

Report of the Strategic Director, Children's Services to the meeting of Wellbeing Board to be held on 13th June 2023

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Subject:

Children and Young People's Strategy

Summary statement:

This report presents the updated Bradford District Children and Young People's Strategy for board review and approval. It sets out how the partnerships that support the health, wellbeing and development of babies, children and young people will work together to improve outcomes for Bradford District's children and their families.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The Children's, Young People and Families Executive (CYPF Executive), along with its district partners, is committed to ensuring that all our children and young people have equity of access to the support available to meet their needs, that they are treated fairly, that services and provision meet their diverse needs, and that they have opportunities to meet with children and young people from different backgrounds and have opportunities to benefit from services and activities either offered to all, or those available to meet their specific needs.

Data and evidence has shown that inequality experienced by babies, children and young people can have an enduring negative impact into and throughout adulthood. A main focus of this strategy is to reduce the impact of inequality on babies, children and young people's lives and life chances.

A full equality impact assessment is being produced.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

n/a

1. SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on the development of a new Children and Young People's Strategy (CYP Strategy) for Bradford District, building on the themes within the interim plan (published in 2021). The draft Children and Young People's Strategy is contained in appendix 1.

Our ambition is to create a **child-friendly, co-produced, partnership-led Children and Young People's Strategy for Bradford District.**

2. BACKGROUND

An interim Children and Young People's Plan for the District was in place to the end of 2022. A working group composed of partners' representatives from across the partnerships has worked on the development of this new child-friendly, co-produced, partnership-led plan for the District. The work is closely linked to our commitment to Child Friendly Bradford as well as the need for improved partnership-led governance and accountability arrangements for children, young people and families across Bradford District.

Bradford District Children and Young People's Strategy 2023-2025

The strategy sets the following vision:

“For the happy, healthy development and success of our babies, children and young people. For them to grow-up in safe and supportive: families, homes, communities, education establishments, leisure and outdoor spaces.”

The draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2023-25 has been informed by children and young people, partners and other stakeholders. It has drawn on statistical data and research provided through our research partners to develop its ambitions, outcomes and priorities.

Children's voices form the heart of the strategy. Their likes, dislikes, and ideas for improving their lives, both now and in the future are the drivers for the ambition and priorities in the strategy. The strategy has been developed with the close involvement of Child Friendly Bradford, the Youth Service and Bradford Citizens.

A working group made up of colleagues from across the district has worked collaboratively to develop the strategy, a full list of partners can be found in the Methodology and Consultation Summary in the draft strategy.

The priorities of the CYP Strategy are informed by these four themes, each integral to the lives of babies, children and young people. Our ambition for each theme is set out in the relevant part of the strategy and the priorities are as follows:

Education priorities:

- 1) Improved partnership working between preschool childcare, schools, statutory services and the voluntary and community sector that prioritises the needs of the child and family

- 2) Ensure that all children have the opportunity to: enjoy learning and school, have good attendance, and that those who need additional support can, and do access it
- 3) Ensure that children are ready for the next stage (Early Years, Primary, Secondary or Post 16) by improving educational outcomes and access to 'skills for life' education; in particular, for pupils who have SEND, are disadvantaged, are care experienced or who have other vulnerabilities, and that for these groups this carries through to support for their transition to adulthood.

Physical and mental health priorities

- 1) Ensure babies (and new mothers), children and young people have early access to, and a good experience of, wellbeing and mental health support
- 2) Improve families' access to affordable and healthy food
- 3) Ensure all children and young people can access active spaces and enhance opportunities to engage with sports and other physical activities to have fun and reduce sedentary behaviour.

Safe Homes, Places and Communities priorities:

- 1) Ensure that babies', children's and young people's homes, and their wider physical, social and digital environments are safe, clean and sustainable. Children are protected from all types of harm
- 2) Ensure children and young people have opportunities to have fun and enjoy their local leisure, social, and cultural opportunities
- 3) Ensure that our children and young people have safe, clean, well-lit and accessible places and spaces where they can play, socialise and be physically active
- 4) Ensure our children and young people are confident to be themselves in different spaces and be supported to be safe and have a sense of belonging wherever they may be.

Skills Development priorities:

- 1) Ensure young people leave school with the right qualifications and skills, including life, social and independence skills, to pursue their chosen education, employment or training pathway and to live healthy, happy, fun, safe and fulfilling lives
- 2) Ensure all children, young people and families have access to digital resources, provision and skills. Services must also be tailored and accessible, according to need
- 3) Lift families out of poverty and into better paid work through targeted skills improvement and employment support.

The guiding principles of the strategy are:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Safeguarding and Early Intervention.
- Child Friendly Bradford District: Giving children, young people and families a voice and influence.

- Research and evidence informed practice.
- Partnership working.

The strategy outlines how each of these principles will be operationalised by the partnership. There are also a series of impact statements that set out 'how we will know that we have made a difference'.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The successful implementation of the strategy and associated delivery plans are rooted in partnership working, both within the council and with partners across the district. The CYP Strategy is closely linked to the District Plan and council delivery plans and their priorities. The overarching aim of the strategy is to positively impact on babies, children and young people and their families; in particular, to minimise the impact of inequalities.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Once approved, there will be a need to launch the CYP strategy, this will require some communications support at the appropriate stage. The Council also intends to provide sufficient officer resource to lead the implementation of the CYP Strategy.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the Children and Young People's Strategy will be overseen by the children's systems board, the Children, Young People and Families Executive.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

Not applicable

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

No greenhouse gas emissions implications arise from the recommended decisions.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There is a correlation between deprivation suffered by families within the district and areas experience the highest level of crime. Children and young people are

vocal in their desire to live in safe and welcoming communities. The partnership recognises the increased need for focus on linking to the prevention of poverty to outcomes for babies, children and young people, through the Anti-poverty strategy.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.5 TRADE UNION

No trade union implications arise from the recommended decisions in this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Looked After Children, Care Experienced young people, and those with Child Protection Plans or supported by Early Help are one of a number of groups most affected by poverty and reduced life chances. The strategy and its implementation will have specific measures to support children in care and care leavers.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

The CYP Strategy is currently in draft form; its content and priorities have been informed by engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and subject to extensive review and feedback from partners invested in its success. There is an accessible version of the strategy in development: an animation commissioned through Child Friendly Bradford. The Children, Young People and Families Executive (the children's systems board that reports to the Wellbeing Board) will have oversight of the implementation of the strategy and associated implementation plans.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Wellbeing Board

- 1) Adopt the Children and Young People's Strategy 2023-2025 including any updated comments received from the Board.
- 2) Agrees an implementation approach which includes the Bradford Children and Families Trust as a delivery partner for the strategy, and overseen by the Children, Young People's and Families Executive.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Children and Young People's Strategy

Appendix 2: One-page version of the strategy

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Background documents are documents relating to the subject matter of the report which disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based, and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report. Published works are not included.
- All documents referred to in the report must be listed, including exempt documents.
- All documents used in the compilation of the report but not specifically referred to, must be listed.