led by the Children's Leadership Board (key partners are members of this Board).

## **Public Health**

26. The health and wellbeing of children and young people is an integral part of the Plan with children and young people in Central Bedfordshire being 'Happy, Healthy and Safe'.

## **Community Safety**

27. The Council has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider crime, disorder and community safety issues across all of its functions.
28. Children and young people can be particularly vulnerable in relation to crime as both victims and perpetrators. Taking action to improve children and young people's life outcomes reduces this risk.

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

29. The draft Children and Young People's Plan aims to ensure that children in Central Bedfordshire are happy, healthy and safe.
30. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the draft Plan **Appendix A** and comment on any further areas for partners to consider as part of the Plan development.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A:** Draft children and Young People's Plan

**Appendix B:** Details of Plan Development

### **Background Papers:**

None

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