

Decision Report - Key Decision

Forward Plan Reference: FP/22/05/04

Decision Date – 11/07/22

The Children and Young People's Plan 2022 - 2024

Executive Member(s):	Lead Member for Children and Families
Lead Officer:	Julian Wooster - Director of Childrens Services
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1. Summary / Background

1.1. The Somerset Plan for Children & Young People (CYPP) ('the Plan) 2022- 2024 sets out the ambition of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) ('the Partnership') to improve outcomes for all unborn babies, children and young people (in relation to care leavers and young people with special educational needs duties extend to 25 years of age) for the next eighteen months.

1.2. This is the third Somerset (CYPP) and builds on the achievements of previous plans which have taken children's services from an 'inadequate' OFSTED judgement on a journey to achieve 'Good;' subject to an expected OFSTED inspection in 2022. However, it is recognised across the Partnership that further improvements in relation to children in care, children with special educational needs and disabilities, unborn babies and infants and children vulnerable to exploitation is required.

These are addressed through the Plan's primary consideration of the rights of children and young people to be safe, to have good health and wellbeing and to learn and thrive. and priorities.

These rights will be met through eight priority areas:

- Safeguarding Unborn Babies, Children and Young People
- Better Support for Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Well-Being
- Reduce Bullying and Promote Positive Communities
- Early Help
- All Babies Have the Best Start in Life
- Climate Change & Transport
- Support for Education and Inclusion
- Poverty & Homelessness

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2. Recommendations

2.1. That Executive:

- Approves Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 - 2024
- Recommends Full Council to endorse Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 2024
- Requests that relevant partner agencies formally endorse the plan through their executive arrangements as required by S10 & S11 of the Children Act 2004

The Lead Member for Children and Families approves the recommendations.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1** Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 2024 is the strategic plan for the children's partnership as expressed through various structures, setting out priority areas for improvement.
- 3.2** The Plan is now completed, following engagement with keyboards and stakeholders, including children, young people and their families and practitioners across many organisations. The involvement of children and young people in setting the priorities is a key feature of this plan and supports strategic thinking to be made through the lens of a child or young person's lived experience.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1.** A variety of designs of Children and Young People's Plans produced in other local authorities were researched before this style was selected as being most likely to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's services over the next 3 years.
- 4.2.** The final design option is based on a visual Plan on A Page design, with a more formal document to underpin the aspirations set out on the Plan on a Page.

5. Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

- 5.1.** All unborn babies, children and young people in Somerset are the responsibility of three lead statutory safeguarding partners – Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Avon and Somerset

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Constabulary – as well as other relevant agencies as set out in S11 Children Act 2004).

5.2. The CYPP picks up the themes for children and young people identified in 'Improving Lives' - Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its four priorities:

1. A county infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services
2. Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment
3. Fairer life chances and opportunity for all
4. Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer.

The Plan is reported annually to the Health & Wellbeing Board aligned to Priority 3: Fairer life chances and opportunity for all.

The plan recognises the importance of inter-agency collaboration, providing the tools for families to help themselves and intervening early when we need to.

6. Consultations and co-production

6.1. In producing Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 2025 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. This has been achieved through workshops and multi-agency meetings.

6.2. Consultation undertaken with over 2500 children, young people, parents and practitioners throughout 2021 includes:

- Make Your Mark vote
- Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group
- The Unstoppables (SEND)
- Somerset In Care and Leaving Care Councils
- Participation Worker's Network
- Somerset Youth Forum
- Strategic Boards and subgroups

6.3. In addition, the SSCP Partnership Business Group met quarterly to oversee and monitor the writing of the plan.

Staff consultation took place via SSCP multi-agency roadshows in 2021 and updates have been provided to the Children's Services Management Team meetings.

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The Draft plan has also been presented at the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board and Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.

7. Financial and Risk Implications

- 7.1.** Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 2025 has been prepared in a context of rising need in the population, additional pressures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing funding for public services. The eight priorities outlined in the plan are intended to be met within the agreed budgets and staffing resources of the lead agencies and other relevant statutory partners.

