

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 15th July 2019

Wards: All Wards

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

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

Lead member: Kelly Braund, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Education and Adult Services

Contact officer: Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Policy, Planning and Partnerships

Recommendations:

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1. To approve Merton's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2019-23 for adoption at full council in September.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The report proposes that Cabinet approve Merton's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2019-23 for adoption by full Council in September. This plan will replace the previous CYPP which spanned 2016-19.
- 1.2. The CYPP links to Merton's Sustainable Communities Plan (currently being refreshed) and supports the delivery of Merton's mission to 'enhance the lives of vulnerable, younger (...) residents through improving health and social opportunities' as well as 'to improve education, from nursery level to adult provision, to develop local cultural and leisure offers for all, and to increase participation in local decision making'.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The CYPP is the key strategic plan for partners responsible for delivering services for children, young people and families in Merton and for the wider community. It is overseen by the multi-agency Children's Trust Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, which is the vehicle for bringing together partner agencies to secure improvements for children, young people and their families in Merton. The refresh of the plan has been led by the Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Department and has been informed by an understanding of need drawn from various surveys of children and young people, performance management information and profiles, strategic mapping and evidence from delivery of the previous plan.
- 2.2. The voice of Merton's young residents has been a vital foundation of the new set of priorities. Over 1,287 respondents participated in a large-scale survey to ascertain opinions and perspectives on a range of areas including local community, public spaces, health, safety and personal well-being. Focus groups were also held at Cricket Green School, children's centres and as part of a Student Council Day of Action. Two of Merton Council's Young Inspectors have been involved with the consultation and development of the new strategy at all stages.

- 2.3. A Visioning Day was held in March for key partners and stakeholders to impact on the strategic direction of the new plan. A new vision for the Board (*'My Family, My Future, My Merton: A place where children and young people feel they belong, stay safe and can thrive'*) emerged from this consultation, which captures aspirations for all children and young people to have fair access to a range of opportunities, fulfil their potential, make positive choices for their future and highlights the importance of friends, family and community in the borough.
- 2.4. The new CYPP for 2019-23 sets out six priorities that cover improvements that are broad-ranging, holistic and inclusive of all children and all levels of need across the Merton Well-Being Model and which respond to the issues and concerns raised through consultation. These are: 1. Being Healthy, 2. Staying Safe, 3. Enjoying and Achieving, 4. Getting Involved, Having a Say, 5. Becoming Independent and 6. My Merton (connections with family, friends and the local community).
- 2.5. The refreshed CYPP complements a number of partnership strategies, namely Merton's Sustainable Communities Plan and the borough's Health and Well-Being Strategy. The overarching goal of the former is to increase social capital to impact on positive outcomes while the latter focuses on creating a healthy place in terms of social and physical environment. Both of these aims relate to and complement the connectedness theme within the new plan captured in the 'My Merton' outcome.
- 2.6. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for leading the key activity required to achieve the CYPP's six outcomes. Council officers are working with partners to develop an implementation plan and performance monitoring framework. This will be presented to the Board at its next meeting on 17th of July and a final version prepared in time for the full Council meeting in September where the plan is due to be adopted.
- 2.7. Once agreed, the strategy will be published on the council webpages. A number of social media channels that operate across the council will be used to promote and circulate regular messages about the plan. Partner organisations will also use their networks as part of a multi-faceted approach to communication and accountability.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The CYPP for 2019-23 has been developed through extensive engagement with children, young people and families in Merton, and partners through the Children's Trust Board

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Following Cabinet approval, the CYPP 2019-23 will be presented to Council for adoption on 18th September 2019. A detailed action plan will be developed via the Children's Trust partnership to progress the outcomes.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no financial costs arising from the publication and dissemination of the plan.

6.2. The actions committed to in the plan are part of the council's planned business and any costs will be met within existing budgets.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Merton CYPP and the document is not governed by a specific legislative framework.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The CYPP 2019-23 includes a focus on improving the life chances of vulnerable groups and children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in its outcomes. We consulted with a wide variety of children during the consultation process.

8.2. Outcomes for vulnerable groups will be able to be tracked via the performance framework. This will be agreed with partners.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. The ambition that all children and young people are safe is one of the plan's six outcomes (*'Staying Safe'*).

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Risks to delivery will be reviewed and acted on as part of the Children's Trust arrangements for progress monitoring.

10.2. Any risks to the council will be managed via the existing corporate risk management process.

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

- 2019-23 Children and Young People's Plan

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

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