

Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-19

Lead Officer: Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Performance

Author: Fiona Phur, Partnership Business Manager – Children’s Commissioning

Contact Details: FZPhur@somerset.gov.uk; 01823 355259

Cabinet Member: Frances Nicholson, Lead Member for Children and Families

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

1.1. Somerset County Council has developed a three year Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) commencing April 2016 setting out the actions we and our partners are taking to continue and sustain improvements in children’s services. The plan follows a multi-agency approach, overseen by Somerset Children’s Trust. Seven improvement programmes, managed by the relevant Board for each improvement area are in place, as follows:

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

1.2. Children and families are a key theme within the County Plan 2016-20, recognising the importance of providing the information and advice families need to help themselves and of focusing our help early and effectively when needed. The key priorities are to improve children’s safeguarding services; to improve exam results, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils; and to improve children’s health and wellbeing.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

2.1. The Children and Young People’s Plan 2016-19 is the strategic plan for Somerset Children’s Trust, providing the focus for partners’ actions and investment and the means by which the Department for Education will measure our improvement. The plan is reported upon on a quarterly basis and we are now reporting upon Quarter 4 and end of Year 1. Additional promotion of the plan takes place between quarterly reporting through practitioner engagement meetings, newsletters, the SCC website, social media networks and individual requests from services to be educated and informed of the plan’s vision that Somerset children and young people are safe, healthy, and happy, are ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

This meeting therefore provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the first year and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan into its second year.

We are asking this meeting to focus on the Quarter 4 Executive Summary (attached) and also to give scrutiny to the first year achievements identified in the Annual Report (attached).

3. Background

- 3.1.** On 6 November 2015 Somerset County Council received a Direction Notice from the Secretary of State for Education requiring us to develop and implement by 1 April 2016 a three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which the Department for Education judge likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's social care functions. This plan is now implemented and reporting upon Quarter 4 progress.
- 3.2.** The focus of our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) is vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP
- 3.3.** This is the fourth quarter of reporting against the CYPP and covers the period January to March 2017. During this period there has been continued promotion of the plan that originally commenced in Summer 2016 via the launch roadshows. This includes social networking, newsletters and inclusion on agendas and in team meetings. The Children's Stakeholder Forum, established with the voluntary, community and private sector with the aim to increase collaboration across all sectors to improve outcomes for Somerset children and young people in line with the CYPP, held a residential providers workshop in January 2017 to look at the gap in provision and market developments. This positive engagement resulted in a better understanding of our market and the opportunities to work more closely in the future.
- 3.4.** The seven improvement programme action plans are now actively used and monitored within the nominated delivery groups. The Partnership Business team supports the delivery groups and the SCT Executive and Board by attending meetings, developing task and finish functions for areas of concern and supporting data collection and report writing across all 7 programmes to ensure the impact of the CYPP is realised. The positive cross-cutting thinking across programmes to support specific actions, where more than one delivery programme may be contributing towards an outcome, has continued at the end of Quarter 4 to inform year 2 actions. At the end of this reporting period we can demonstrate a positive message as new services embed, more information and training is delivered across our workforce and partners, new partnerships form and systems and processes improve. Many of the new services surround good emotional health and well-being and we will be monitoring services delivered in schools, in health and in communities, as well as newly designed on-line support in Year 2.

Other consistent emerging themes from our Improvement Programmes centres around resources – especially staffing, capacity and funding. At the end of year one overall the Improvement Programmes are rating themselves as Amber with an upward positive trend except for two programmes rated as Green : Programme 1 – Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient where good parenting programmes, training in schools and effective public health campaigns have made good progress and Programme 5 – Providing Help Early and Effectively where ambitious plans to integrate early help agencies into hubs is making great progress supporting by effective and robust

case management systems.

- 3.5.** Other key activities include the start of the West Somerset Social mobility project; however, we are still awaiting clarity from the Department of Education to steer this project and will report to Scrutiny in more detail at a future date., Better PHSE (personal, health, social and emotional) lessons are being delivered in schools, a new CSA (child sexual abuse) project has been launched, of our 42 schools inspected in Quarter 4 92.2% were rated good or better and there has been significant progress in recruiting social work staff.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** In drawing up the new CYPP, all those covered by the duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004 must be consulted, as well as children, young people and their parents and carers and other key partners.
- 4.2.** Consultation undertaken includes:

- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
- The Unstoppables (SEND)
- CAMHS Participation Group
- Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
- Young Healthwatch
- Young Carers
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum

The voice of children, young people and their families is being regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback. Further work is underway in Year 2 to widen the scope and to bring the voice into our quarterly reporting.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** Financial: The CYPP has been implemented in a climate of continuing financial austerity for the public sector. The 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.
- 5.2.** Equality & Diversity: Somerset Children's Trust seeks to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people. This incorporates the need to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality Act's General Duty.
- 5.3.** Legal: Local Children's Trust arrangements are underpinned by the 'duty to cooperate' (Section 10, Children Act 2004) and there are no plans to repeal this duty. The Children's Trust holds its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan, and has agreed to review progress against the Plan on a six monthly basis.

The Direction Notice referred to in para 3.1 above was issued under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996.

6. Background papers

6.1. [Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19](#)

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author