

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education & Children's Services
DATE	1st of June 2017
REPORT TITLE	Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/022
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	James Simpson

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1. This report provides Committee with the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020. This statutory plan began on 1st of April 2017 and was submitted to the Scottish Government before the 30th of April as required. The plan also forms the basis of the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Partnership contribution to the first 3 year cycle of the Community Planning Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 1.2. The report and attached plan are intended to assure Elected Members that our Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Partnership is meeting our statutory responsibilities as part of the Children & Young People (Scotland Act) Statutory Guidance Section 3 regarding children's services planning. This requires each Local Authority and Associated health board to develop a 3 year plan to improve the lives of children and young people by embedding the Getting it Right for Every Child approach throughout ICS Partnership Planning structures

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1. That the Committee notes the content of the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017- 2020.
 - i) To note the work undertaken to produce the final draft of the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020.
 - ii) To endorse the work of the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES / OTHER HEADINGS AS APPROPRIATE

- 3.1. Aberdeen City's Integrated Children's Services Partnership (ICS) previous plan came to a close in 2015 (2011-2015)¹. 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
- 3.2. Between then and June 2016 the ICS worked towards the completion of a Joint Inspection Action Plan based on the recommendations of the inspection report. This work was carried out as an interim plan 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.
- 3.3. In line with the draft statutory guidance provided by the Scottish Government in relation to the Children & Young People 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.
- 3.4. Section 3 of the statutory guidance states that a children's services plan should, as far as practicable, align with existing plans. In Aberdeen City our ICS plan most directly aligns with:

- 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 aligns w 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.

- 3.5. 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.

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

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

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

- 3.6. Two evaluation and review meetings were held with the ICS Board members to determine a draft plan structure.
- 3.7. The ICS Board suggested a number of criteria for the plan including that it should: be as far as possible 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.
- 3.8. The final version presented here meets all but two of these criteria. Firstly, the final document is 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 is currently in development.
- 3.9. Through August 2016 - December 2016 the ICS Board and its 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.
- 3.10. 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.
- 3.11. On the 12th of December 2016 a pre-consultation draft of the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan was presented to the ICS Board for comment from immediate ICS Outcome Group Members and circulation to relevant governance structures for comment and approval.
- 3.12. Formal public consultation ran from the 13th of February to the 28th of February. Comments and suggestions were used as far as possible in the redrafting of the final version of the ICS Plan.
- 3.13. The final version of went live on the 1st of April 2017 with the inaugural meeting of the new plan held on the 8th of May 2017.
- 3.14. The ICS Conference will be held on the 12th of June as the formal launch of the Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any resource requirement in the development and roll out of the ICS Plan will be met within existing resource across the partnership

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. For legal implications and background please see the ICS Plan in Appendix 1 Section 2.1 'National Context: Getting it Right for Every Child'
- 5.2. As previously stated in paragraph 1.2. the ICS Plan ensures that we meet our statutory responsibilities under the Children and Young People Act Statutory Guidance Section 3

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

For the purposes of the immediate recommendations of this report there are no associated risks.

In broader terms regarding the risks in the implementation of the plan the following may be considered:

- **Financial:** All activity associated with the implementation of the ICS Plan will be managed within existing budgets and resources. CYP Statutory Guidance requires all key children's services partners to contribute to the plan. Each have committed to carrying out actions and resourcing the plan. These are summarised in the Improvement Plan (Section 9 of the ICS Plan Appendix 1) - Low Risk
- **Employee:** Both within Aberdeen City Council and the wider ICS Partnership there are risks associated with staffing limitations and its impact on the ability to deliver the improvements outlined in the Plan. This would have an impact if significant budget cuts are made to the associated partner services and their related improvement work over the next 3 years. Partners are committed to providing shared resource and support to mitigate against these risks –Medium Risk
- **Customer / citizen:** Ensuring effective implementation of the ICS Plan is essential in meeting our legislative requirements. On inspection we must demonstrably show to the Care Inspectorate that we are having a positive impact on the outcomes of children and young people across the city. To support this we are beginning the development of an improvement planning and reporting framework to link with the wider CPP to ensure that our ICS Board have sufficient details to direct and redirect service and/or support to effectively improve service provision- Medium Risk
- **Environmental:** There will likely be no negative impact on the environment as a result of the ICS Plan. Development and completion of the improvement projects relating to an improved environment for children and young people (please refer to paragraphs 7.6 and 7.7) should have a positive impact on the environment- Low Risk

