

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr M Sherrey
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non Key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report outlines the Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan which has been developed by the Connecting Families Strategic Group (comprised of a number of public and voluntary and community sector partners) and has been adopted by Worcestershire Health and Well Being Board.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Plan is a partnership plan and, as such, should be owned by all agencies working with children, young people and families in Worcestershire. The purpose of the plan is to:
- Set expectations around the way we work defining shared values and culture.
 - Clarify our collective ambition and aspirations for all children and young people in Worcestershire.
 - Focus on key priorities and success measures.
 - Provide a framework for all agencies and organisations working with children, young people and families to make the necessary impact to improve lives; and
 - Build on and add value to existing plans.
- 1.3 This is a copy of the covering report that was used by Worcestershire County Council when presenting the children and young People's Plan for Members' consideration in Worcestershire. Whilst this is a County plan Worcestershire County Council is keen to receive the support from local district Councils.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 2.1 the new Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2017-2021 be endorsed; and**
- 2.2 authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services, in so far as it is within the Council's remit to work with Worcestershire County Council and all other relevant agencies and organisations to contribute to the drawing up an action plan to put the CYPP into effect.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In February 2017, the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for all children and young people in Worcestershire. It also agreed to strengthen the already well-established Connecting Families Strategic Group as the key partnership group to take responsibility for developing and implementing the CYPP and for this Strategic Group to be a formal sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.2. In April 2017, the Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on the progress in developing the new CYPP and noted the emerging priorities and content. It also approved the look and feel of the new CYPP and the consultation and engagement plan.
- 3.3. The Connecting Families Strategic Group has now met in its new format three times, and has actively led on the development of the CYPP. The Strategic Group formally recommended to the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the new CYPP on the 11 July 2017. This recommendation was based on recognising that the new CYPP is the start of a journey, it simply sets out the overarching vision and ambition for all children and young people and as such will be refreshed/challenged on a regular basis.
- 3.4. As the new CYPP needs to be owned by all agencies, the Connecting Families Strategic Group is also recommending that all agencies adopt the plan within their individual agency policy frameworks.

Case for change

- 3.5. The development of the new CYPP is informed by both demographic and outcome challenges (data) as well the views of children, young people, parents/carers and practitioners. The case for change from a data perspective is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and ongoing performance information. This information will be reviewed quarterly and the detail behind the Plan will be adapted in response.
- 3.6. As an overarching summary, the data currently highlights a number of potential issues and areas of concern which has informed the development of the new CYPP. These include:-
- The number of children and young people aged 19 or under in Worcestershire is projected to be 131,800 by 2025. This is an increase of 3,600 from 2015.
 - Birth rate is declining but is on the rise among disadvantaged families which could lead to additional demand challenges on public services.
 - Over 15,800 children across Worcestershire live in low income households.
 - The broad range of health inequalities for the under 5s.
 - Key Stage 2 results continue to be below expectations.

- Too many children are not receiving a quality education and this is leading to poor outcomes and growing impact on wider public services.
- Growing prevalence of children diagnosed with special education needs and disabilities and understanding what support may be needed to meet their needs.
- Education attainment of vulnerable pupils including those eligible for free school meals, looked after children and children with special education needs and disabilities. The gap is still too big between these vulnerable groups and their peers.
- Progress of Care Leavers into suitable accommodation and education, employment and/or training. 48% of care leavers are currently not in education, employment or training.
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people; and
- Demand on social care at every level (Children in Need, Child Protection and Looked After Children) and the capacity, capability and quality of social care practice.

Consultation and engagement

- 3.7. A wide ranging consultation and engagement plan was drawn up which included engagement with children, young people, parents, carers and staff who work with them including:
- Social Care Teams
 - CCGs
 - Health Visitors
 - Police
 - Schools
 - Family Support
 - CAMHs
 - Speech and Language
 - Voluntary Sector
 - Districts
 - Parenting
 - Housing Providers
 - Sexual Health team
- 3.8. A variety of consultation methods were used to maximise the level of engagement.

Survey

An online survey was created which was shared widely via a variety of networks.

The same 5 questions were asked of 4 groups so that responses could be analysed in the same way. The 4 groups were:

- Children (0-12).
- Young People (13 – 24).
- Parents/Carers of children and young people; and
- Practitioners who work with children, young people and families.

Respondents who fitted in more than one group were able to give their answer from more than one perspective e.g. a 23 year old parent. An easy read version was also made available via the website.

Social media: There was full social media communication plan raising the awareness of the survey and that a new Worcestershire Children's and Young People's plan was being developed. This included messages on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Yammer (internal and external networks). All of the six districts and the County Council had displays on their plasma screen and their own social media channels.

Engagement packs: An engagement pack was created and shared with partner agencies via a variety of networks.

Schools: Several schools used the recent elections for discussions with children and supported them to complete the survey in lessons.

