

Item No. 7.1	Classification: Open	Date: 16 October 2013	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		2013-16 Children and Young People's Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Cabinet	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly adopts the proposed 2013-16 Children and Young People's Plan at Appendix 1 as a key Southwark Council policy framework document for children and young people.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 17 September 2013 cabinet considered the 2013-16 Children and Young People's Plan and agreed:

That the proposed 2013-16 children and young people's plan (CYPP) at Appendix 1 of the report be recommended to council assembly for adoption as a key Southwark council policy framework document for children and young people.

3. This decision is now been treated as a recommendation to council assembly for consideration.

Strong local performance in context of high levels of need

4. This Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) builds on previous plans and strong local performance, with Southwark continuing to perform highly against a range of benchmarks, thus ensuring that strong universal services are the bedrock of the local system.
5. Attainment, for example, continues to rise, with Southwark at or above the national average across all key stages. Pupil achievement at the end of primary school in English and maths combined in 2012 stands at 83% compared to 79% nationally, which represents top quartile performance. Provisional 2013 results indicate continued good performance. In addition, GCSE results in 2012 rose to 59% which is in line with national performance.
6. More children are also able to attend good or better schools, with over 80% of primary schools and 90% of secondary schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. Children's centres and early years provision continue to perform well in Ofsted inspections, with for example two-thirds of children's centres now judged good or outstanding.
7. Through the Fairer Future commitments, as set out in the Council Plan, there has also been continued capital investment in local schools, a full roll-out of the free healthy school meal programme to all primary pupils, and nearly 95% of

reception-aged children receiving a primary place of their choice. In addition, sustained investment in apprenticeships, the Youth Fund and support services has helped more young people succeed into adulthood, with 4.8% of young people were not in education, employment or training, compared to a central London average of 6.3%, as at June.

8. Services for vulnerable children and families have also been judged as strong, as recognised by the Ofsted inspection in May 2012. This judged the local system to be good with outstanding features, with inspectors finding strong, focused and improving services to protect vulnerable children. Outcomes for vulnerable children and young people are also improving, with for example a decline of more than 50% in the under-18 conception rate from 1998 to 2011.
9. The CYPP's underpinning needs assessment, however, also underscores the high levels of need and challenge in this diverse borough – Southwark has the 15th highest level of child poverty in London and is the capital's largest social landlord. The population is highly mobile and ethnically diverse, with interwoven complexities including high levels of worklessness, no recourse to public funds, substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental health concerns, and housing risks such as overcrowding.

A transformed strategic framework for children's services

10. Since the last CYPP was developed, much has changed in the statutory framework for children services. In October 2010, the government withdrew the statutory guidance governing children's trust activity and revoked the CYPP regulations. This meant that children's trusts were no longer required to produce a statutory CYPP, but could continue to do so where it makes sense locally.
11. The CYPP is also no longer the only strategy governing the children's system. Locally the Council Plan provides the overarching strategic framework, setting out how services deliver the Fairer Future commitments. These include introducing free healthy school meals, championing educational excellence and tackling factors affecting poorer life chances such as youth crime, teenage conceptions or being in care.
12. In addition, the introduction this April of statutory duties on the local authority and clinical commissioning group to establish a health and wellbeing board and produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) has provided new opportunities for partners to work together to improve the outcomes and experiences of our residents including children and young people.
13. As a result, Southwark's JHWS sets out how partners will tackle the issues and inequalities that most affect the health and wellbeing of our communities – this encompasses promoting healthier lifestyles and tackling the causes of poor health and inequality as well as addressing wider issues such as the need for quality housing, and safer and healthier environments including improved road safety, air quality and leisure facilities.
14. The JHWS also provides the framework for all local strategies including the CYPP as well as partner plans such as the Safer Southwark Partnership rolling plan, the clinical commissioning group's operating plan, and service strategies such as those covering economic wellbeing or culture. Collectively they ensure that local action remains focused on improving the outcomes of children, young

people and families.

15. In the context of services for children, young people and families, the JHWS prioritises a number of areas which require cross-cutting or partnership actions, such as:
 - a) High-quality advice and support services in the early years, and tackling inequalities in life chances for mothers, babies and toddlers
 - b) Keeping more children physically and mentally healthy, a healthy weight and doing well in school
 - c) Supporting more young people to succeed into education or employment, and identifying and diverting more vulnerable adolescents from risky behaviours or unhealthy choices, including unsafe sex or relationships, and involvement in crime
 - d) Giving children with a disability or special educational need a seamless, personalised experience, enabling them to have more choice and control over their life and support services
16. Both the Council Plan and the JHWS, therefore, provide a robust strategic framework for planning and improving services for children, young people and families. They strengthen the local authority's commitments to deliver high-quality services which every child, young person and family can access, and provide a backdrop for a fresh approach to the CYPP.
17. Through their performance frameworks, progress against local priorities is monitored and reported to council and partnership bodies. For example, childhood obesity is tracked through the JHWS performance framework, while action to improve educational attainment and youth employment are reported quarterly through the Council Plan as well as by exception to the health and wellbeing board.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Developing the CYPP

18. Locally, partners agreed to retain the children's trust and develop a local CYPP because we believe that only together can we achieve the ambitions we have for our children, young people and families. We have also modernised the trust's approach, choosing to develop the CYPP as a partnership plan for the transformation of services in a limited number of areas. As a result, the CYPP sets out priorities and objectives for three thematic areas rather than seeking to describe activity across the whole children's system.
19. Development of the draft CYPP began in June 2012, and has been overseen by the children's trust at each stage. Working jointly with public health, the local authority and its partners have developed a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA). This has looked at the experiences of children, young people and families within services. Key findings have been brought together with service user consultation into short films which have been used with partners and decision-makers to develop the plan's priorities. These were also used during the consultation phase this summer.
20. As part of the JSNA, a programme of stakeholder consultation events took place throughout the summer. Called '1,000 journeys', these borough-wide "journey"

events sought the views and experiences of children, young people, parents, carers and frontline staff as well as local groups, ward members and community leaders. The programme included a wide range of workshops and programmes in community venues, schools, pupil referral units and children's centres, and included one at the Ministry of Sound attended by over 400 young people.

21. Some 1,300 Southwark journeys were collected in total, and these have been used to shape and inform the transformation commitments within the proposed plan. A selection of journeys is also being published alongside the draft CYPP to demonstrate how users' voices have shaped local priorities. This will be available both online and in print, and is attached as Appendix 2.
22. To develop the draft CYPP, partners collectively reviewed the data, the 'journeys', the views of strategic and senior stakeholders, and the direct feedback from children, young people and families. The resulting proposals are set out in Appendix 1, and represent the transformation commitments for 2013 to 2016 for the children's trust. This draft CYPP has been the basis of a widespread consultation across partners and stakeholders over the summer, with views incorporated into the final proposals. This consultation has included strategic partners such as the clinical commissioning groups, education, children's services and leisure scrutiny committee and other stakeholders such as schools and health providers.
23. In addition a 'family friendly' version of the CYPP has been developed to support promotion of the children's trust commitments to wider stakeholders and the community – a draft version is attached as Appendix 3, and this will be finalised, published and promoted following Council Assembly adoption of the CYPP.

The CYPP's transformation priorities

24. As set out above, the CYPP does not seek to describe all activity in the children's system. Instead, performance priorities for children and young people are held and reported through the Council Plan and JHWS, as set out in paragraphs 8 to 14 above.
25. As a result, the CYPP is a shorter document, framed around three transformational areas. These are the areas which children, young people and families have told us need to improve and which we know can only be achieved through partnership working. This new, more focused approach has been possible through the relaxation of CYPP regulations and the robust strategic planning and performance framework provided by the Council Plan, JHWS and supporting partner and service plans.
26. The three transformation priorities are as follows:
 - a) **Best start** – Children, young people and families access the right support at the right time, from early years to adolescence
 - b) **Safety and stability** – Our most vulnerable children, young people and families receive timely, purposeful support that brings safe, lasting and positive change
 - c) **Choice and control** – Children and young people with a special educational need or disability and their families access a local offer of seamless, personalised support, from childhood to adulthood

Policy implications

27. The CYPP commits children's trust partners to implement the shared vision and priorities described in the document, and these could have wide-ranging implications. These are summarised in the 'family-friendly' version attached as Appendix 3:
28. **Best start** – Children, young people and families access the right support at the right time, from early years to adolescence
 - Future configuration of early years provision including outreach and engagement services to ensure our most vulnerable residents access our early years and early help offers, and key entitlements such as free early years places
 - Commissioning arrangements with partners including health, police and schools to ensure a wide range of provision is easily accessible within localities through children's centres, early help locality teams and services for vulnerable adolescents
 - The role and function of services developing under the local Troubled Families agenda known as "Family Focus Plus"
 - Commissioning choices to reduce health inequalities exercised through new statutory duties and responsibilities around public health and community provision such as school nursing and health visiting
29. **Safety and stability** – Our most vulnerable children, young people and families receive timely, purposeful support that brings safe, lasting and positive change
 - The configuration of local services as a result of our local Social Work Matters transformation programme, our local response to the Munro review and the workforce development strategy
 - The configuration of local services to vulnerable children around the journey of the child, and arrangements with partners and providers to deliver effective and appropriate intervention and support to families
 - Where children cannot be cared for by their own families, how we exercise our corporate parenting responsibilities, particularly in regard to the commissioning of placements and support for looked after children; and reforms to our fostering and adoption services
30. **Choice and control** – Children and young people with a special educational need or disability and their families access a local offer of seamless, personalised support, from childhood to adulthood
 - Future configuration of health, education and social care services to support integrated assessment and support pathways in response to new statutory duties set out in the Children and Families Bill
 - Understanding the implications of the Bill's extension of rights to age 25 for ways of working, pathways and resources
 - How we deliver the personalisation agenda locally for children, young people and their families, including the development of the 'local offer', a statutorily prescribed description of the services children and families can expect to access locally
 - Commissioning arrangements with partners to ensure provision matches need, supports the personalisation agenda, increases choice and is high quality

Next steps in implementing the CYPP

31. Once the CYPP has been agreed, its commitments will form the basis of partnership work to review, develop and align or commission provision across the three priority areas. Central messages in the way we will work in improving outcomes for local children, young people and families are set out in the values and principles section of the plan. These have been widely informed by the views and experiences of service users as to what they expect and want from local services.
32. Key to the implementation of the CYPP will be working collaboratively with partners over the coming months to:
 - a) Test current service delivery against service user-led values and principles
 - b) Further JSNA work to understand what the data is telling us in more depth about barriers and opportunities for change, and service delivery priorities
 - c) Identify shared resources and opportunities including how we can use local resources in different ways to meet community needs
 - d) Use peer experts and best practice from elsewhere to challenge and inform thinking and support plan development
 - e) Work with service users and key stakeholders to build and refine ideas and actions, including strengthening partnership working through the Health and Wellbeing, and Safeguarding Boards
33. Central to this activity will be the development of a suite of performance indicators which enables the trust and stakeholders to measure and assess the impact and success of the CYPP. A draft performance framework is outlined as part of Appendix 1. This will be developed into a bespoke scorecard which can track improvements and impact. It is also proposed that the children's trust publish its progress against its objectives yearly, including publishing a 'family-friendly' version which is easily accessible for families and communities.
34. These updates will provide the basis for performance monitoring across the local authority and partners, including scrutiny committees, corporate parenting committee and partnership governing bodies. When combined with existing performance reporting arrangements for the JHWS and Council Plan, the result will be a comprehensive scorecard detailing activity and its impact improving outcomes for local children, young people and families.
35. Alongside strategic and service developments, it is proposed the CYPP, and the commitments within it, are promoted widely to stakeholders and communities through a launch event following council assembly.

