

Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee
14 September 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 first quarter (March to July 2018) of Year 3 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 including the 'Children are the future of Somerset: Is what we do good enough for our children and their families?' multi-agency roadshows, '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 first quarter of Year 3, and to consider the updates to progress the Plan through to its conclusion.

We are asking this meeting to focus on the Year 3 Quarter 1 Executive Summary (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, although due to Committee changes, some new champions were identified at the end of Year 2.

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 third 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 1 of Year 3 (April to June 2018) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) received reports from 5 of its 7 Improvement Programmes that reflect achievements to mark the beginning of the final year of this plan; as expected, at this stage there is little slippage but a number of actions that have been implemented or progressed from Year 2. Notable progress of the Improvement Programmes can be read in the attached Year 3 Quarter 1 Executive Summary.

Two of the 7 Improvement Programmes (Programme 1 and 5) rate their progress as GREEN evidencing confidence that they will be able to complete their Year 3 actions by March 2019, however Programme's 2, 4 and 7 have rated their Year 3 Quarter 1 status as AMBER which may reflect timescales leading to completing actions rather than a lack of confidence in their ability to complete.

Nil reporting from Programmes 3 and 6 are due to a change in key personnel within the CCG, and capacity for reporting, discussed more fully in the attached Executive Summary.

- 3.4. The main activity of the Improvement Programmes for Quarter 1 can be read in the attached Year 3 Quarter 1 Executive Summary.

The progress of the production of the Children & Young People's Plan 2019 – 2022 in Quarter 1 was evidenced in a Planning Day which brought together key agency decision makers and children and young people to determine what the next priorities should be and how they should be action. Following this event, a consultation for groups was circulated for a wider voice to be included in the co-production of the plan. This also aligns with the consultation of the new Health and Being Strategy and the 2018 Schools Survey – both of which will influence the new plan once results have been evaluated in Quarter 3.

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 Year 2 The Unstoppables (SEND) commenced consultation on the Participation and Engagement Strategy; the results will be published in Year 3 Quarter 2.

5. Implications

5.1. Financial: The CYPP was implemented in a climate of 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 reductions through the course of the plan.

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