

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	29 June 2011
DIRECTORS	Annette Bruton and Fred McBride
TITLE OF REPORT	For Aberdeen's Children - Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/042

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 *For Aberdeen's Children* is the Integrated Children's Services Plan for 2011-15. It sets out our vision, mission and priorities for children and young people's services in Aberdeen over the next four years.
- 1.2 Every local authority in Scotland is required to publish a plan which sets out how it will improve the outcomes for children and young people through the services that are delivered by the council and its partner agencies. The Integrated Children's Services Plan is a statutory report, required under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- 1.3 The Integrated Children's Services Plan has been developed by the Integrated Children's Services Partnership which represents all the key public and third sector agencies that deliver services for children and young people in the city. It was agreed by the Integrated Children's Services Partnership on 23 May 2011. The partnership welcomed additional final comments on the plan during the consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that council considers and formally approves the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15, For Aberdeen's Children, on behalf of the council; and
- 2.2 That the report be submitted to The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA) for ratification by all community planning partners.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Integrated Children's Services Partnership is committed to protecting the quality of services to children and young people despite the current pressures on resources.

- 3.2 The resources required to deliver the priorities set out in the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15 will come from all partner agencies. Within the council, most resources have already been identified from existing budgets and there are no further financial implications at this time.
- 3.3 Section 8 (page 38) of the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15 provides a breakdown of the planned spend for the year 2011-12 to give an indication of the level of expenditure on children's services in Aberdeen. This section will be updated annually.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The planning and delivery of high quality integrated services for children and young people will contribute to them being safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, respected and responsible, as outlined in our vision for the children and young people of Aberdeen. It should also reduce the risk of children falling through the system and not having their needs met effectively.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Every local authority in Scotland is required to publish a plan which sets out how it will improve the outcomes for children and young people through the services that are delivered .by the Council and its partner agencies. The Integrated Children's Services Plan is a statutory report, required under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- 5.2 In 2009, the Children and Young People's Strategic Planning Group undertook a review of the governance and planning to support the delivery of integrated children's services. The purpose was to ensure we had the joint governance and leadership in place to oversee the delivery of the local children's services priorities set out in the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement. The review focussed on how well services had worked together, the way we worked and how we reported our progress.
- 5.3 As a result of the review a new partnership structure was approved by the council in April 2010 and then ratified by our community planning partnership. The structure provides a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people and supports the implementation of the 2011-2015 Integrated Children's Services Plan.
- 5.4 All partners are committed to strengthening leadership and governance to developing the shared plan and delivering integrated

children's services. The structure we have in place will help us work in a more collaborative way to achieve our key aims and priorities.

- 5.5 The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15 is the high level plan that sets out partners' commitment to work together to deliver high quality public services, improve outcomes and achieve better value in areas that are a priority locally.
- 5.6 Our Vision:
We are working towards the day when every child and young person in Aberdeen enjoys being young and at the same time feels safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, respected and responsible. We will do this by coming together as workers, parents and carers to make sure every child and young person achieves their full potential and is supported to participate in decisions that affect them.
- 5.7 Our Mission:
We will promote and deliver integrated services of the highest quality that are accessible to all. We are committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and will promote the rights and responsibilities of all those who use services for children. Our aim is to 'Get It Right for Every Child' and in so doing improve the outcomes for all children and young people in the city by raising achievement and attainment and reduce inequality by ensuring a common, co-ordinated approach across all agencies that supports the delivery of appropriate, proportionate and timely help to all children as they need it.
- 5.8 The plan has been agreed by all partners and will be overseen by the Integrated Children's Services Partnership. It was agreed by the Integrated Children's Services Partnership on 23 May 2011. The partnership welcomed additional final comments on the plan during the consultation period.
- 5.9 The plan is intended for staff working in services for children and young people and those who work in services that will impact on children and young people in the council, Grampian Police, NHS Grampian and in the Third Sector. It will be of interest to other bodies with a specific interest in services for children and young people such as the Children's Hearing System, the Children's Panel, and the North East Scotland Child Protection Committee. The plan will also be of interest to inspectors of children's services, other local authorities and the Scottish Government. We will produce a summary version for parents and young people.
- 5.10 The plan sets out the strategic objectives and high level actions for services for children and young people over the next four years. It focuses on five key outcome themes for children and young people that we want to see improved and which will help us achieve our vision. The five outcomes themes are

