

Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) 2016-2019 Committee Member Champions

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Frances Nicholson

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 main focus of the Committee’s work programme will be to ensure the continuous improvement and delivery of the 7 priorities contained within the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). In this endeavour the Chairman, as in the last quadrennium, has suggested that each Member of the Committee volunteer to act as a ‘Champion’ for each of the 7 programmes.
- 2.2.** The Committee, recognising the importance of the CYPP in ensuring continued improvement in Children’s Services, is asked to ensure that each member of the Committee takes a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes of the CYPP. Appendix A lists the 7 programmes and the Member volunteers to date.

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 being implemented and reporting to the Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 3.2. The Committee also noted the focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) would be vulnerable children and young people and it this was used to inform the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP. The Committee recognises the cross cutting nature of the CYPP and its importance in ensuring holistic improvement in service delivery. Therefore having a Member champion for each improvement programme would help ensure Member engagement and knowledge and help the endeavour for continuous improvement.

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 included:
 - 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.

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.

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. The Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019.

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