

Children & Young People’s Plan 2016 – 2019

Report on progress of Year 2 (1 April 2017 to 31st March 2018)

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

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	25/06/2018
	Monitoring Officer	Scott Woolridge	18/06/2018
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	25/06/2018
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	25/06/2018
	Property / Procurement / ICT	Richard Williams	25/06/2018
	Senior Manager	Julian Wooster	25/06/2018
	Local Member(s)	N/A	
	Cabinet Member	Cllr F Nicholson	25/06/2018
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr J Lock	
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Leigh Redman	
Forward Plan Reference:	FP/18/04/07		
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 - Appendix 4.1. 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 second 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 7 Improvement Programmes.</p>		
Reasons for Recommendations:	<p>The CYPP sets the vision and priorities for partners and this progress report for Year 2 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. Since the implementation of the CYPP, Ofsted have undertaken their re-inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in November 2017 and judged children’ services in Somerset “require improvement to be good”. All subsequent actions will be focused on the improvement journey to achieve “Good.”</p>		

Consultations undertaken:	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 delivery and monitoring of the CYPP by the Cabinet Member, Opposition Spokesperson, Children’s Scrutiny and Children’s Trust Executive and Board members.					
Financial Implications:	<p>The Children and Young People’s Plan was approved and fully costed at Cabinet in May 2016.</p> <p>The CYPP has been prepared and is being delivered 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>					
Legal Implications:	N/A					
HR Implications:	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.					
Risk Implications:	<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 15. 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>					
	Likelihood	3	Impact	5	Risk Score	15
Other Implications (including due regard implications):	These implications have been considered on an ongoing basis as part of the delivery of the 7 Improvement Programmes.					
Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):	The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee receive quarterly performance reports against each of the 7 Improvement Programmes.					

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 second year of the plan (2017/18) with a detailed action plan focusing on 7 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 4.3.

This report highlights the activity and impact against each of the 7 Improvement Programmes at the end of the second year and the progress toward achieving the intended outcomes outlined in the CYPP.

2. Progress and Impact in Year 2

- 2.1 In addition to measures being used to assess the delivery of the 7 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 4.2. These include a number 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 2018/19 will continue to focus on actions that will influence the achievement of these measures.

The SCT have considered the maturity of the partnership and whether this has effected a more collaborative and collegiate approach. The Partnership Team promoted the CYPP and its progress with partners during a series of community events to promote the Young People's Strategy. They were able to report that operationally, staff report, and are able to demonstrate, the benefits of a stronger partnership approach; however capacity and

resource are the barriers to full collaboration. It is intended to undertake a survey across SCT partners to ascertain a wider staff view and help to inform the development of the next CYPP.

2.2 The table below shows the main improvements over 2017/18.

	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 – 2019 7 Improvement Programmes What have we achieved in 2017/18?
Programme 1 Supporting children, families and communities to be more resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Somerset Opportunity Area and Department for Education social mobility programme action plan has been published and is now being implemented • The SEND Local Offer has been reviewed and refreshed, and a new platform and website developed to launch in Year 3 • There has been significant work towards increasing volunteering capability with the rebrand and launch of Somerset You Can Do listing and promoting opportunities • Work towards personalised budgets has been achieved, the Statement of Intent approved outlining how each partner applies their own personal budget process against the overarching statement of intent
Programme 2 Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust parenting offer has been provided through the online Parent Carer Toolkit, parenting courses and working with getset services • A second bid was submitted to NHS England for specialist Perinatal Infant and Mental Health services funding • Breastfeeding support in Somerset has been enhanced with volunteer Breastfeeding Champions trained across the county, and the launch of digital breastfeeding support • Great success has been achieved with the Smoking at the Time of Delivery campaign. As a result of the work across Somerset with the Smokefree Alliance by 2017/18 a fantastic 1000 extra babies were born smoke free since 2011 • Better relationships have been developed with General Practitioners to provide information to Education, Health and Care Plans • The Health and Well-being Survey has been launched in primary and secondary schools – the results are expected in September 2018 (Y3Q2)
Programme 3 Improving emotional health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased our work on self-harm including the implementation of a self-harm action plan and two self-harm Tier 2 liaison posts • Provided greater access to mental health support through a single point of access, on-line counselling, greater emotional health and well-being work in schools and meeting referral targets into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) • The new Kooth online counselling service has increased mental health support at Tier 2, with 430 young people now

