
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 16 September 2014
Subject: Children's Trust Annual Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: Members are presented with the Annual Report of the Children's Trust which sets out progress in delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan June 2013 – March 2015.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Children and Young People's Plan supports the Council in delivering the following priorities:
 - Improved educational attainment.
 - Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Financial:

2. Prevention and early intervention are key drivers of the plan which are expected to deliver efficiencies in the long term. Work continues with partners to deliver services together in a more integrated way, with all priorities and actions developed within partners' current resources.

Legal:

3. Not applicable

Risk Management:

4. Risk is considered through the delivery planning process for the Children and Young People's Plan. Regular quarterly monitoring of performance supports effective risk management.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. The priorities include a number of strategic actions which identify children and young people who are not achieving, who are excluded or in vulnerable circumstances.

Public Health

7. The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the vision of wanting every young person to be 'prepared to take their full place in society as a happy, healthy, contributing and confident citizen'. This is underpinned by priorities and actions aimed at improving children's emotional and physical health.

Community Safety:

8. Not applicable.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Committee is asked to:-**

1. **Comment on progress made in 2013/14 in delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan (Annual Report - Appendix A).**
2. **Record any questions or comments that it would like the Children's Trust to consider.**

MONITORING THE PRIORITIES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYPP)**Background**

10. In 2012 the Children's Trust Board agreed to review the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014, with a clearer focus on outcomes for children and young people. As a result the plan was refreshed (Children and Young People's Plan June 2013- March 2015) and this is the first Annual Report against the new plan.
11. The Annual Report (Appendix A) sets out progress to the end of March 2014 against the following CYPP priorities:
 - Improved educational attainment
 - Protecting vulnerable children
 - Early help and improving life chances
 - Being healthy and positive.
12. The report includes:
 - An overview of progress for each of the 4 priority areas; and
 - End of year performance or quarter 4 performance for indicators agreed in the CYPP, where available.

Priority: Improved Educational Attainment

13. Performance against this priority is mixed e.g.
 - There is good performance in respect of the percentage of schools which are good or better. End of year performance shows 83% of schools and colleges are good or better according to Ofsted's overall effectiveness judgements. Ofsted publish a similar indicator which does not include colleges or sponsored Academies which are yet to be inspected and this shows Central Bedfordshire comparing well to statistical neighbours and national averages - as at 31 December 2013, 85% of Central Bedfordshire Schools are good or better, the Statistical Neighbour Average was 79% and England 80%. There is also good performance in respect of early years and childcare settings judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding/Good.
 - There are challenges in respect of the impact of pupil premium on progress, and attainment including Foundation Stage Profile, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Improving the achievement of vulnerable and disadvantaged children remains an area of focus.
14. In line with recent legislation the Council has moved quickly to appoint a Virtual School Head to champion the rights of looked after children to access to a good education and achieve their potential. The Virtual School works closely with a range of partners within Children's Services and across schools and settings to implement and monitor Personal Education Plans for all looked after children. These plans identify where additional support maybe needed to keep the child/young person attending school and making progress.
15. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received information over the past year on the impact of the Teaching School in supporting school improvement.

Priority: Protecting Vulnerable Children

16. Performance against this priority remains mainly good e.g.
 - Child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed remains 100%.
 - A high target (90%) for the percentage of children's social care assessments within 45 days of start reflects ambitious yet realistic expectations. Although this level of performance was not achieved in the provisional outturn (84.4%), this is good performance.
 - Youth Offending performance is good in respect of first time entrants to the justice system, custodial sentences and re-offending rates.
17. 2013/14 performance for percentage of cases where children become subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time where domestic abuse is a factor is just above the target for the year at 66% (Amber rating).
18. In depth discussion took place in February 2014 at Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the impact on children of living in family circumstances of domestic violence and abuse resulting in recommendations being submitted to Executive.

