

Meeting:	Children and young people scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	Monday 5 February 2018
Title of report:	Children and Young People's Plan
Report by:	Director for children's wellbeing

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All wards

Purpose and summary

For the Children's and young people's scrutiny committee to consider the outcomes of the previous Children's and Young People Plan (CYPP) plan, in particular what has been learned over the previous three years.

To consider the initial priorities that have been identified and the feedback from children and young people, and providers at early engagement events.

To consider the approach being taken to develop a new CYPP and proposals for planned engagement and consultation and to influence how this is conducted.

The CYPP and the process of joint planning will support the local authority and its partners as they work together to agree clear priorities for services relating to children, young people and families over the next 3-5 years, identify the actions and activities needed to achieve them, and ensure delivery. The final draft of the CYPP will be presented to scrutiny for further consideration in the Summer of 2018.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the committee review the effectiveness of the current plan and, having regard to that information and data available in the joint strategic needs assessment identify any areas of focus it wishes to recommend be included in the refreshed plan;**
- (b) the approach for the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan, including engagement activities and emerging themes be considered and the committee determine any recommendations it wishes the executive to consider to strengthen the approach; and**
- (c) the committee determine how it wishes to build consideration of the draft plan into its future work programme.**

Alternative options

1. The Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) could continue to work within the 2015-2018 plan. This approach however, will mean the partnership is working to deliver priorities that are out of date, do not acknowledge achievements of the current plan, may not reflect current views of children and young people in Herefordshire, may not respond to trends highlighted within the latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and does not enable the partnership, or the council, to ensure effective alignment to other strategies across the partnership.
2. As a budget and policy framework item, the budget and policy framework rules require that the relevant committee work programme include plans within the budget and policy framework to enable scrutiny members to inform and support the process for making cabinet proposals to Council in terms of the adoption of any item that forms part of the framework, including providing constructive challenge to the responsible cabinet member on policy proposals and exploring options for future policy development.

Key considerations

3. The Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) oversees the development and delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The plan is an integral component of the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and together they form the strategic agenda of the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board relating to children and young people.
4. The current Children and Young People's Plan covers the period of 2015 – 2018. The Children and Young People's partnership have therefore been preparing for the development of a new plan which will highlight progress over the current plan period, review the current evidence base on issues relating to local children and young people, and clearly set out improvement plans from summer 2018 onwards.

Effectiveness of the current plan

5. A review of current performance against priority areas within the current CYP Plan has highlighted a number of areas of achievement, including mental health crisis care improvements, pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) standard and a

marked improvement has also been observed at other levels (Phonics, Key Stages 1 and 2).

6. Positive progress has also been made locally in the implementation of Education Health and Care Plans, early help interventions successfully achieving sustainable change, and the number of children with protection plans in Herefordshire is falling.
7. There are however a number of areas which clearly require further action alongside partners, including local prevalence of obesity and dental decay in children, increasing the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in Herefordshire in full time education and training, participating in apprenticeships, and reducing the number of looked after children.

Strengths and weaknesses

8. Although a full review of performance of the current CYP Plan is due to be undertaken at the end of the current financial year, it is clear that the CYP Partnership, as illustrated above has overseen significant improvements in a number of key areas. A number of the delivery groups for the plan have positive partnership commitment and have been successful in delivering change. Projects undertaken have in some cases had positive involvement of children and families, and impact of activities can be clearly evidenced.
9. It is also apparent through undertaking an initial review of performance that future delivery against new priorities will need to ensure clarity and relevance of performance monitoring. In the current plan there are some areas where priorities have been difficult to measure in terms of linking activity directly with change and providing data and analysis in a timely way, such as 'providing clear advice, signposting and information to enable children, young people and their families to make informed choices', and data relating to re-offending rates...

Translating learning to the new plan

10. The new plan will ensure a clear strategic direction for children and young people's services across Herefordshire, and refers not just to those under the duty to co-operate, such as local health and certain youth justice bodies, but also includes other key partners such as schools, colleges and the voluntary and community sector.
11. It is the view from a number of key partners that ensuring priorities are aligned to overarching principles and outcomes rather than relating to areas of delivery (presently the case) would be a helpful approach in the new plan, and that its development, production and ongoing monitoring should fully involve children and young people.
12. At the point at which priorities are clearly defined, a review of delivery mechanisms will be undertaken which minimises the potential for duplication. This will also include detailed delivery plans and a robust monitoring framework where specific measurable data is identified. It is recognised that in a number of cases proxy measures will need to be identified to indicate direction of travel.
13. The new plan will ensure alignment with a number of key partner strategies where relevant to children and young people, including the Health and wellbeing strategy, Herefordshire Children and Young People Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Transformation Plan, the Children and Families Joint Commissioning Framework and Herefordshire Council's Corporate Plan.