- **Technological:** There are no immediate technological risks associated with the development of the plan. Any technological requirement on the ICS Partnership as part of the ICS Plan will be met by existing resources within the Partnership- Low Risk
- **Legal:** As previously stated the ICS Plan fulfils our legislative requirements and ensures we are in compliance with all related legislation –Low Risk
- **Reputational:** Ineffective planning and ongoing work related to improving outcomes for children and young people could ultimately result in a negative Care Inspection. Each of the key areas of work mentioned in the other risk categories are intended to mitigate against this risk –Low Risk

7. IMPACT SECTION

Economy

- 7.1. The ICS Plan offers a series of improvement actions the ICS Partnership intends to take forward to ensure that young people can become effective contributors to the economy once they have left school, college and/or university.
- 7.2. These include our Aberdeen Guarantees Programme to support improved positive destinations as well as our Aberdeen National Improvement Framework Action Plan (currently in development). The partnership will help support our Associated School Groups to develop improvement work related to the Pupil Equity fund by providing partnership support to schools.
- 7.3. Further details can be found in the ICS Plan Appendix 1 (Sections: 2.2. 'Local Context: Community Planning Aberdeen'; and Section 6.3. 'Children are Respected, Included and Achieving')

People

- 7.4. The ICS Plan as a whole links directly with the 'Children are the Future' section of the CPA Local Outcome Improvement Plan under the 'Prosperous People' section, with a clear vision to improve the lives of children, young people and their families. The ICS Plan forms the basis of our first 3 year cycle of improvement relating to this work
- 7.5. 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 (please refer to paragraphs 3.9 -3.12 for details) and after a thorough examination of data on children and young people the Partnership aims to improve in 4 key areas:

- *Youth Engagement and Inclusion*, to ensure mechanisms for children and 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 stakeholder feedback can be found throughout the ICS Plan Appendix 1. An EHRIA was completed in respect of this report.

Place

7.6. The ICS Plan outlines numerous actions that the Partnership intends to take forward to improve the environment for children and young people, these include:

- Working towards Unicef accreditation for Aberdeen City to become a 'Child Friendly City'
- Through our Localities and Associated School Groups, improving outdoor play spaces for varying age groups
- Creating a safer community for children and young people
- Encouraging children and young people to become active citizens in their community

7.7. (Additional details can be found in the ICS Plan Appendix 1: Section 6.1 'Supporting Children, Young People and Parents to be Healthy, Happy and Active'; 6.1. 'Play for All'; and Section 6.2. Empowering Children & Young People through Responsible Citizenship.

Technology

7.8. As the ICS Plan develops we hope to improve our use of and accessibility to information sharing mechanisms this will include:

- Using the Aberdeen City GIRFEC Website as a 'live' version of the Plan providing resources, information and examples of our work
- We are also piloting the use of the Ideas Hub within schools as a focus mechanism to get stakeholder feedback from children and young people on a regular basis to inform our work

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children & Young Peoples Act 2014 Scotland Statutory Guidance (Section 3)

www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512307.pdf

CPA Local Outcome Improvement Plan

<http://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/>

Aberdeen City Joint Inspection 2015:

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2370/Joint%20inspection%20for%20c%20and%20YP%20Aberdeen%20City%20February%202015%20v2.pdf>

Community Planning Strategic Assessment 2016:

<http://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Aberdeen-CPP-Strategic-Assessment-2016.pdf>

CPA Local Outcome Improvement Plan:

<http://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/FINAL-LOIP-22-AUG-16.pdf>

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1 contains the final draft text of the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020. A graphical version is currently being completed; this version will replace this draft for the final Committee report.

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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