

## Central Bedfordshire Council

EXECUTIVE

5 December 2017

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### Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2018 - 21)

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**This report relates to a decision that is Key.**

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#### Purpose of this report

1. To present the final Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2018-21) for endorsement.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

1. **endorse the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2018-21) as set out at Appendix A.**

#### Overview and Scrutiny Comments / Recommendations

2. The draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was presented to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017. The recommendations were:
  - That the directorate consider including the impact and prevention of bullying within the priorities. *Priorities within the plan now include reference to tackling bullying.*

- That future iterations of the plan include more detail with regards to the responsibilities of partners as well as Central Bedfordshire. *Each of the 'How' bubbles within the Plan will be championed by the appropriate Council / Partner Strategic Lead.*
  - That the individual priorities be brought before the committee in their planning stages in order to track progress and influence development. *Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan to be reviewed by the Director of Children's Services.*
  - To include the nine-month health review as part of the first 1000 days of a child's life. *As one of the 5 mandated universal reviews carried out by the 0-5 Health Visiting Service, children have a health review between 9-12 months. Reference is now made in the Plan to the 9-12 month review.*
3. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its discussion on the CYPP also considered the need for parents / carers of children to be cognizant of their responsibilities. The plan makes reference to working together with families and this will be explored further in the associated action planning.

## Background

4. A partnership approach has been taken to the development of the CYPP with the Children's Leadership Board leading on this piece of work. Membership 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
  - Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.
5. The final Plan is included as **Appendix A**.

## Developing the Plan

6. The approach taken has been to develop a short, concise plan – focussed on tackling key issues that would make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

7. Work to develop the CYPP has been rigorous. Data and demand analysis supporting the Children's Services Transformation Programme and the Medium Term Financial Plan have been used to inform 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.
  
8. The CYPP 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.
  
9. From the work undertaken three core obsessions have been identified that will have the most significant impact on children and families lives. The 3 obsessions will be the focus of joint working within localities and will be carefully monitored by the CLB:
  - Reducing the number of children and young people exposed to domestic abuse incidents
  - Improving emotional health, wellbeing and resilience
  - Improving educational outcomes across every key stage, helping young people to become work ready.
  
10. **Appendix B** provides further detail of information used to shape the Plan and define priorities and obsessions.
  
11. The CYPP 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 teenagers - 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 the Development of the Plan

12. Engagement has included with:
  - Children and young people including Children in Care Council, Youth Parliament, Youth Central, Houghton Regis Youth Club.
  - Key stakeholders and boards e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board, Partnership Vision for Education Board, Support and Aspiration Board, Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, Voluntary Organisations for Children, young people and families (VOCyfp), Youth Offending Chief Officers Group.
13. A summary of feedback provided is included as **Appendix C**.

## Measuring progress against the Plan

14. The key measures detailed in the final Plan relate to the 3 obsessions - performance against which will be monitored by the Children's Leadership Board. In addition, detailed performance frameworks within Central Bedfordshire's strategic governance arrangements will also support delivery of the Plan e.g.
  - Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (CBSCB) - has a framework of measures to support improvements associated with keeping children safe.
  - Partnership Vision for Education Board – a new performance framework will be developed to ensure oversight of educational outcomes at each of the key stages and e.g. monitoring of key areas which support this e.g. attendance and exclusion.
15. The broader set of measures referenced within the earlier draft of the Plan will be aligned to the appropriate Board / Group for monitoring. (In many instances this is taking place already.)
16. Exception reporting will take place to the Children's Leadership Board – where performance is significantly under or over performing.
17. Members of the Children's Leadership Board have been nominated/ are being identified as champions for each of the 'how' bubbles within the Plan - from the following organisations:
  - First 1001 days of a child's life – Public Health
  - Targeted early help – Children's Services
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences – ELFT, Adult Services

- Children and young people with long term complex needs (including children with SEND) - Children's Services
- Unique challenges faced by teenagers – ELFT, Police, Children's Services
- Improving learning outcomes for children and young people – Partnership Vision for Education Board – supported by a number of head teacher representatives from Children's Leadership Board.
- Voice of children, young people and families – Children's Services

18. It is recommended that the Executive endorse the Plan.

### **Reason/s for decision**

19. To ensure Central Bedfordshire Council meets its statutory duty as set out in the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation with partners to improve the wellbeing of children in the authority's area.

