

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 9th October 2018

Wards: All wards

Subject: Children & Young People's Plan 2019-23

Lead officer: Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families Department

Lead member: Cllr Kelly Braund, Cabinet Member for Children Services
Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Cabinet Member for Education

Contact officer: Mark Gwynne, Interim Head of Policy, Planning and Performance

Recommendations:

- A. Members of the panel to discuss their priorities for the children and young people of Merton for the period 2019-23 and to provide their views to feed into the consultation and engagement activity underway to support development of the plan.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report is an opportunity for members to engage in pre-decision scrutiny to inform development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2019-23.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 The current Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) covers the years 2015-19 over which time significant progress has been made in delivering on the priority areas identified at the time. The CYPP is the key partnership strategy for the Children's Trust and aims to unite all partners around a common cause delivered through pooling or alignment of their respective budgets. The key priorities to be delivered through this plan were:
- Deliver early help and improve outcomes for those subject to the effects of disadvantage
 - Safeguarding children and young people
 - Looked after children and care leavers
 - Closing the gap in educational outcomes and opportunities
 - Engage and enable young people to achieve better outcomes
 - Children with special educational needs and disabilities
- 2.2 With delivery of the plan nearing the end, progress on these with a year to go has been assessed and is summarised as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 In establishing the new plan, there is a great opportunity to engage with children and young people, and with many partners, service users and other interested groups within the borough. It has been decided that rather than engaging with some draft priorities for ratification, we will offer a 'blank sheet of paper', supported by a suggested

framework for consideration to enable all groups to feed in their individual thoughts. These will then be grouped to identify emerging priorities and some of the key things that people want to see the partnership achieve in each of these areas.

- 2.4 Due to the continuation of the austerity agenda, there is a lack of resource within the public sector to invest in as many discretionary and preventative services as may be desired in order to retain sufficient funding to provide our statutory services. This means that, to deliver this type of plan, it is essential to think creatively about the respective roles and responsibilities of individual people, their local communities and organisations within the wider society in not only identifying, but also in meeting children and young people's needs.
- 2.5 Fundamental considerations for the new CYPP will be how we maximise the opportunities available through working effectively in partnership to build the resilience of individuals and our communities. This will be essential in supporting development of services, the local offer through voluntary and community sector groups and in enabling our children and young people to reach their full potential – now and in the future. This will help us in creating strong, healthy and prosperous families within communities where they can thrive, invest and see a future within the borough.
- 2.6 Priorities for the new CYPP will need to recognise some key considerations:
- Many services have responsibility for children from conception to 25, and even where this is not so, organisations are increasingly recognising the unique needs of adolescence extend into the mid-twenties, so the plan must be relevant for those that are very young, primary age, at secondary school, or transitioning to adulthood.
 - Some of these young people and families will be receiving support through our services at a range of levels of need as set out within our Child, Young Person & Families Wellbeing Model (Appendix 2) and others will not be requiring any support or services at the current time.
 - To be broad ranging and provide a holistic approach we should be thinking about the wider community children and young people are growing up within, and how we enable young people to achieve their desired outcomes. Every Child Matters gave a helpful framework for these:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic wellbeing
 - In addition, when the Every Child Matters outcomes were originally identified, young people's own priorities included their relationships with family and friends. Our plan should also therefore acknowledge this.
- 2.7 We do not seek to consult on a set of pre-identified priorities, proposals and ideas in order to gain endorsement. Instead, this consultation aims to give an update on what we sought to achieve through the last plan, where we think we are now and within the framework for consideration outlined above, to attract open views on what our priorities should be for the next 4 years. Scrutiny are requested to consider:
- How might we want to envisage Merton for children, young people and families in 2023;
 - What are your priorities for Merton's children, young people and families in the future; and

- What are some of the key outcomes that should be achieved in order to say that we have been successful in taking the borough on this journey as far as children, young people and their families are concerned.

2.8 The views provided by the Scrutiny panel will be incorporated with feedback received over the coming months from a range of stakeholders including our partners, residents, service users and – above all - our children and young people who we want to be the future of the borough. This will help us develop a Children & Young People’s Plan for the borough that is informed by a range of opinions and is widely owned. The final plan will be presented for approval through Cabinet and the Children’s Trust by spring 2019.

3. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 No specific implications from this report.

4. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific implications from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No specific implications from this report

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No specific implications from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No specific implications from this report.

8. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

8.1 Appendix 1 – Children & Young People’s Plan 2015-19 delivery update.

8.2 Appendix 2 – Child, Young Person & Family Wellbeing Model.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

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