

Somerset County Council

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

– 15 June 2018

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. Improving emotional health and wellbeing
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

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 the activity of the last quarter (January to March 2018) of Year 2 which provides a summary of activity and progress, complemented by each of the 7 programmes' Highlight Reports. During this quarter the CYPP has been promoted through each Improvement Programme's supporting board, partnership meetings and events and 'The Journey' newsletter to all SCC staff and via the Children's Trust Executive to partners. This meeting therefore provides an opportunity for members to comment on the progress at the end of the last quarter and to consider the actions set to progress the Plan through to its third year.

We are asking this meeting to focus on the Year 2 Quarter 4 Executive Summary

(attached) and also to give scrutiny to the second year achievements identified in the Year 2 DRAFT Annual Report (attached).

- 2.2.** The Children & Families Scrutiny Committee requires seven Members of the Committee to each take a special interest in one of the 7 improvement programmes and focus their attention and consideration on performance in each report, feeding back and commenting on how progress is being made against their particular improvement programme.

Support is available for Committee Champions to engage with the nominated officer for their programme for updates and progress prior to meetings.

Members are not required to have lone responsibility for their assigned Improvement Programme but would be the initial point of contact and have a better understanding of the subject area. Committee would retain overall responsibility for questioning and challenge.

These arrangements have been in place since June 2017; however, due to a restructure of responsibilities, vacancies for Member Champions need to be filled for Improvement Programmes 1, 3 and 7.

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 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 second year progress.
- 3.2.** The focus of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) in 2016 was vulnerable children and young people and it has informed the priorities for inclusion in the CYPP.
- 3.3.** At the end of Quarter 4 (January to March 2018) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) received reports on the 7 Improvement Programmes that reflect achievements at the end of the second year and the progress toward key outcomes.

Five of the 7 Improvement Programmes rate their progress as green; however Programmes 6 and 7 have rated their end of Year 2 status as amber and actions not yet completed have informed their Year 3 Action Plans.

Data from some of the newly commissioned emotional wellbeing and mental health services have been reported through Year 2 (see Appendix 1). The evaluation of this data is showing a positive uptake of services i.e. Kooth online counselling, support services, training in schools, referrals to CAMHS, and use of Parent Carer Toolkit.

Other notable progress includes:

- the improvement of the SEND Local Offer,
- a bid to NHS England for specialist Perinatal Infant Mental Health (PIMH) funding,

- additional capacity in place to help address high levels of self-harm,
- a successful TalentEd Academy programme,
- project work streams in place to deliver the new Family Support Service in 2019/20,
- and children at risk of coming into care are getting better outcomes through Family Group Conferencing.

Analysis of quarter 4 highlight reports show that the ongoing challenges still centre around recruitment and retention issues, a lack of available data to evidence key performance indicators, and a lack of capacity across the partners to drive the programmes and engage in the reporting process.

Somerset Children's Trust Executive held a workshop with Improvement Programme Leads where we evaluated progress to date, discussed emerging trends and risks, and proposed final Year 3 actions that evidence outcomes and future needs. This aligned with the pre-publication of the Ofsted judgement following the November 2017 inspection of Children's Social Care. The report highlighted areas of good development and improvement leading to a judgement of Requires Improvement; however thirteen recommendations have been made to support our services to get to Good.

3.4. Main activity for 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

The Partnership Team will commence the development of the next Children and Young People's Plan in 2018; a number of events are planned over the summer with young people to start that work.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** In developing the new CYPP, all organisations and groups included under the duty to co-operate as stipulated in the Children Act 2004 were 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 regularly captured through the Children Trust's Participation Network which supports its members to consult, listen and feedback their views. In quarter 4 The Unstoppables (SEND) have consulted on the Participation and Engagement Strategy; the results will be published summer 2018.

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 quarterly 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