The Council's commitment as a lead agency is to provide good or better services to improve outcomes for all children is reflected through its Medium-Term Financial Plan (TFP) with a focus on revenue expenditure for the day-to-day running costs of providing services.

- 7.2.** The principal risk lies in the failure to secure improvement across the partnership. This would impact on the delivery the Council's ambitions in relation to improved outcomes for children and young people in Somerset and could result in poor inspection results from regulatory bodies.

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. The Directorate Management Team and the Executive Member regularly monitor the management of this risk.

Likelihood	3	Impact	5	Risk Score	15
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8. Legal and HR Implications

- 8.1.** The children's partnership arrangements are underpinned by the "duty to cooperate" (Children Act 2004 Part 2 Section 10). The arrangements are in place to improve the wellbeing of children in the authority's area so far as relating to:

- Physical and mental health emotional wellbeing
- Protection from harm and neglect
- Education, training and recreation
- The contribution made by them to society; and
- Social and economic wellbeing

- 8.2.** The safeguarding aspects of the partnership are further strengthened by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and arrangement currently being consulted on to hold its individual members to account for delivering their agreed contributions to the shared plan. The partners have agreed to review progress against the Plan on a quarterly basis.

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8.3. There are no specific workforce issues arising from this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. In addition, the plan requires agencies across the partnership to tackle inequalities and narrow gaps, paying suitable regard to the 2010 Equality's Act general duty.

As with previous plans there will be annually reviewed detailed plans to deliver on the eight priorities. These will have additional metrics.

9.2. Community Safety Implications

If there are no Community Safety Implications.

9.3. Sustainability Implications

There are no Sustainability Implications

9.4. Health and Safety Implications

There are no implications Health and Safety Implications

9.5. Health and Wellbeing Implications

There are no Health and Wellbeing Implications

9.6. Social Value

Not applicable

10. Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

10.1. The Scrutiny Committee for Children and Families has been updated on the Plan during its design in 2021/2022; their recommendations are incorporated into the Plan. The Committee will receive quarterly updates on progress and are looking forward to working with partners on its successful implementation.

11. Background

11.1. Somerset's Children & Young People's Plan 2022 – 2024 (the Plan) is an eighteen-month Plan which will influence strategic plans and commissioning decisions with an ambition to be effective in furthering and sustaining improvement of children's services in Somerset. The partnership 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.

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- 11.2.** The Plan aligns with 'Improving Lives in Somerset 2019 - 2028' – the health and wellbeing strategy for the local area which sets out a 10-year vision for all organisations to work together to meet the needs identified in the JSNA and improve the lives of all Somerset's residents.
- 11.3.** The basis for the Plan was constructed through the votes of Make Your Mark where 2500 children and young people aged between 10 and 25 voted on the topics, they felt were priorities for Somerset. During 2021 and 2022 two workshops at SSCP Forum weeks were held to facilitate children, young people and key decision makers and practitioners in the Partnership to work together on the priorities identified by the young people that they felt would have the most impact on Somerset's 116,967 children and young people (Office of National Statistics 2020). Between each event, surveys and workshops were held with the wider network of organisations who work with children and young people. This resulted in over 2700 young people contributing to the production of the new Plan.
- 11.4.** The draft Plan was considered by the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee in two meetings in 2021/22 and members comments have been taken into account of in the attached Plan. The Plan was approved by the Partnership on 23rd June 2022.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1.** For further information please contact the report author.

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Report Sign-Off

		Date completed
Legal Implications	Honor Clarke	27/06/22
Governance	Scott Wooldridge	27/06/22
Corporate Finance	Jason Vaughan	27/06/22
Human Resources and ICT	Chris Squire	27/06/22
Property	Paula Hewitt	27/06/22
Procurement	Claire Griffiths	n/a
Senior Manager	Julian Wooster	27/06/22
Commissioning Development	Sunita Mills / Ryszard Rusinek	27/06/22
Executive Member	Cllr Tessa Munt	27/06/22
<u>Consulted on report</u>		
Local Member		n/a
Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Frances Nicholson	Sent 27 May 2022 & 1 July 2022
Scrutiny Chair	Scrutiny Childrens and Families - Cllr Leigh Redman	Sent 27 May 2022 & 1 July 2022