

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet

Date: 8 September 2014

ITEM 7(c)

Title: Children and Young
People's Plan 2014-18

Portfolio(s): Children, Young people and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian Grayson

Report from Service

Area: Commissioning and Investment / Children, Young People and Learning

Responsible Officer: Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment / Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People and Learning
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Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval for the North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. The plan provides the overall strategic framework for further integrating children's services, to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet

- (1) Approve the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18, as set out in the appendix and agree that it should be presented to Council for approval and adoption.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 25th July 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The Children and Young People's Plan is part of the Council's Policy framework. It supports the following Our North Tyneside Council Plan priorities:

Our People – Will be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

Our Economy – Local people have the skills which businesses need.

The plan will contribute to the delivery of the following outcomes:

- The gap in educational attainment across the borough has been reduced.
- Be cared for and kept safe if they become vulnerable.
- Local employers find it easier to recruit the skilled workforce they need from the local area.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 is developed and owned by the Children, Young People and Learning Partnership, in conjunction with the local authority, as the lead partner. The partnership brings together public, voluntary and community sector providers of children's services, to improve the lives of the borough's children and young people through integrated working.

1.5.2 The current Children and Young People's Plan 2010-14 has underpinned the delivery of key success, which include:

- More young people achieving 5A*-C GCSEs;
- Significant reductions in youth justice system entrants;
- A reduction in the proportion of young people who are NEET (not in education, employment and training);
- A lower under 18 conception rate;
- The establishment of a comprehensive early intervention and prevention infrastructure;
- The embedding of multi agency safeguarding arrangements across partners.

1.5.3 The partnership, in consultation with key stakeholders and communities, has identified areas of shared focus, which will continue beyond the expiration of the current Children and Young People's Plan in 2014. These include:

- Early integrated support for families with additional needs;
- An early start in healthy living;
- Supporting children to develop the core "early years" skills needed to succeed at school;
- High quality training and learning opportunities for children and young people;
- Reducing harmful risk taking behaviour;
- Breaking the cycle of child poverty;
- Addressing the gap in outcomes between specific groups of children and young people and their peers;
- Enabling young people to develop core skills required for work and adulthood.

1.5.4 In light of the significant changes and challenges facing children's services and their partners, the partnership agreed to develop a new plan for the period 2014-18.

1.5.5 The Children and Young People's Plan is a named document within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, as set out part 4.7 of the Authority's constitution and therefore

must be approved by full Council. The plan has been prepared in accordance with the framework, which sets out the process for preparing, considering and approving key plans and strategies

- 1.5.6 In October 2013 Cabinet approved the proposed arrangements and timeline for taking forward the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18, in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework.
- 1.5.7 In February 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the partnership's proposals for developing a new plan. The Committee sought further clarification on arrangements for consulting with the wider community. A consultation programme was developed that set out arrangements for consulting with key partners including schools, the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board, health partners, Youth Council and Young Mayor. The partnership also agreed to hold an event through which the wider community could comment on the plan.
- 1.5.8 In June 2014 an extended forum was held for partners and wider stakeholders including the voluntary and community organisations, children, young people and families. Key issues arising from the event included the importance of preventative interventions, improving children and young people's health, the early years as a foundation for success, supporting young people to find sustainable employment, the effectiveness of working with the wider family and tackling the gap in outcomes between specific groups of young people and their peers. The event found strong agreement that the partnership's proposed priorities addressed the main issues facing children, young people and their families. Consultation feedback was combined with the partnership's strategic needs analysis to establish a clear strategic direction for the plan.
- 1.5.9 In July 2014, Overview and Scrutiny and the Children, Education and Skills Sub Committee considered the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18. The committee sought and received assurances that, as a high level strategic framework, the plan would not constrain the Council's Education Review or Creating a Brighter Future programme. A set of performance measures was included in the plan following feedback from the committees and it was agreed that progress against the plan will be reported to the Children, Education and Skills sub committee bi-annually from June 2015.
- 1.5.10 The plan provides the overarching strategic vision and priorities for all children and young people but its primary focus is on those children aged 0-25 years who are at experiencing or at increased risk of experiencing vulnerability, poor outcomes or deprivation. It contains a reduced number of priorities and outcomes, ensuring the partnership focus on those issues where collaboration can deliver the greatest impact.
- 1.5.11 The Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 is also North Tyneside's Child Poverty Strategy, which ensures the Council meets its statutory duty to publish a strategy.
- 1.5.12 The priority themes and outcomes for the 2014-18 Plan are:

Priority 1. Ready for School

Outcome 1.1 A Healthy Early Childhood

Outcome 1.2 Children are Ready to Start School

Priority 2. Ready for Work and Life

Outcome 2.1 Narrow the gap in educational outcomes

Outcome 2.2 Ready for Employment

Outcome 3.2 Reduce Risk Taking Behaviour

Priority 3. Safe, Supported and Cared For

Outcome 3.1 The most vulnerable children and young people are cared for

Outcome 3.2 Improved outcomes for looked after children

Outcome 3.3 The right support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs

The plan's priorities are aligned with the 'Our North Tyneside Plan', the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safer North Tyneside Plan.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Approve the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18, as set out in the appendix and agree that it should be presented to Council for approval and adoption.

