

Meeting: Policy Development and Decision Group **Date:** 14 December 2017

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Children and Young People's Plan – Draft for consultation

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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Supporting Officer Contact Details: Andy Dempsey, Director of Children's Services, 01803 208949; andy.dempsey@torbay.gov.uk

1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the draft of the Children and Young People's Plan and seeks authorisation for the Director of Children's Services to consult with the Council's partners and stakeholders and subsequently, develop an action plan to ensure its priorities are delivered.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 The core principle of a shared commitment to improve the lives of children, young people and families remains as important as ever. Although the regulations requiring the production of a Children and Young People's Plan were revoked in 2010, there remains a duty for local partners to co-operate.
- 2.2 The draft plan attached at Appendix 1 has been developed to ensure that the Council, working with local partners can articulate a clear strategic direction for the development and delivery of services for children and young people in Torbay.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the draft Children and Young People Plan be agreed as the basis for consultation with the Council's partners and stakeholders (including children and young people).
- 3.2 That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead for Children and Adults Services, be authorised to develop the action plan with the Children and Young People Plan taking into account the views expressed during the consultation period.

3.3 That the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan be agreed by the Mayor ahead of it being presented to the Council for consideration.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Children and Young People's Plan

Report Clearance

Report clearance:	This report has been reviewed and approved by:	Date:
Chief Executive	Steve Parrock	
Monitoring Officer	Anne-Marie Bond	
Chief Finance Officer	Martin Phillips	
Relevant Director/Assistant Director	Andy Dempsey	

Section 1: Background Information

1. What is the proposal / issue?

A revised Children and Young People's Plan has been developed to ensure that the work across the Council and its partner agencies is integrated and focused on improving outcomes for children and young people.

2. What is the current situation?

The Council's current Children and Young People's Plan was approved in 2014. It currently sits within the Council's Policy Framework as a sub-section of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Whilst there is no longer a statutory requirement to adopt a Children and Young People's Plan, there continues to be a duty under the Children's Act for agencies to co-operate. In those localities where partners work effectively together, a Children and Young People's Plan provides the framework for joint working to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Following the Ofsted inspection January 2016, which judged services to be inadequate, a Commissioner for Children's Services was appointed in May 2016 to work with the Council and its partners to improve services and outcomes on a sustainable basis. An improvement plan has been developed and a multi-agency Children's Improvement Board chaired by the Commissioner meets on a six weekly basis to scrutinise improvement activity. Ofsted also undertake monitoring visits on a quarterly basis.

The scope and nature of the improvement work being undertaken by Children's Services and partner agencies requires the existing plan to be revised to ensure it reflects and builds upon the improvement journey. There is also the opportunity to ensure it has a greater visibility as a standalone document within the Council's Policy Framework albeit with close links to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

One of Ofsted's key findings involved corporate oversight and leadership for Children's Services and the need to ensure that performance, key plans and strategies were incorporated within the Council's leadership and governance arrangements. The draft Plan aims to evidence the "golden thread" from the Council's Corporate Plan (which includes the targeted action of "Protecting all children and giving them the best start in life") through the other Policy Framework documents including the Economic Strategy and the emerging Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. The Council will also need to ensure that the golden thread is evident in future iterations of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Housing Strategy.

The Plan currently has a draft Action Plan which takes actions that are already included within the Council's Policy Framework as they relate to children and

	<p>young people. It is proposed that the Action Plan will be further developed (and the priorities refined) as consultation and engagement takes place with the Council's partners and stakeholders.</p>
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>The current Children and Young People's Plan runs until 2019 and therefore an option would be to delay the review of the Plan until that time. However, given the recommendations of Ofsted, it is felt that reviewing the Plan at this stage provides an opportunity to ensure that all services for children and young people in Torbay have consistent and sharply focussed leadership articulated in Plan which brings all partners together.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan?</p> <p>The Corporate Plan sets out as one of its Targeted Action that it will "Protect all children and give them the best start in life". The Plan aligns with the rest of the Council's Policy Framework.</p> <p>It sets as its objective "To ensure all of our children and young people are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential". The work that will be set out within the Plan will be measured against the impact that it will have on children and young people and, to that end, a set of principles (which mirror the principles within the Corporate Plan) are also proposed.</p>
5.	<p>How does this proposal contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> <p>Once agreed, the Children and Young People's Plan will be central to the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents. It seeks to ensure that the children that are within the Council's care, as well as all other children and young people in Torbay,:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the best start in life • Are protected from the impact of risks such as domestic abuse, alcohol/substance misuse and child exploitation • Have improved education outcomes • Are healthy, make positive choices and influence their own future
6.	<p>How does this proposal tackle deprivation?</p> <p>The draft Plan has been prepared taking account of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Sufficiency Duty Strategy. The actions will be focused on ensuring that the issues identified in both of these key documents are addressed.</p>

7.	Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with? Torbay's children and young people will be affected by the actions within the Plan and the Council's partners and stakeholders will be asked to come together to deliver the Plan. As the Council continues to be subject to a Department for Education Direction, the Children's Commissioner will also require oversight and input into the proposed Plan as will the Children's Improvement Board.
8.	How will you propose to consult? The Director of Children's Services and the Executive Lead for Children and Adult Services will undertake a range of consultation and engagement and will take account of the views expressed in developing the Action Plan.