The children of Franche Primary school created several videos which were used in social media posts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O58AwnLY5OA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW99BHgxRtU&>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLzmmS0uOk8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skj8VI7OK74&>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gg6aUPBMJw8&>

School Council were also invited to get involved by discussing and responding to the five questions in their meetings this term.

Libraries: Engagement Trees were placed in all 21 libraries, the same questions were asked at all 21 libraries each week for 5 weeks. A total of c.1450 face-to-face responses were received, the vast majority of which were from libraries.

Partners: A workshop was held for partners on 15th June to agree the priorities for Worcestershire prior to finalising the content. A wide range of partners attended and discussions have been fed into the final document.

Youth Cabinet: Have been briefed and we are working with them on the next steps to ensure they are fully involved.

Parents' Voice: Ran their own social media campaign promoting the survey and also ran two focus groups with invited parents (invited through social media) to have round table discussions about the plan. Their responses have been fed into the survey responses.

Survey Results

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1st November 2017

- 3.9. Over 2600 responses received (as of 30th June 2017)
- 1144 online survey
 - c. 1450 face to face (final data is still being submitted)

- 3.10. A breakdown of respondent type and district area can be seen in the tables below.

Respondent types		District	
Children (12 or under)	735	Bromsgrove	607
Young People (13-24)	207	Malvern Hills	311
Parents/Carers	963	Redditch	129
Practitioners	575	Worcester City	560
Other	164	Wychavon	448
Note: there is some overlap between Young People/Parent and practitioner categories and respondents can be more than one (and answer from each perspective)		Wyre Forest	345
		Outside Worcestershire	31

Gender		Disability	
Male	372	Yes	129
Female	1010	No	961

Note: Demographic data was not captured for face-to-face respondents. Sexual orientation and ethnicity data is included in the full analysis along with cross-tabs of demographic data.

- 3.11. As a summary views were captured from 5 different viewpoints:
- those aged 12 and under,;
 - young people aged 13 to 24;
 - parents/carers;
 - practitioners; and
 - other interested citizens.

Respondents were asked what was important to children in Worcestershire and what the main challenges they face were.

- 3.12. Children and young people tended to respond to these questions in a more simplistic fashion. For instance, they would focus on issues of 'happiness',

'family' and 'friends' which all could be described as outcomes. Adults, whilst still touching on these outcomes, gave much more detailed answers that focus on **how** these outcomes might be achieved. For example, they commonly call for well-funded and easily accessible family support service to help families that need additional support. This family support is not an outcome in itself but could be seen as a mechanism to achieve outcomes for children such as happiness and having a loving and supporting family.

- 3.13. A summary of the responses and respondent type can be seen in the tables below. *(Note: the views of other interested citizens have not been included in the initial summary as priority has been given to analysing feedback from the four main groups).*

Question: What is most important to children and young people?

Answer	Children	Young People	Parent / Carers	Practitioners
Family	✓	✓		
Friends	✓	✓		
Pets	✓			
Sports and physical activity	✓		✓	✓
Education		✓	✓	✓
Employment opportunities		✓	✓	✓
Safety - family environment and having safe places to go		✓	✓	✓
Activities		✓	✓	✓
Support services - early years, family, mental health, relationships and sexual health			✓	✓

Question: What are the main issues and challenges for children and young people?

Answer	Children	Young People	Parent / Carers	Practitioners
Education and school - pressure and provision	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lack of safe and affordable places to go outside of school			✓	✓
Learning to get along with other people	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuts in services that offer support to children and young people			✓	✓
Mental health and wellbeing		✓	✓	✓
Lack of safe, local and affordable activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use of social media for bullying			✓	✓

Question: How could the lives of children and young people be improved?

Answer	Children	Young People
More <i>affordable</i> and <i>available</i> activities	✓	✓
More time with friends and family	✓	
Less bullying and/or more friends	✓	✓

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan: 2017 – 2021

- 3.14. The CYPP is attached as Appendix 1. It has been designed to be a 'plan on a page' to set the framework and intent for further work. More detail and information is included on the website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp.
- 3.15. As set out above, the CYPP will set the expectation around the way all agencies will work and will need to be actively embedded across the system. The plan states that agencies will:

- Listen to, hear and understand children, young people and families
- Find strengths and build on positives to help people help themselves
- Prioritise partnerships to improve outcomes – doing things with people, instead of to them, for them or doing nothing
- Focus on adding value and keep asking: Is anyone better off? Is anyone worse off?
- Be brave enough to always do the right thing for children and young people.

3.16. In addition to clarifying the shared values and expectations around the way agencies work, the plan follows a logic model of five key steps

- The overarching vision for all children and young people
- The ultimate outcomes
- The key priorities
- The areas of work/activity that need to be implemented?
- The measurements of success?

