

Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019 - Report on progress of year 1
(1 April 2016 to 31st March 2017)

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Frances Nicholson – Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster, Director of Children’s Services

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	31/05/17
	Monitoring Officer	Julian Gale	31/05/17
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	31/05/17
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	31/05/17
	Property / Procurement / ICT	Richard Williams	31/05/17
	Senior Manager	Julian Wooster	31/05/17
	Local Member(s)	N/A	31/05/17
	Cabinet Member	Cllr F Nicholson	31/05/17
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr J Lock	31/05/17
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Leigh Redman	31/05/17
Forward Plan Reference:	FP/16/11/10		
Summary:	<p>The Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019 (CYPP) was approved by Cabinet in May 2016, and was further endorsed by Full Council in May 2016. This is a multi-agency plan that reflects the commitment of strategic partners and the Leader of Somerset County Council for children’s services to be ‘good’ or ‘better’ in three years. This report provides a progress update on the first year of the CYPP against each of the 7 Improvement Programmes designed to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.</p>		
Recommendations:	<p>That Cabinet acknowledge the significant work that has been undertaken to date and endorse the improvements and achievements in delivering the seven improvement programmes.</p>		
Reasons for Recommendations:	<p>The CYPP sets the vision and priorities for partners and this progress report for year 1 of the plan evidences the improvements in delivery of Somerset Children’s Services’ particularly the functions of Children’s Social Care.</p>		
Links to Priorities and Impact on Service Plans:	<p>The Children’s Services Improvement journey has been a key priority for the local authority since the Ofsted inspection in 2015, focusing on improving practice and quality of services throughout 2016/17 and into 2017/18.</p>		

<p>Consultations undertaken:</p>	<p>All due consultations were undertaken, during the development of the Children & Young People’s Plan (CYPP), prior to its approval by Cabinet in May 2016. There is continuing involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the CYPP by the Cabinet Member, Opposition Spokesperson, Children’s Scrutiny and Children’s Trust Executive and Board members.</p>						
<p>Financial Implications:</p>	<p>The Children and Young People’s Plan is fully costed and was approved at Cabinet in May 2016.</p> <p>The CYPP has been prepared in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The seven priorities outlined in the plan are to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of SCC and its partners, taking into account anticipated reductions over the next three years. For SCC this plan is costed to look at the average spend of a “good” local authority utilising the CIPFA benchmarking tool and modelling what SCC’s budgets over the next three years should look like based on expected activity levels. SCC’s commitment to protect services that support Somerset’s most vulnerable children and families is reflected by the investment of an additional £6m in the Children’s Social Care base budget.</p> <p>Ongoing financial monitoring of the CYPP is reported by the Director of Finance through his regular reports to Cabinet.</p>						
<p>Legal Implications:</p>	<p>N/A</p>						
<p>HR Implications:</p>	<p>Workforce is the main theme of Improvement Programme 7 and the HR/OD Director has submitted his findings as part of the quarterly reporting arrangements.</p>						
<p>Risk Implications:</p>	<p>The principal risk lies in the failure to secure improvement which would not deliver the Council’s ambitions in relation to improved outcomes for children and young people in Somerset. This could also result in further intervention by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>There is a Corporate Risk for Safeguarding Children (ORG0009) and its current score is 20. There are a number of management actions and mitigations for managing this risk. SLT and the Cabinet Member regularly monitor the management of this risk.</p>						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Likelihood</td> <td>4</td> <td>Impact</td> <td>5</td> <td>Risk Score</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	Likelihood	4	Impact	5	Risk Score	20
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<p>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</p>	<p>These implications have been considered on an ongoing basis as part of the delivery of the 7 Improvement Programmes.</p>						
<p>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</p>	<p>The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee receive quarterly performance reports against each of the 7 improvement programmes.</p>						

1. Background

- 1.1. The overall aim of the Children & Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 is to build the ambition and confidence across the partnership, showing partners' joint intentions and the framework by which we will improve. The plan is supported by more detailed strategies and actions through its 7 Improvement Programmes over the lifetime of the plan. The key features of our partnership plans are:

Prevention - and addressing issues early and effectively

Child and family centred – keeping children, young people and their families at the heart of everything we do

Collaboration - working with others to effectively use our resources in commissioning and delivery of services

Integration - providing joined up care and support that is not hindered by organisational, service or professional boundaries.