- Getting the Best Start in Life
- Achieving their Potential
- Responsible and Included Citizens
- Safe and Protected
- Successful Transitions to Adulthood

5.11 The Integrated Children's Services Partnership is committed to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families and closing the gap between children in need and their peers. In order to reduce that gap partners will focus on improving outcomes for children in the early years, children who are looked after, have additional support needs, disabilities, or social emotional and behavioural needs and those young people not in employment, education or training.

5.12 An important aspect of delivering improved outcomes for children and young people will include implementing the third phase of the national Getting it Right for Every Child programme. The Getting it Right implementation plan was approved by the Integrated Children's Services Partnership in February 2011.

5.13 Getting it Right for Every Child provides us all with a common approach to working together to deliver better outcomes for children and to measuring success across all eight wellbeing indicators set out in our vision for Aberdeen's children. The Integrated Children's Services Partnership will oversee the delivery of the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-2015 and the Integrated Children's Services Management Team will oversee the delivery of key processes to support multi-agency working, including the Getting it Right Implementation Plan.

5.14 The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15 includes:

- Our vision
- Our mission
- Our governance structure and planning arrangements
- A profile of Aberdeen and the position of children and young people
- Involving children and young people
- Getting it right for every child in Aberdeen
- Key themes and priorities
- Information on workforce, training and development and resources.

5.15 The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15 will be updated annually to monitor performance and to show how working together to provide services has made a difference to improving the lives of children and young people in the city.

5.16 The word version of the Integrated Children's Services Plan

2011-15 is attached. The final printed version will include illustrations and graphs from the Children and Young People's Audit.

- 5.17 It is recommended that council considers and formally approves the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2011-15, For Aberdeen's Children, on behalf of the council. It will then be submitted to The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA) for ratification by all community planning partners.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 The Integrated Children's Services Plan supports the delivery of the Council's commitments set out within 'Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking', with particular reference to actions 1-13 under Education and 1-14 under Health and Care.
- 6.2 It will also support progress towards meeting the National Outcomes outlined within the Single Outcome Agreement, with particular reference to the following:
- National Outcome 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
 - National Outcome 5 – Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
 - National Outcome 8 – We have improved the life chances of children and young people and families at risk.
- 6.3 An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) was carried out on 10 May 2011. Positive impacts were identified for all children and young people in the city, but specifically:
- Children and young people in need
 - Children in their early years
 - Children who are looked after
 - Children with additional support needs, disabilities, or social emotional and behaviour needs
 - Young people not in employment, education or training.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Key National Policies / Reports:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Equality Act 2010
- National Care Standards
- For Scotland's children
- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Early Years Framework
- Health for all Children (Hall 4)
- A Curriculum for Excellence
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended 2009) and respective codes of practice
- Supporting children's learning: code of practice 2010
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Delivering Healthy Futures (2007)
- Equally Well (2008)
- National Delivery Plan for Specialist Children's Services
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2010)
- Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards
- Looked After Children: We Can and Must Do Better
- Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
- Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003
- The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill 2010
- Preventing Offending by Young People: A Framework for Action (2008)
- More Choices, More Chances: A Strategy to Reduce the Proportion of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training

7.2 Key Local Strategies / Reports:

- Aberdeen City: Children and Young People's Audit 2010/11
- Aberdeen City Council Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking
- Aberdeen City Council 5-Year Business Plan
- Aberdeen City Single Outcome Agreement
- Aberdeen City Council Corporate Parenting Policy
- Aberdeen Learning Strategy
- Aberdeen City Child Protection Action Plan
- Aberdeen City Operational Guidance for Getting it Right for Every Child
- Aberdeen Inclusion Strategy
- Early Years Framework Implementation Plan 2010
- More Choices More Chances Local Strategy 2010-13

- NHS Grampian Local Health Plan
- NHS Grampian Our Children Our Future: A Strategy for Protecting Children (2010)
- Youth Justice Strategy 2010-13

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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