	<p>registered and 104 receiving online counselling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Schools Health and Resilience Education (SHARE) service is now implemented • Clinical Psychologist for the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team has commenced in post • Phoenix service (Child Sexual Abuse support service) is now implemented with a positive uptake on requests for support • 406 staff have been trained in Emotion Coaching with uptake set to increase in Year 3 with primary phase staff
<p>Programme 4 Building Skills for Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Around the School project has been embraced and established in all schools across the county, with quality assurance process to support their work • Greater access to careers and transition advice, especially for vulnerable learners and those distanced from education • 12 TalentEd Academies are now running across Somerset for vocational learners with over 200 young people engaged, these are making good contact with engaged employers in key Somerset employment sectors • There has been success in the High Risk of Being NEET work where 91% of students remain in their chosen destination
<p>Programme 5 Providing help early and effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted recognition of improvements in the getset service although more needs to be done by partners to achieve effective early help • Significant development work undertaken and a public consultation exercise held to inform proposals for an integrated Family Support Service which will encompass getset services, health visitors and school nurses as a first phase. This was approved by SCC Cabinet in February 2018. • The Neglect Strategy was launched at the Neglect Conference in November 2017 which was well attended by over 100 multi-agency delegates • The Young Person's Strategy work has progressed well with an action plan being drafted, and the development and implementation of the Community Adolescent Team (CAT) which will support young people at risk of coming into the care of SCC • Improved partnership work with the 4 local Area Advisory Boards including joint reporting through the Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board • Professional Choices early help tools and systems have been successfully embedded as a multiagency tool to do the job, with 1,913 multiagency professionals now registered • Launch of the Young carers Safeguarding policy and improved support for Young carers in school which will develop further with training in Year 3
<p>Programme 6 Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An improved Ofsted judgement in November 2017 has led to the development and implementation of plans for Getting to Good. The recommendations from the Ofsted report are contained within the Year 3 action plan • There has been systemic leadership and supervision training across the management team, leading to better management overview and case direction

excellent children's social work service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and successful implementation of Family Group Conferences leading to a reduction in children coming into local authority care and better support to remain with their families • Virtual School capacity has been increased to provide support for 16 to 18 year olds in care or leaving care to access education, training or employment. • Progress on joint work with the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board led to the ratification of the Neglect Strategy, the launch of the Unborn Baby Protocol and the re-launched Missing Children Protocol
<p>Programme 7 Embedding a 'Think Family' approach across the workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Assisted & Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) social worker programme • Although not reaching target of 75% permanent social care workforce, there is now 62.4% permanent front line social workforce in place • The multiagency Think Family Strategy is drafted for approval and implementation in Year 3

The Children's Trust Executive is pleased with the progress over this year but recognises there are still some areas where improvements have not met targets. The Executive is aware that recruitment and retention issues, a lack of relevant data to evidence progress and a lack of capacity across partners to drive the programme into its final year are of concern.

Year 3 of the CYPP

The action plans now in place for Year 3 show that there is still work to do to achieve the overall ambitions of the CYPP and the forward focus will be the implementation and evaluation of the CYPP over the final year. This takes the Authority beyond compliance and towards delivering improved quality, resulting in sustained improved outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Somerset. The main areas of activity during year 3 will include:

- Development of the Family Support Service
- Implementation of the West Somerset Opportunity Area delivery plans
- Expansion of the Parenting Support offer; including advocacy for parents
- Delivery of actions from Ofsted recommendations
- Addressing placement sufficiency challenges
- Delivering the improved SEND Local Offer
- Developing stronger links between schools and their communities to address the needs of more vulnerable learners i.e. Elective Home Educated and Free School Meals, so they achieve in line with their peers
- Implementing the perinatal and infant mental health strategy
- Implement the Infant Feeding Strategy
- Launch new personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) training to teachers.
- Developing a more robust health contribution to education, health and care plans (EHCP)
- Embed the ethos of Think Family across the partnership
- Identify and implement effective early intervention work across the partnership
- Improved emotional health and well-being support with a focus on improving rates of self-harm
- Develop leadership attributes in Children's Services towards our 'Getting to Good'

journey

Year 3 will also give an opportunity to prepare for the next CYPP through co-production events with children, young people, their carers and families, local communities and the people that work with children and young people. A draft CYPP is anticipated for sign off by the SCT Executive by the end of Quarter 3, Year 3.

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 4.4 : Board Diagram

4. Background Papers

- 4.1** [Somerset Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan 2016 - 2019](#)