1.2 The 7 Improvement Programmes are:

1. Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient
2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life
3. Improving emotional health and well-being
4. Building Skills for Life
5. Providing help early and effectively
6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service
7. Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the workforce.

The CYPP has completed the first year of the plan (2016-17); focusing on seven improvement programmes, with delivery boards across the partners of the Somerset Children's Trust having the responsibility for delivering against these programmes. Each delivery group has a chair, a SCT Lead Sponsor and member support to progress against their annual action plans. Quarterly reporting to the Children's Trust Executive in the form of Highlight Reports evidences where progress is being made and where barriers to success have been identified and overcome – Appendix 2.

This report highlights the activity and impact against each of the 7 improvement programmes at the end of the first year and the progress toward achieving the intended outcomes outlined in the CYPP. There are positive messages as new services embed, more information and training is delivered across our workforce and partners, new partnerships form and systems and processes improve.

There remains much to do and the forward focus will be the delivery of the CYPP over the remaining two years. This takes the Authority beyond compliance and towards delivering improved quality, resulting in sustained improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Somerset.

2. Progress and Impact in Year 1

- 2.1 In addition to measures being used to assess the delivery of the seven improvement programmes the CYPP also includes a set of overarching measures designed to assess "How we will know we made a difference". Progress against these measures is set out in Appendix 1. These are a range of outcome type measures which, by their nature can take a longer timeframe before showing improvement resulting from the activity within the improvement programmes. Work plans for 2017/18 and beyond will continue to focus on

actions that will influence the achievement of these measures.

2.2 The table below shows the main improvements over 2016/17.

	<p>Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 7 Improvement Programmes</p> <p>What have we achieved in 2016/17?</p>
<p>Programme 1 Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of service resources and promoting them on Somerset Choices and other relevant websites • West Somerset Opportunity Area has been identified with the DfE to address low social mobility; £6m over the next 3 years has been secured to support the action plan from 17/18 • Mapping of parenting programmes across Somerset in Year 1 is completed with 5 major initiatives identified which will be rolled out across venues and partners in Year 2 • More positive relationships built with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) and their commitment to continue to provide services during a period of higher acuity of need, reduced capacity and fewer funding opportunities. In our communities there is a generally improving picture around rates of re-offending, anti-social behaviour, repeat domestic abuse and worklessness in young people and adults, as evidenced by the data collected for the annual dashboard.
<p>Programme 2 Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful childhood immunisation programme • Reduction in childhood obesity in Reception and year 6 • Reduction in teenage conceptions • Support for parents has included public health campaigns, training and self-help resources, including the prevention of sudden infant deaths • An infant feeding strategy has been drafted, there has been a small improvement in sustained breastfeeding but a small reduction in initiation rates and next year's activities include further roll out of breastfeeding friendly venues, champion lay supporters and more training. • The proportion of Somerset mothers reported to be smoking at the time of delivery reports improvement year on year; however, Somerset remains above the national average. • There is a very small improvement in hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injuries in children aged 0 -14 years, but rates remain significantly higher than nationally • Our percentage of 5 year olds with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth is in line with the national average at 23.1% but has reduced since previous years. The targeted fluoride varnishing and tooth brushing programmes that has been in place in 2016/17 should evidence future improvements.
<p>Programme 3 Improving emotional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year has seen the full launch of elements of the new Children & Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

