



Meeting: Policy, Development and Decision Group (JCT)

Date: 4 June 2018

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Children and Young People's Plan

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

1.1 A revised Children and Young People's Plan has been prepared for consideration by the Council. The revised plan seeks to integrate the Children's Plan within the Council's Policy Framework thereby ensuring a continuous, coherent approach for the commissioning, planning and delivery of services for children and young people.

2. Reason for Proposal

2.1 The period since the approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 19 has been one of considerable change for Torbay Children's Services and the environment in which it is operating. These changes have necessitated a refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan now to ensure its continued relevance.

2.2 By way of background Torbay Children's Services were judged to be inadequate in January 2016, following an inspection by Ofsted undertaken in November 2015. The Council had previously been issued with an improvement notice in January 2011, following similar findings in respect of safeguarding services for children and young people.

2.3 In May 2016, Torbay Council was subject to a Statutory Direction confirming the appointment of Hampshire County Council's Chief Executive, John Coughlan, as the Commissioner for Children's Services in Torbay. Hampshire Children's Services were also contracted as 'expert advisor' to support the required improvement activity. A revised Statutory Direction was issued to Torbay Council in March 2018 to enter into a contractual arrangement with Plymouth City Council by 1st April 2018. The partnership has commenced with a transition process now

underway to a joint Director of Children's Services (DCS), subject to the timeline for re-inspection by Ofsted which will be led by the current DCS.

2.4 A Children's Improvement Board (CIB), chaired by the Commissioner and comprising of Department for Education, Council, partner agency and Elected Member representatives was established to oversee improvement activity. Meeting on a six weekly basis, the CIB receives regular updates on improvement activity, within Children's Services and across partners, performance data and the emerging evidence of impact on outcomes for children.

2.5 A detailed planning and oversight tool was developed, with input from Hampshire County Council as our improvement partner, to drive progress against the recommendations made by Ofsted in their January 2016 report. The improvement plan has been subject to ongoing development to reflect the learning from our work with Hampshire and feedback from the monitoring visits by Ofsted.

2.5 The Children and Young People's Plan forms part of a wider range of plans and strategies for improving outcomes for children and young people including:

- Children's Services Improvement Plan 2018/19
- Torbay Youth Justice Plan 2018/19
- Torbay Strategy for Educational Excellence
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy 2016/20
- School Effectiveness Strategy 2016/2020

2.6 The revised Children and Young People's Plan is attached at Appendix 1. It draws on the range of strategies and plans set out above to ensure that there is collective, strategic oversight of service provision for children and young people encompassing their personal, social, health and educational outcomes. The Children's Improvement Board chaired by the DfE Commissioner will provide for oversight of progress, with a Children's Services Strategic Group, chaired by the Executive Member for Children's Services, taking over this role from September 2018 as part of the ongoing governance arrangements for future service development.

2.7 The revised plan draws upon one of the strategic actions within the Council's Corporate Plan to '**Protect all children and give them the best start in life**' through the objective and priorities set out below:

Key Objective: To ensure all of our children and young people are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential.

Priority 1: Children get the best start in life.

Priority 2: The impact on children and families from domestic abuse, alcohol/ substance misuse and all forms of child exploitation is reduced.

Priority 3: Education outcomes for all children and young people are improved.

Priority 4: Young people are healthy, make positive choices and influence their own future.

- 2.8 Section 5 of the revised Children and Young People's Plan sets out a detailed action plan which will be subject to regular review via the CIB, Children's Services and Corporate Leadership teams to ensure it is contributing to better outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.9 Ofsted have confirmed that following the monitoring visit in February 2018 their next visit to Torbay will be for full inspection under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). This is anticipated imminently. The draft Children's and Young People's Plan will be shared with them and they will be advised that it is due to be presented to Council for approval. Any learning from the inspection will be incorporated into the Plan, in consultation with the Executive Member.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Elected Mayor recommend to Council;
- 3.1 That the Children and Young People's Plan 2018/2023 be approved as part of the Council's Policy Framework, with delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Lead for Children's Services to make any final amendments in light of the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Proposed Children and Young People's Plan 2018/2023

Background Documents

None

Section 1: Background Information

1.	What is the proposal / issue? The Children and Young People's Plan has been revised to ensure that it accurately reflects the Council's improvement journey and the learning from its work with local partners, Hampshire County Council and Ofsted monitoring visits.
2.	What is the current situation? The previous plan 2014/19 was developed prior to the most recent Ofsted inspection and the current arrangements in place with a DfE appointed Commissioner and improvement partner. The revised plan takes account of those changes and the significant programme of work underway across education and early years' services to improve outcomes for children and young people. It also anticipates the transition from a Children's Improvement Board chaired by the DfE Commissioner to a local multi-agency Children's Services Strategic Group over the coming year.
3.	What options have been considered? The work that has been undertaken as part of the Council's improvement journey has been considered as has the range of partnership work that is taking place across Torbay. This is reflected within the proposed Children and Young People Plan.
4.	How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan? A key recommendation from Ofsted was to secure effective leadership of Children's Services within the context of the Council's wider vision for the community of Torbay. The proposed plan takes account of the key ambitions and principles of the Corporate Plan particularly the target of "protecting all children and giving them the best start in life". The plan also demonstrates a continuous thread across the Council's policy framework to maximise impact and outcomes for children and young people.

<p>5.</p>	<p>How does this proposal contribute towards the Council’s responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> <p>The proposed Plan provides the framework through which the Council will be an effective and aspirational Corporate Parent. The revised plan will be supported by a detailed programme of action set out in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>How does this proposal tackle deprivation?</p> <p>Ensuring the plan is integrated within the Council’s Policy Framework, including the Economic Strategy and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, establishes robust coherent links between the direct work to improve Children’s Services and the wider strategy for the community of Torbay. Tackling deprivation and the causes of deprivation are essential to improving outcomes for our children and young people.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>Children and young people Service providers Schools and educational providers Partner organisations</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>The draft Plan was subject to consultation at the start of the year through a range of meetings, including discussions with children and young people. Due to the poor weather in March, not all planned sessions with young people were held and it is proposed to incorporate a discussion on the plan within a number of extensive engagement exercises with young people that have recently commenced.</p>

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

9.	What are the financial and legal implications? There are no financial and legal implications of adopting the proposed Children and Young People's Plan.
10.	What are the risks? Without an effective overarching plan, the Council and its partners will lack an exhaustive appreciation at a strategic level of the wider programme of improvement activity delivered through a range of local plans and strategies for children and young people. The plan is a key strategic document within the wider network of governance arrangements for the improvement of services and outcomes for children and young people. In the absence of an effective plan, there is a risk of duplication, inefficiency and disengagement by key partners and stakeholders.
11.	Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012 Not applicable