Option 2

Cabinet could refer the plan back to officers for further consideration of the relevant issue(s) identified by Cabinet.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The most intractable issues facing children, young people and their families are complex, interconnected and have proved resistant to traditional service delivery models. They require integrated action across organisational and professional boundaries.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 provides the shared strategic vision that will enable partners to further integrate the planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services, to address their shared priorities. It will facilitate the development of innovative approaches that are both efficient and effective in improving the lives of children, young people and their families.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 is North Tyneside's Child Poverty Strategy. It sets out a clear strategic direction for tackling the underlying causes of child poverty and disrupting the intergenerational cycle of deprivation that blights too many families and communities in North Tyneside. This ensures we meet our statutory duty to produce a Child Poverty Strategy.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18.

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Investment, tel. (0191) 643 8089
Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People and Learning, tel. (0191) 643 8782
Graham Cowie, Manager Policy, Planning and Partnerships, tel. (0191) 643 8137
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background paper has been used in the compilation of this report and is available at the office of the author:

- (1) Cabinet Report 6(f) 14th October 2013 North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=548178
- (2) Overview and Scrutiny Report 4th February 2014 Proposals for Developing the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=550853
- (3) Overview and Scrutiny Report 7th July 2014 Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=553920
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=553907

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The plan provides the strategic framework for the commissioning of children's services in North Tyneside. The Children and Young people plan priorities are aligned with the Our North Tyneside Plan and are consistent with the Council's existing financial and resource planning.

The continued integration of children's services will allow partners to use resources more efficiently and effectively.

By shifting resources towards prevention and early intervention services, the plan aims to reduce demand for intensive remedial support, which is more expensive and has substantially lower success rates.

2.2 Legal

The Child Poverty Act 2010 requires the Authority to have arrangements to co-operate with partners and other bodies in order to reduce or mitigate the effects of child poverty in the area (section 21). Those arrangements must include a Joint Poverty Strategy setting out the measures the Authority and partners propose to take (section 23). The Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 incorporate North Tyneside's Child Poverty Strategy and ensures the statutory duty is fulfilled.

2.3 Consultation / community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, Overview and Scrutiny and the Children, Education and Skills sub committee. As detailed in section 1.5, the plan incorporates the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny and the Children, Education and Skills Committee.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Consultation has been undertaken with the Children, Young People and Learning Commissioning Executive Board. An extended Children, Young People and Learning Partnership event enabled key stakeholders, children and young people to share their views on the plan. The Children and Young People's Participation and Engagement Team have worked with children and young people to ensure their views were incorporated into the planning process. Initial consultation with children, young people and stakeholders identified a series of issues to address. The consultation process delivered by the partnership in the spring / summer 2014 led to partners and stakeholders identifying priorities for the partnership, as detailed in section 1.5.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

The plan will focus on children and young people who are or are at increased risk of experiencing vulnerability, deprivation or poor outcomes. The plan articulates the partnership's shared focus on reducing the gap in outcomes between those children and young people in greatest need of support and their peers.

The plan and accompanying needs assessment contribute to the Council's statutory equalities duties. The plan advances the equality of opportunity for children and young people, with a particular focus upon those who are experiencing or at increased risk of experiencing vulnerability and / or deprivation. The plan and needs assessment provide an analysis of the priority issues facing children and young people. These include specific equality issues such as the gender gap in educational outcomes and the persistent gap in key outcomes between children and young people with special educational needs, looked after children, children experiencing deprivation and their peers. The plan recognises that some groups of children and young people require additional, tailored or specialist support and commits the partnership to targeting resources on those in greatest need. Partners will review their data to assess the equality impact of the plan, as part of their monitoring arrangements.

2.6 Risk management

Failure to deliver the shared priorities could result in poor outcomes for children and young people and may result in reputational harm for the Council. Action has been taken to address this risk. Partners have refocused on a smaller number of priorities to ensure our efforts are focused on the key issues facing children, young people and their families. The Children, Young People and Learning Partnership have plans for integrating services that will improve efficiency and effectiveness.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The partnership's work to reduce risk taking behaviour will incorporate young people engaged in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environmental and sustainability issues arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy