

## **Committee: Full Council**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 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 adopt Merton's Children and Young People's Plan for 2019-23.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Following Cabinet sign-off in June 2019, this report seeks full Council approval of Merton's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2019-23. This plan will replace the previous CYPP which spanned 2016-19.

## **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.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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. Merton Council's Young Inspectors have been involved with the consultation and development of the new strategy at all stages
- 2.4. During the refresh process, a new vision for the Board was developed (*'My Family, My Future, My Merton: A place where children and young people feel they belong, stay safe and can thrive'*), 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 family, friends, and community in the borough.

- 2.5. 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).
- 2.6. 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'. The refreshed plan also complements the borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy via its connectedness theme (*My Merton*) linked to healthy place in terms of social and physical environment.
- 2.7. Council officers are working with partners on an implementation plan and performance monitoring framework that will be presented at the next Children's Trust Board meeting in October. These documents are being developed collaboratively with Young Inspectors who continue to apply scrutiny and provide recommendations to ensure that key activity is focused on progressing priority needs and key issues.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

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

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. Following adoption by Full Council, the underpinning draft implementation plan will be formally adopted by the Children's Trust Board in October. At this point, the strategy will be published on council websites, and promoted by partner agencies using existing communication channels.

### **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. In addition, the Council is in the process of developing its new SEND Strategy. 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.

## **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'*). It aligns with existing strategic plans including the Youth Justice Plan and the 'Safer Merton' plan.

## **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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