

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	26th January 2017
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Draft Children's Services Plan 2017-2020
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/006
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides Committee with a Pre Consultation Draft of the Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 for comment and approval. This is a statutory plan required to be published before the first of April 2017. The plan also forms the basis of the Aberdeen City Council Integrated Children's Services Partnership contribution to the first 3 year cycle of the Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee notes the content of the Draft Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 and approves release for Formal Consultation.

Elected members are also asked to note that:

- (1) It is a statutory requirement that the final Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 is completed before April 1st 2017;
- (2) Elected Members will have further opportunity to provide feedback on the plan's content and development as part of the formal consultation.
- (3) The finished Children's Services Plan will be presented to full council on the 21st of June 2017

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Production and development of the plan will have no immediate financial implications save publication costs, which will be met by the Integrated Children's Services budget.

On publication of the plan it is the intention of the Children's Service's Board to undertake an evaluation of the financial implications of implementing the plan across the whole partnership and subsequently a review of implications on delivery of the plan.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

As previously indicated this is a statutory plan the requirements of which are fully laid out in the Draft Children & Young Peoples Act Statutory Guidance.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Aberdeen City's Integrated Children's Services Partnership (ICS) Plan (2011-2015)¹ came to a close last year. Towards the completion of this plan the Partnership was inspected between August and October 2014, receiving a positive report published on the 4th of March 2015.²

For the past year the ICS has been working towards the completion of a Joint Inspection Action Plan based on the recommendations of the inspection report. This work has been carried out as an interim plan over this past academic year with the final submission of progress of actions sent to the Care Inspectorate on the 29th of July 2016. A committee report summarising the progress of actions across the year was presented to the Education & Children's Services Committee on the 8th of September 2016.

In line with the draft statutory guidance provided by the Scottish Government in relation to the Children & Young Peoples Act (2014), each Local Authority and associated Health Board is required to produce a joint 3 year plan to be published no later than the 1st of April 2017 and running till the 1st of April 2020. This document is to be referred to as a Children's Services Plan (replacing the previous Integrated Children's Services Plan terminology).

Section 3 of the statutory guidance states that the Children's Services Plan must align with existing plans. Most directly it has to align with:

¹ Link: [Aberdeen City Integrated Children Services Plan 2011-2015](#)

² Link: [Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection Report Aberdeen City \(4th March 2015\)](#)

- The Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- And the Local Health Board's Strategic Plan (Child Health 2020).

Other strategies, legislation and plans that it should align with include but are not limited to:

- The Community Justice Act,
- Community Empowerment Bill,
- Aberdeen City CPP Community Empowerment, Engagement and Participation Strategy;
- Section 1 of the Children & Young Peoples Act's Statutory Guidance to ensure UNCRC Articles are embedded in the planning and development process.

Aberdeen City ICS began working towards the development of the new Children's Services Plan in June 2016. During June/July the partnership contributed a range of metrics and actions for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) under the 'Prosperous People - Children are Our Future' section. These actions, metrics and priorities outlined in the LOIP formed the basis of initial discussions on how the Children's Services Plan should be shaped so as to ensure that they explicitly link³.

Two Evaluation and Review meetings were held with the ICS Board members to determine a draft plan structure.

The ICS Board suggested a number of criteria for the plan including that it should: be understandable to children and young people; be considerably more concise than the previous plan (15-20 pages max, excluding graphics); clearly link directly to the LOIP; explicitly reflect the UNCRC Articles; follow the C&YP Act's statutory guidance relating to plan development and the UNCRC; as far as practicable be driven by the views of children and young people; align with existing cross partnership strategies and plans.

The draft version presented here meets all but two of these criteria. Firstly, the final document will likely be longer than 20 pages of content, given the requirements of content. Secondly, due to the detail required in the plan, it has not been possible to draft it in a child friendly manner. However, a child-focused summary version will be produced for publication alongside the final plan.

Through August 2016 - December 2016 the ICS Board and Outcome Groups were tasked with evaluating their current action plans with a view to developing actions for the next 3 years to link with the LOIP.