14. The plan will be published, written in plain English, and be co-designed with children and young people. This will ensure that the key priorities contained within the plan are easily communicated, easily understood, and relevant to Herefordshire families.
15. It is intended that a first draft of the plan will be developed by April 2018, and finalised (utilising consultation feedback) by the end of the summer of 2018 as detailed below:

	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
Research										
Engagement										
Draft Plan										
Consultation										
Final plan (incl sign off)										

Community impact

16. The new CYP plan will take into account relevant evidence relating to children and young people in Herefordshire, to ensure that partnership actions address key local priorities. The plan will intend to provide a framework within which partners can not only bring about change within their own field, but will also enable partners to work together to target interventions successfully, and ensure maximum impact.
17. The plan will also recognise the central role that individuals, families and communities have in improving the lives of children and young people. It will consider how the strengths and assets held by Herefordshire communities can be enhanced through effective partnership working, and can prevent reliance on statutory interventions

Equality duty

18. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
19. The development of the new Children and Young People’s Plan is an opportunity to explore partnership actions which can promote equality, foster positive relations and address discrimination in Herefordshire. The plan will include an Equality statement which will clearly state the partnership’s commitment to equality and confirm that equality issues

will be considered fully at each stage of any development of plans or implementation of new services.

20. Early engagement with children and young people will influence the plans and reflect issues facing young people, any actions identified will be incorporated within the Equality Impact assessments

Resource implications

21. Although the production of a new CYP plan will not have any direct resource implications, it does provide an opportunity to identify:
- Priority areas which may be responded to more efficiently;
 - Emerging issues which may require review of available resources;
 - Opportunities to use partnership resources more effectively.
22. Any potential resource implications relating to specific actions will be fully explored within delivery plans and be reported via appropriate governance on a case by case basis.

Legal implications

23. The Children's and young people's plan forms part of the policy framework. In accordance with the constitution scrutiny is asked to inform and support the process for making cabinet proposals to council

Risk management

24. As an overarching strategic plan there are a number of risks associated with its development as highlighted below:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The plan does not effectively reflect key priorities that relate to children and young people in Herefordshire	Review of evidence base and broad engagement during the development phase will ensure priorities are effectively identified. This will ensure all evidence, including the views of children and young people, will be reflected in the plan.
Ambitions reflected in the plan are unrealistic due to the limited partnership resource to support delivery	Focus of the plan will be how the partnership can further promote self-help/enablement and more efficient delivery mechanisms based on evidence. Ambitions will be both achievable and measurable, and will be monitored by the CYP Partnership on a quarterly basis.
Lack of partnership engagement inhibits delivery	Joint ownership of the CYP plan will be explicit at the outset.

Alignment with other key strategies and plans will be ensured.

Governance arrangements will be robust, with clear accountability.

25. A risk log will be developed alongside the plan and regularly reviewed by the CYP partnership.

Consultees

26. To ensure that the CYP plan is informed by a broad range stakeholder perspectives in its early stages of development, a number of engagement activities have been undertaken. This has included direct engagement with children and young people, professionals involved in the delivery of key actions within the current plan, and a broad range of key partners that has included providers of services for young people and children.
27. Although at an early stage, emerging themes from engagement undertaken to date include (but are not limited to):
- effective early identification to avoid crisis and increase resilience;
 - the role of appropriate and timely information and advice;
 - ensuring young people are well prepared for adulthood (including children and young people with disabilities);
 - maximising use of community assets;
 - promoting greater inclusion at a local level and;
 - further development of partner actions to tackle mental health, domestic abuse, oral health and obesity.
28. Engagement to date has also highlighted a number of crosscutting areas that will support success, including:
- ongoing involvement of children, young people and families in development and delivery of key actions;
 - more effective information sharing between agencies;
 - the importance of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce, and;
 - opportunities to deliver more efficiently through stronger partnership working.
29. Engagement will continue throughout February and March 2018. This will include stakeholder surveys, workshops, visits to schools and discussion at relevant partnership meetings. Outcomes of this engagement will be considered alongside relevant evidence to determine the draft priorities which will be presented to the scrutiny committee prior to wider consultation.
30. The draft plan will be subject to a short period of consultation in the summer, the results of which will inform the final version of the plan for 2018-2023. This will then be taken through appropriate governance approval routes.

Appendices

Appendix – presentation to committee on 5 February 2018

Background papers

None identified