Our vision is for

Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up

We believe it is important that children and young people:-

- Are safe from harm
- Reach their full potential
- Make a positive contribution in their communities
- Live healthy, happy and fun filled lives

We will effect change by working together to:-

- Help children live in safe and supportive families and communities (homes and places)
- Promote safe, healthy and positive relationships
- Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning
- Provide access to a quality and appropriate education / learning experience for all
- Prepare young people for adult life
- Improve outcomes for our vulnerable children and young people
- Increasing young people's voice in community life, participation and engagement in developing services
- Increase access to safe and affordable activities and places to go outside of school
- Encourage physical activity and healthy eating
- Improve access to social, emotional mental health and well-being services
- Support young people, parents and carers to overcome the barriers to sustained employment

We will work together to:-

- Actively embed the children and young people plan's shared values within all agencies
- Improve safeguarding services
- Reform services for children with special education needs and disabilities
- Break the cycle of families continuing to need/rely on specialist services
- Tackle the gaps in education system/provision that prevent children and young people from accessing full time education
- Develop and implement a prevention and early help strategy
- Strengthen the social, emotional and mental health offer
- Secure partnerships that support delivery of our priorities and use public money wisely

We will know if the plan is working by the:-

- Decrease in the number of children and young people with a repeat child protection plan
- Increase in the percentage and timeliness of children who are looked after that are in permanent homes (placements)
- Increase in the percentage of children with a good level of development in early years
- Improvement in educational outcomes and positive destinations for all children and young people
- Decrease in achievement gaps at all stages
- Surveys of children and young people's views: are they having fun and having a positive influence in their communities?
- Decrease in the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system
- Increase in children, young people and parental satisfaction with emotional wellbeing or mental health services
- Improvement of health outcomes and closing of inequalities gap.

Implementing the Plan and Next Steps

- 3.17. Approving the CYPP is the start of a journey, as the CYPP simply sets out the vision and values to put children and young people at the heart of everything we do (far more than what happens now). There is more work to be done to set out an action plan of what is going to be delivered as individual organisations, and together as partners, to improve the lives of children and young people. The Plan in its current form sets out initial intentions and all partners are being asked to endorse and adopt the Plan and actively embed the shared values into their culture.
- 3.18. To develop the action plan there is more work to do and the Cabinet is asked to authorise the Head of Community Services to work with Worcestershire County

Council and all relevant agencies and organisations to draw up an action plan to put the CYPP into effect. This action will provide clarity on what work is currently in progress and how the CYPP can add value to this. It will also identify and address gaps of activity and focus.

- 3.19. To start the development agencies and organisations are being asked to
- Consider/map their key priorities with those in the CYPP to identify common areas
 - Consider how they could support the key priorities
 - embedding this approach in the 'way we work' (which is in line with the Council's systems thinking approach)

Details of the Council's contribution to CYPP can be found at Appendix 4

- 3.20. Work is also in progress to develop a performance dashboard to demonstrate progress. This will flow from the overarching success measures outlined in the CYPP and will the necessary level of detail around performance progress. It is intended to build this detail on the www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp website pages along with links to the range of plans and programmes of work that support the implementation of the CYPP.
- 3.21. The implementation of the CYPP will feature as a standard agenda item at each Connecting Families Strategic Group (meets monthly). There will also be a quarterly review of progress which will feed into the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting schedule.

Financial Implications

- 3.22. There are no financial implications arising from adopting the plan as this work will be done within existing budgets.
- 3.23. A more joined up approach should enable agencies to use their resources more efficiently in the future. Where there are any additional resource implications these will be reported separately. Finance officers are currently working on a Cost Benefit framework to enable identification of the long term partner benefits from the Connecting Families approach.

Legal Implications

- 3.24. District Councils have a duty under Section 1 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

- 3.25 There is a duty on local authorities under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of all children in the authority's area. A range of individual organisations and professionals working with children and families have specific statutory duties to promote the welfare of children and ensure they are protected from harm.
- 3.26 In addition Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on District Councils that provide children's and other types of services including housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.27 The Council is already working towards the Children and Young People's Plan through its work on Connecting Families and its transformation programme.
- 3.28 We will continue to review our service provision and all that we do to ensure it helps achieve the CYPP vision and outcomes. This cannot be done by one organisation alone and to achieve this we need to transform the public and voluntary sector – the Council will continue to seek to drive this.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.29 The CYPP has been developed in consultation with a number of statutory and non-statutory bodies and focuses on supporting the needs of some of the most vulnerable individuals and groups across the county.
- 3.30 This Partnership Plan was subject to consultation as described above.
- 3.31 From an equalities perspective, the CYPP has involved children and young people in a variety of ways throughout the development process and has highlighted their views and perspectives, not just those of parent/carers or practitioners. It also acknowledges other equality and diversity impacts, such as disability and mental health and wellbeing and the importance of equal opportunities for children and young people.
- 3.32 As part of the consultation process, the online survey also captured (optional) demographic data from the respondents. Further information on this is included in Appendix 3.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Supporting the plan presents no risks to the Council. The plan supports several of the council's strategic purposes, including help me lead my life independently.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People’s Plan

Appendix 2 – Additional Data Aug 2017

Appendix 3 – CYPP Qualitative research – report August 2017

Appendix 4 – Council Contribution to CYPP

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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