³ Link: [Community Planning Aberdeen: Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026](#)

From the 5th September 2016 – 7th November 2016 (culminating with the ICS Conference) extensive stakeholder engagement was carried out with children and young people from ages 4-18, as well as parents. This was to ensure that young children, young people and families had an opportunity to help shape the priorities for the ICS over the period of the 2017 to 2020 plan.

On the 12th of December 2016 a pre-consultation draft of the Children's Services Plan was presented to the ICS Board for comment from immediate ICS Outcome Group Members.

Formal consultation of the plan is intended to run throughout February; with a final draft intended for publication by mid-March 2017 subject to amendments made from feedback from the consultation.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

The purpose of the plan is to outline how we will improve supports for children young people and their families over the next three years in consultation with stakeholders and after a thorough examination of data on children and young people the Partnership aims to improve customer experience in 4 key areas:

- Youth Engagement and Inclusion to ensure mechanisms for young people to play an active role in decision making as well and ensure the inclusion of all young people regardless of circumstances;
- Closing the poverty, education and health gap for children and young people by providing integrated supports;
- Improving Health and Wellbeing, particularly on issues such as anxiety, depression and bullying;
- Community Safety and Environment, improving and expanding outdoor spaces for children and young people as well as ensuring they feel safe at home.

More comprehensive details of these themes and customer/stakeholder feedback can be found in the plan

Improving Staff Experience –

The plan will support measures within the partnership to improve upskill and expand Children's Services across all key sectors.

This will include:

- Highlighting and promoting examples of good practice

- Supporting each other to develop a shared partnership approach to recruitment and retention
- Creating mechanisms to ensure staff feedback throughout the partnership is used to inform service developments and improvements

Improving our use of Resources –

The plan is intended to support Children & Young Peoples Services Partners across the city to share resources and expertise to improve outcomes for children and young people. It will provide opportunities for joint commissioning and project implantation on a wide range of service development in the coming years.

Further details on resource requirements and implications will form part of the review alluded to in section 2 above.

Corporate –

Smarter Living Priorities:

“We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.”

“We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.”

Smarter Living – Quality of Life:

- Supporting priority families.
- Promoting and secure and lasting attachments for children.
- Implementing the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) model to ensure that every child and young person in Aberdeen enjoys being young and at the same time feels safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included.

Smarter People Priorities:

“We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.”

Implementation of the Reclaiming Social Work model, and its intended outcomes within Children's Social Work, link to and fulfil the ambitions of the 'Aberdeen: the Smarter City' plan.

Smarter People – Social and Human Capital:

Attracting and retaining a high quality workforce in all areas of Child Services including but not limited to:

- Teacher Staff
- Early Learning and Childcare Practitioners
- Social Work
- Health Care Services
- Community Learning and Development

- Ensuring partnership approaches are supporting children and young people.

- Enabling all young people in Aberdeen to achieve sustainable and positive destinations.

Smarter Governance – Participation:

- Implementing the Reclaiming Social Work model to work in partnership with families within their local community to improve their overall wellbeing and outcomes.

- Delivering a Public Social Partnership (PSP) approach with third sector partners to co-design commissioned services to support Reclaiming Social Work. The Service Business Plans provide an 'operational' link which ensures that service, team and personal objectives are aligned to both the Directorate Business Plan and Council's Strategic Business Plan priorities and reflect performance management outcomes consistent with those objectives.

Public –

This report should be of great interest the public. It is principally aimed as a public document that outlines how the Local Authority catchment of Aberdeen intends to support partners and communities to improve the lives of children and young people.

Further care will be taken to ensure that a summary Child/Young Person accessible version of this plan is developed for publication alongside the finished report to ensure that they are fully informed of the implications of the plan and ensuring that they have a continues opportunity to contribute to development and rollout of the plan within the 3 year time frame

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The action plan that will be linked to the Children's Services plan as well as embedding the Improvement Methodology (explained in more detail in the plan) will be used to develop an infrastructure within the partnership through its Improvement and Performance Group to mitigate against Risks and track performance improvements across the partnership throughout the 3 year lifespan of the plan

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Planning Aberdeen Strategic Assessment
Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan
NHS Grampian Child Health 2020
Community Justice Act
Children & Young Peoples Act Statutory Guidance
Community Empowerment Bill
Aberdeen City CPP Community Empowerment, Engagement and Participation Strategy
Draft Aberdeen City Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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