<p>health and well-being</p>	<p>services – Single Point of Access, Enhanced Outreach and Community Eating Disorder Service. The implementation of the new Improving Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being in Schools service is also now underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emotional Health and Well Being Team has recruited a Team Manager and social workers. There has also been the recruitment of one part time Psychologist and agreement for a further post is agreed. An interim arrangement has been in place via the Educational Psychologist team. • As a result of the reported increase in the admissions to hospital for self-harm 10-24 years, a deeper dive across the South West region is being instigated, and is an action on the 17/18 improvement programme action plan. • CAMHS has worked with the Acute Hospitals to launch a Deliberate Self Harm Pathway for under 18 year olds and has placed CAMHS specific Psychiatric Liaison Nurses in the hospitals. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of this pathway and posts will be detailed in the updated CAMHS transformation programme plan.
<p>Programme 4 Building Skills for Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Ofsted judgements on early years and schools settings; school readiness levels are improving and GCSE results are improving but there remains a mixed picture around school absence. • The Team Around the School model which is a multi-agency approach to early help has been highly successful with majority secondary schools now engaged. • The rates of young people participating in education, training and apprenticeships is improving; however, the rate for care leavers has reduced slightly and this improvement will be addressed through Programme 6's 2017/18 work plan in conjunction with the Corporate Parenting Board's work plan.
<p>Programme 5 Providing help early and effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more robust Early Help process is now in place, evidenced by increased use and improving quality of Early Help Assessments and the embedding of the Effective Support for children and families document which outlines the thresholds of care for early help, targeted and specialist support • Much of 2016/17 has been about improving systems and tools to enable practitioners to be more effective in their roles. This has included the rollout of Professional Choices, which incorporates a multi-agency who's who directory of staff and Virtual Meeting Rooms which allows staff to share documents and collaborate on discussions / meetings. • The Early Help Case Management system was launched at the end of March 2017 within the getset service which will enable staff to deal more efficiently with case recording and therefore spend more time with families
<p>Programme 6 Achieving effective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted quarterly monitoring visits have concluded adequate progress is being made and DfE intervention has confirmed a

<p>multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</p>	<p>“significant improvement” in Somerset’s Children’s Services, including more manageable case-loads, a more stable workforce and better partnership working as reported by the Minister in December 2016. However more work is required to secure consistently good services and address remaining weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) service is progressing well under the leadership of the police alongside the procurement of a new Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) service by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) • The number of children who are adopted without unnecessary delay has increased although the measurement for this is based on low numbers of prospective adopters against higher numbers of children needing placements. • Rates of children in need, child protection and children looked after are generally lower than our statistical neighbours but not yet in line with good performing authorities. • The Corporate Parenting Board has been strengthened over this year with the development and implementation of a new Corporate Parenting Strategy with supporting action plans. A performance dashboard has been established which allows members to scrutinise the performance of partners. Helping members to understand their role in relation to corporate parenting has been developed to include presentations at district councils, the production of a guide for local councillors, and establishing an ongoing training programme. • A new pathways to independence service (p2i) providing accommodation support for care leavers and vulnerable young people was commissioned in 2016 with our district councils, building on the previous service; the new service specification has been recognised as good practice by a leading national housing expert. • Finally, the outcome for a reduced demand on statutory services can be measured as reduced numbers of referrals to Childrens Social Care
<p>Programme 7 Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a reduction in the use of agency social work staff and a more permanent social care work force; however, retention remains a concern • Caseloads of social workers remain at around 14 (end of Qtr 4 – 14.7 cases); the lowest number reported was in Quarter 2 which was 12 cases per social worker on average.

The Children’s Trust Executive are pleased with the progress over this year but recognise there is still a significant amount of work to do. Action plans for 2017/18 have been drawn up with a focus on a stepped improvement over this second year to ensure year 3 achieves the outcomes of the CYPP in 2019.

3. Governance

- 3.1** As the CYPP is a partnership plan the partnership commitment is overseen by the Somerset Children's Trust Board which is Somerset's lead body in relation to the 'duty to co-operate' statutory responsibilities. The safeguarding aspects of the plan will be monitored by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board. Each programme reports to a relevant multi-agency board and reports quarterly to the Children's Trust Executive and Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.

See Appendix 3 : Board Diagram

4. Background papers

Somerset Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019

- 4.1** <http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/reports.asp?item=1305>
- 4.2** Children and Young People's Plan Annual Dashboard (Appendix 1)
- 4.3** Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 Year 1 Quarter 4 Executive Summary (Appendix 2)
- 4.4** Somerset Children's Trust Governance Diagram (Appendix 3)