Priority: Early Help and Improving Life Chances

19. Performance against this priority is mixed e.g.
 - 74% of under 5 year olds from the most deprived areas are registered with Children's Centres (above 65% target).
 - The number of disadvantaged 2 year olds placed in early education/child care is off track. Actions to address this include reviewing eligibility so that more children can access funding. The position is in line with most other Local Authorities and there is also an uptake campaign planned by Central Government.
 - The Supporting Families Programme (formerly the Troubled Families Programme) has now been embedded within early help services to reflect the expected national direction of travel and focus on intensive and practical support to families displaying early signs of more significant problems which impact future life chances. Identifying enough families that meet the Government's criteria has been a significant challenge which has impacted on starting intervention work and delivering payment by results outcomes in line with Government expectations. However, work through the Programme is having a positive impact on a range of wider outcomes relating to health, education, community safety and economic wellbeing.
20. Local pilots are being rolled out across councils for development checks for 2 year olds to meet national requirements.
21. A new service was launched 1 April 2014 with Children's Social Care, Early Help Service and Family and Youth Information Service becoming the Access and Referral Team, providing "one front door" for referrals to early help and children's social care. The new team ensure that enquiries about support for families and children, services available and safeguarding concerns receive a timely response from the right individual or team so that local children and families get the support they need, when they need it.

Priority: Being Healthy and Positive

22. Performance against this priority mainly good:
 - Childhood obesity rates have continued to decrease for both children in Reception (Year R) and Year 6, and prevalence is lower in both year groups, than the national and East of England averages. The focus for 2014/15 is to strengthen the work on obesity and physical activity in school communities, and increase engagement in family weight management programmes in wards of high levels of childhood obesity.
 - The % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery has decreased slightly from 2011/12 to 2012/13, but there remain significant challenges to reduce the % of women smoking at the time of delivery in the south of Central Bedfordshire, who deliver at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.
 - Breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks have shown a slight increase in Central Bedfordshire although the challenge still remains to increase rates in the more deprived wards in the south of Central Bedfordshire. Further strengthened and targeted partnership working between the Midwifery Service and the Health Visiting Service is planned for 2014/15.
 - Under-18 conception rates have continued to fall in Central Bedfordshire in line with the national picture, and there has been a 38.7% reduction in

conceptions occurring in the under 16s between 2011-12. Work will continue locally with a specific focus in wards with high teenage pregnancy rates.

- The percentage of Looked After Children who have had their annual health assessments has increased each quarter throughout the year with 95.4% reported in Q4.
- 90.2% of looked after children were up to date with their immunisations / vaccinations 2012/13 outturn.
- Improved mental health for Looked After Children as measured by the average Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score has improved with 14.2 reported in Q4, however this remains above the target (13 which represents a normal score).

0-5 Healthy Child Programme

23. Responsibility for the commissioning of the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme Health Visiting Service will come to local authorities on 1 October 2015.
24. As part of the Government's National Health Visiting Transformation Programme, by March 2015, there will be 84 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Health Visitors in place to lead on the delivery of the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough.
25. The service will take the form of Locality Teams in each local authority, with a named Health Visitor(s) integrated into every GP Practice and Children's/Surestart Centre.

5-19 Healthy Child Programme

26. Commissioning responsibility for the 5-19 Health Child Programme School Nursing Service came to the local authority in April 2013.
27. During 2013/14 the redesign and enhancement of the School Nursing Service began to increase capacity.
28. By September 2015, all secondary school-aged children (aged 11+ years) will be able to access a regular School Nurse 'Drop-In' service for confidential advice, information, signposting and support around all key health and wellbeing issues, including mental health, emotional health and behaviour management. If a mental health issue is identified, the School Nurse can provide immediate advice and/or further assessment or referral to other agencies with interim support.
29. The Children's Trust Board agreed (at its meeting of 13 May 2014) the need to tackle the issue of substance misuse and mental health alongside domestic abuse within the priority 'Protecting Vulnerable Children' in the CYPP.

Cross Cutting Priority: Putting children at the centre of everything we do

30. A key cross cutting priority in the Children and Young People's Plan has been to put children at the centre of everything we do. At the Children's Trust Board meeting of 13 May 2014, Board members were invited to hear about the Youth Audit - the findings of young inspectors who had been invited to inspect and report on local services. The good progress being made in implementing the actions from the Youth Audit was noted.

Conclusion

31. In the first year of the Children and Young People's Plan 2013 - 2015, performance across the set of key indicators is mixed and the detail of the achievements and challenges is set out in the Annual Report. Key challenges include educational attainment, the Supporting Families Programme and the take up of early education / child care places for disadvantaged 2 year olds. Capturing the children and families voice in a systematic way remains a key area for further development.
32. Members are asked to consider the Annual Report and to make comments in relation to the progress of partners in delivering the priorities in the plan.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Annual Report: May 2014 (Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People's Plan June 2013 – March 2015).

Appendix B - Children's Trust Board Summary of CYPP indicators Quarter Four 2013/14

Background papers and their location:

Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan published at:
www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk