



Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

8 July 2015

Report title	Children Young People & Families Plan 2015-25	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, Strategic Director, People	
Originating service	Children & Young People	
Accountable employee(s)	Kush Patel	Strategic Improvement Development Officer
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Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	23 June 2015
	Children's Trust Board	20 May 2015
	People Leadership Team	11 May 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. To support Wolverhampton's Children, Young People & Families Plan 2015-25.
2. To endorse the Children's Trust Board governance arrangements.

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the Children, Young People & Families Plan is to set out what Children's Trust partners will do so that children, young people and families in Wolverhampton can live healthy, happy lives. This plan sets out priorities for the next ten years. Comments are invited on how we feedback the progress of the plan. The plan is attached at Appendix A.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On October 31 2010 the coalition government announced an overhaul of Children's Trusts. This included revoking all statutory guidance on Children's Trusts. The changes meant that: schools will no longer have a duty to co-operate through Children's Trusts, local authorities will no longer be required to set up Children's Trust Boards and Children's Trusts will no longer be required to publish a local Children and Young People's Plan.
- 2.2 It is important to note that this does not mean the abolition of Children's Trusts. The basic duty to co-operate, set out in the Children Act 2004, continued. However, there was greater flexibility in the local partnership arrangements to improve children's well-being.
- 2.3 Children's services have seen significant changes at both national and local levels. There have been changes in organisational structures and in service delivery across the children's services partnership. Funding changes have meant that some health-related initiatives have ended or are being delivered and targeted in new ways. New legislation has abolished Primary Care Trusts and has set up groups of General Practitioners (GP's) who are responsible for commissioning many areas of child health provision. Health and Wellbeing Boards have been established. Local Authorities have taken responsibility for public health. We have seen the introduction of new types of schools, schools becoming responsible for commissioning services, and responsibility for school improvement being increasingly shared between the local authority and schools themselves.
- 2.4 Amongst so much change, the strategic oversight was ever more important. The previous Children and Young People's Plan expired in 2014. In deciding whether a new plan was going to be developed, the Lead Member for Children and Families along with the Service Director consulted with stakeholders on the future direction of Children's Trust. The conclusion was an overwhelming commitment to continue with Wolverhampton Children Trust Board and the development of a new children, young people and families plan. There was a unanimous commitment by Board members on;
 - Wanting the best for our children, young people & families
 - Partnership working and to supporting the wider regeneration of the city
 - Children, young people and families being the centre of everything we do

➤ Utilising resources effectively and efficiently

2.5 The Children's Trust Board consists of Wolverhampton City Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, West Midlands Police, Royal Hospital Trust, Wolverhampton College, Black Country Foundation Trust, Schools and Wolverhampton Third Sector. The board gives strategic leadership, direction and drives change. Appendix B shows the governance arrangements.

3.0 Progress with developing the Children, Young People & Families Plan

3.1 The Children, Young People & Families Plan is a ten year plan. The development of the plan was overseen by the Children's Trust Board.

3.2 The plan is based on the principles of; working in genuine collaboration with children and families; mutual respect of the rich culture of our City; intervening early and effectively, being proactive and not waiting until crisis point; embracing innovation, & being more creative; remembering happiness is important and striving for the highest standards.

3.3 It has been developed through a range of organisations working together to share information and through seeking the views of children, young people, parents and carers. This plan wants to achieve an improvement in how healthy and happy children, young people and families living in Wolverhampton are. From the information gathered, there were four clear priority areas. These are:

- Child Poverty
- Education, Training and Employment
- Family Strength
- Health

3.4 To measure the success of the priorities, a broad suite of outcomes and performance measures has been identified. This will allow a comprehensive analysis to be undertaken which will inform and reassure the Children's Trust Board that the priorities of the Board are being met and highlight any areas of potential concern.

3.5 The Children Trust Board is keen to ensure stakeholders, children, young people and families are kept informed on progress. In February 2015, the Children Trust formally approved the Plan, setting out the priorities for the next ten years. The event was attended by over 200 delegates from the public, private and voluntary sector. The Board reaffirmed their commitment in keeping stakeholders involved through annual events, newsletters and annual reports.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the development of the Children, Young People & Families Plan. In implementing the Plan, areas may be

identified that require additional resources. These will need to be met through existing budgets in relation to the Council's engagement in this work.

[NM/24062015/S]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

[Legal Code: TS/24062015/L]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 An Equalities analysis was completed alongside the development of the Plan. Moreover, equalities is embedded within the performance function of the Plan. All accountable organisations will have an equalities strand which must be reported on as part of the performance update. A key element of the plan is reducing inequalities, nationally, regionally and locally in all 4 priority areas.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None