### **Council Priorities**

20. The CYPP supports the Council's priorities in particular:

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

### **Corporate Implications sections under review**

### **Legal Implications**

21. The Children Act 2004 places a duty on the Council to make arrangements to co-operate to improve the well-being of children.
22. 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.
23. These Regulations set out the details to be included in a Children and Young People's Plan as well as the consultation and publication requirements and on going review of the Plan.
24. Consultation on the proposed Plan has been detailed within the body of the report and feedback is detailed in the Appendices.

25. The details to be included in the Plan are as follows:

**4 Matters to be dealt with in the plan**

(1) *Each plan shall set out the improvements which the authority intend to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and relevant young persons so far as relating to--*

- (a) *physical and mental health and emotional well being;*
- (b) *protection from harm and neglect;*
- (c) *education, training and recreation;*
- (d) *the contribution made by them to society; and*
- (e) *social and economic well-being*

*(referred to in this regulation as the "outcomes").*

(2) *Each plan shall in particular include--*

*[(a) a statement as to how the authority intend to achieve the improvements referred to in regulation 4(1), with specific reference to the following--*

- (i) the integration of services provided by the authority and its relevant partners to improve the well-being of children and relevant young persons;*
- (ii) arrangements made by the authority under section 11(2) of the Children Act 2004 (arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare); and*
- (iii) arrangements for early intervention and preventative action;]*

- (b) a needs assessment against the outcomes;*
- (c) an outline of the key actions planned to achieve the improvements so far as relating to the outcomes;*
- (d) a statement as to how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to those improvements; and*
- (e) a statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons.*

(3) *Each plan shall set out the arrangements which the authority propose (pursuant to section 10) to make for working during the plan period with the authority's relevant partners and such other bodies as the authority consider appropriate.*

26. The Plan is written at a high level in order to be concise and readable. Where any required information is not included other documents or policies which contain such information have been referenced so as to comply with the Regulations.
27. The requirements for publication and review of the Plan as detailed within the Regulations should be followed in the future.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

28. 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.
29. Risk management will be embedded through the processes of delivery planning and performance monitoring.
30. 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).

### **Equalities Implications**

31. 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.
32. An Equality Impact Assessment has been 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.
33. The Plan 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. Findings include:

- The Plan references the need to protect vulnerable children and young people. This includes young carers but further clarity is required in the action planning as to the support provided to young carers.
  - There is a need to ensure that performance frameworks developed and monitored consider the need to improve educational outcomes for children with SEND.
  - There is a gap in the information in prevalence data and qualitative information around issues of gender identity and sexual orientation. The 2017/18 SHEU Survey will build on our understanding of the issues faced by LGB & T pupils with questions on how much they worry about their gender identity/sexual orientation and where they go to for help with this. This data will need to be reviewed.
34. The above findings will be taken into consideration with the associated action planning.

### **Public Health Implications**

35. 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 Implications**

36. 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. 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**

37. The Children and Young People's Plan focuses on current issues identified for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.
38. An annual report will be produced – setting out progress made against the Plan. Feedback will also be provided to the Member's Reference Group and the Children and Young People's Board.



## **Appendices**

- Appendix A:** Children and Young People's Plan (2018–21)  
**Appendix B:** Information used to shape the Plan  
**Appendix C:** Feedback summary

The following Appendix is provided through an electronic link:

Details in respect of the Equality Impact Assessment:

<http://www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cbct/useful-links/useful-links>

## **Background Papers**

The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:

**None**

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