

**Strong Families, Children and
Young People Scrutiny Panel**
5 October 2022

Report title	Transforming Children's Services Programme 2021-22 Annual Report	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi and Councillor Chris Burden Children and Young People and Education, Skills, and Work	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director Families	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Andrew Wolverson Tel Email	Deputy Director Commissioning and Transformation 01902 555550 Andrew.wolverson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Joint Leadership Team CYP Scrutiny Panel Strategic Executive Board Councillor Briefing Executive Board	8 September 2022 5 October 2022 11 October 2022 18 October 2022 7 November 2022

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

1. Review and comment on the content of the Transforming Children's Services Programme 2021-22 Annual Report.
2. Receive the 2022-23 Annual Report in September 2023.

Recommendations for noting:

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note:

1. The achievements and successes for this reporting year against programme outcomes.
2. The priorities for the next reporting year 2022-23

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Strong Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the Transforming Children's Services Programme 2021-22 Annual Report (see appendix 1) including key achievements, progress against outcomes and priorities for the next reporting year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This 2021-22 Annual Report is the second for the Transforming Children's Services Programme (TCSP).
- 2.2 TCSP is a programme made up of a collection of projects set out to achieve objectives that contribute to one or more programme outcomes.
- 2.3 Each project under the programme is carefully scoped to ensure it aligns to the vision for transformation and most importantly, that our projects positively impact the lives of children, young people, and families across the city.
- 2.4 In late 2020, TCSP went through a full programme refresh which resulted in an updated and repurposed TCSP Mandate setting out a clear vision, measurable outcomes, and a detailed programme business case – all approved and owned by its programme Board. Using these key documents as the basis for all future planning, TCSP produced its first Annual Report in 2021 (covering the period April 2020 to March 2021) which evidenced the impact and progress projects under the programme were making against eight agreed outcomes. This report was presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel in September 2021.
- 2.5 The 2020-21 Annual Report documented the transformation journey of Children's Services reflecting on key achievements since 2016. Due to the positive feedback received on the first-year report, the ambition for 2021-22 was to continue showcasing the innovative work that TCSP projects deliver improving the lives of children, young people and families across Wolverhampton.
- 2.6 TCSP continues to mature as a programme with robust governance and accountability throughout. The programme remains focussed on outcomes with priorities that contribute to City of Wolverhampton Council's (CWC) corporate vision through a One Council approach.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 TCSP this year is reported as a £12 million pound programme that has seen many more great successes across all of its projects.
- 3.2 New to this year's report is an assurance section evidencing how, over the past 12-months, TCSP has self-assessed quality, and compliance of its projects against

corporate project methodology standards as well as having reviewed how the overall programme remains outcomes focussed.

- 3.4. The TCSP Board have remained committed to transformation through regular discussion at leadership meetings three times yearly and by regularly hearing back at its Board how closed projects have continued to realise benefits for services as well as opportunity for the Board to consider if new transformation opportunities present.
- 3.3 The report includes positive testament to transformation from inspectors across a number of regulatory visits in 2021 and 2022 as well as a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) appraisal which also captures praise for successful delivery of projects alongside reflection on what will be our likely priorities over the coming year.
- 3.4 TCSP has eight agreed outcomes with measures against each one. Every project that is scoped under the programme is aligned to these outcomes. Successes this year include:
 - 3.4.1 The launch of the first TCSP communications plan seeing 2758 articles views on City People, 84 social media posts, reaching 633,380 people online, creating 114,176 social media impressions.
 - 3.4.2 88 individuals involved in the development of the creation of the 'Graduated Response' as part of the Culture of Belonging project. The Graduated Response is an evidence-based approach that will eventually assist all education settings in correctly and quickly identifying SEND needs.
 - 3.4.3 A Provider Reference Group established within the Transformation of Traded Services project with a membership of 50 internal CWC departments, all working together to co-design delivery, a marketing plan and brand and robust trading terms with schools – One Council.
 - 3.4.5 150 families reached as part of the Culture of Belonging 'Journey of Change' parent training offer helping parents to understand their role in the wider support system and how they can empower themselves and their children on relationships, behaviour, and communication strategies.
 - 3.4.6 Supporting Families bringing £1.3 million into the city this reporting year supporting 461 families with eligible needs to work towards or successfully achieve significant and sustained progress.
 - 3.4.7 Wolverhampton Young Opportunities – YO! website received 94,500 unique page views since its launch in July 2021.
 - 3.4.8 Culture of Belonging project launched two professional qualifications for people working with vulnerable learners: A Master's Level Accredited Leading Mental Health in Schools Award and the Autism Leaders Award, feedback received 'I think this should be a compulsory course for all schools as it is has been transformative in our thinking and everyday practice.'

- 3.4.9 HeadStart achieved accreditation from the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) Association for its 'Emotional and Mental Well-Being Toolkit' which is now published and available to all schools nationally for use as part of their curriculum.
- 3.4.10 Family Values project closed in July 2021 having achieved a net gain of 72 foster carers with 30 more young people placed 'in house' since the project began which equates to £989,000 in cost avoidance.
- 3.4.11 The Inclusion Support and Alternative Provision Panel (ISAPP) received 97 referrals for children and young people on the verge of school exclusion. In the 6 months following their referral 92 (95%) were not permanently excluded, 94 pupils (97%) received no fixed term exclusion, 55 attended school more regularly, four pupils received an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with four more in process, 14 were subsequently re-referred for further support.
- 3.4.12 Back on Track, part of Culture of Belonging project, was relaunched focussing on early intervention and trauma informed support for young people, parents, carers, and schools with the aim of reducing the risk of entering into anti-social or offending behaviour. 29 young people have been referred with 23 remaining engaged with the programme.
- 3.4.13 Closure of the Headstart project saw 13,000 children and young people over six years take part in one or more activity or intervention that focussed on strategies and techniques to better protect and promote positive emotional mental health, wellbeing, and resilience.
- 3.5 Finally, the Annual Report concludes with how the team and the Board have responded to the priorities we set ourselves in 2021 and that for 2022-23, there will be a focus on our corporate principles: climate conscious, driven by digital and fair and equal.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report and financial impact of the projects within TCSP are discussed within the attached report. Any costs as a result of the attached report are met from the existing budgets attached to each individual projects.
[JB/27092022/I]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications in the context of this report.
[TC/22092022/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 TCSP remains committed to equalities, diversity, and inclusion. Each project agreed under the programme, and in accordance with the corporate project management methodology, has to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) which goes on to

be presented at a Project Assurance Group (of which Equalities colleagues are a member of).

6.2 An EIA will define the impact of project objectives in the context of protected characteristics.

6.3 An EIA on TCSP outcomes remains a priority task for the programme team in 2022-23.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications in the context of this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications in the context of this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications in the context of this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 TCSP Annual Report 2020-21