Community impact statement

36. Analysis of the evidence gathered through the joint strategic needs assessment and stakeholder feedback, as outlined above, demonstrates the council's commitment to and fulfilment of its public sector equality duty. In particular the experience and outcomes of relevant protected groups, such as age, race, disability, pregnancy and maternity, were explored in detail to ensure that the CYPP as a strategic planning framework supports the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as the advancement of equality of opportunity and the fostering of good relations between people who

share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

37. Going forward, the work of the children's trust and the CYPP will have wide-reaching implications for all children, young people and families, especially our most vulnerable. A key underpinning principle will be to ensure it embeds considerations of equalities and human rights throughout its development, action and review. We continue to mainstream equalities in all aspects of the work such as any further needs assessment, stakeholder engagement and performance review arrangements.

Resource implications

38. Plans to deliver the CYPP will be informed by resources available within both the local authority and partners. The CYPP provides a planning framework within which the council and partners can prioritise investment and commissioning choices, and ensure that we collectively utilise resources such as free early years entitlements, voluntary sector funding streams and pupil premium to name a few. As appropriate, resourcing plans will be reflected through the council budget setting processes.
39. In some cases, delivering the transformation may require partners to pool or align budgets, or in some cases jointly commission services. Any such developments will be conducted through the appropriate local governance mechanisms.
40. In delivering the transformation in a challenging public sector financial context, it is vital that services are evidence based, cost effective and efficient. The CYPP will be used as a driver to remove duplication where it exists across the children's system and target resources against the agreed transformation areas.

Consultation

41. The CYPP was developed following an extensive programme of consultation, as outlined above. Going forward, the proposed CYPP is being considered in line with the governance arrangements of other partners. In addition, members have been involved and consulted through lead member briefings, scrutiny, corporate parenting committee and other forums.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

42. Under the council constitution at Part 3A, the policy framework of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a matter reserved to council assembly for agreement. The report requests that the cabinet recommends the adoption of the CYPP and agrees:
 - a) that this becomes the key policy framework document for children and young people and
 - b) becomes the local framework for partnership working, driving the transformation of local provision for children and families and
 - c) will form the basis for the work of other key statutory bodies including the Health and Wellbeing and Safeguarding Boards.
43. Although there remains a requirement for local authorities to have Children's

Trust, the regulations requiring a CYPP has been revoked and guidance withdrawn. Nevertheless local authorities may have a CYPP if they wish. The duty of partners on the Trust to cooperate remains; however, there is no longer have to formal duty to have “due regard” to the plan.

44. Council assembly will be aware that under the PSED General Duty public authorities must have ‘*due regard*’ to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
45. The protected groups covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The duty also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.
46. This report explains the development of the plan and the consultation and engagement that took place with stakeholders to inform the focus and priorities within the plan. The report also explains how the plan has underpinned with the principles of the PSED and in particular in regard to age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, and race.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (FC13/031)

47. The strategic director of finance and corporate services notes the proposal set out in this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising.
48. Funding to deliver this plan will be subject to separate approvals, including the council’s budget setting process. Officer time to implement this decision can be contained within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Joint strategic needs assessment	www.southwarkjsna.com ; www.southwark.gov.uk	Elaine Allegretti, 020 7525 3923
1,000 Journey – A selection of user experiences	www.southwark.gov.uk	Elaine Allegretti, 020 7525 3923
Cabinet Agenda, 17 September 2013	160 Tooley Street London SE1	Everton Robers/Paula Thornton 0207 525 7221/4395

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Draft 2013-16 CYPP
Appendix 2	1000 Journeys – A selection of user experiences
Appendix 3	Draft 2013-16 CYPP summary leaflet

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Romi Bowen, Strategic Director, Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Elaine Allegretti, Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance, Children's and Adults' Services	
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CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
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