

Report of the Strategic Director Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 18 October 2023

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Subject:

Children and Young People's Strategy

Summary statement:

The Children and Young People's Strategy previously considered by the Committee on 15 March 2023 and the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. This Committee requests that the comments and suggestions raised by members be considered by officers, as part of the development of the Draft Children and Young People's Plan.
2. That the Children and Young People's Plan be presented to this Committee prior to it being finalised.
3. That a progress report be brought back in 12 months, which also includes all relevant data to hand, in respect of the various elements listed under the following four key themes:
 - Education;
 - Physical and mental health;
 - Safe Homes places & Communities;
 - Skills Development.

Elected members are asked to consider the revised Children and Young People's Strategy.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality Objectives	Report Statement
Visibility, leadership and accountability:	This strategy has been produced in cooperation with the Wellbeing Board, relevant Portfolio Holders, Senior management within the Council and elected members with the aim of promoting inclusion and equality of access. The strategy is the overarching strategy for the districts work with children and young people that provided clear leadership and accountability.
Community:	The explicit main aim of the strategy is to ensure that all partners and service areas have a better understanding of the Bradford Communities. The emphasis on engagement and co-production is to enable children, young people and families to participate in decision making.
Services:	At the core of the strategy is the ambition that service users will be actively engaged and be partners in co-production of services.

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Portfolio:
Children & Families

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Strategy supports our collective district ambition to ensure all babies, children and young people have equality of access to the resources and support available to help them, reach their full potential and our vision is for the Bradford District to be a wonderful place for children to thrive, grow up, live and work.
- 1.2 It identifies the priorities for the Children and Young People and Families Executive (CYPF) and its partners to support babies, children and young people to be happy and healthy and have successful lives. The Strategy covers people aged 0-25 years-old and all public sector, voluntary and community organisations that support and work with: babies, children, young people and their families in our district.
- 1.3 Its overarching aim is to ensure that no matter their background, family, personal or other circumstances, all babies, children and young people are able to have fair access to all the opportunities the district offers.
- 1.4 The ambitions and priorities have been developed through listening to the voice of children and young people; consultation with other stakeholders; data and other evidence; and harnessing the experience and expertise of key district partners who will be delivering against its outcomes.
- 1.5 We will also ensure children and young people have opportunities to be involved in decision-making across the range of our district's strategic public sector partnerships, through the implementation of a Child Friendly City and building on what has gone before.
- 1.6 We will support children to be healthy and well, we will reduce inequalities in physical and mental health, social and emotional development and educational attainment, actively look to tackle discrimination, the normalisation of bullying and hate crime as these can have detrimental and adverse impacts on a child's long-term opportunities and health.
- 1.7 We will listen to how children and young people are doing in terms of their happiness, their health and wellbeing, their feelings about where they live, whether they feel they belong, their relationships with family, friends, people of different backgrounds and statutory services, such as health and the police, their educational achievement and skills and their hopes for adult life.
- 1.8 We will support children and their families to build resilience, to embed the Bradford Adversity, Trauma & Resilience Strategy and, more specifically, support babies, children, young people and their families to recognise and build on these factors.
- 1.9 Factors that promote resilience during childhood (see Figure 1) include: fostering a protective relationship with an adult caregiver where the adult recognises and responds to the baby's/child's needs; developing social and emotional skills; accessing peer support and participating in communities and activities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 All local authorities are required to have a Children Young People's Plan under the Children and Young people's Plan (England) Regulation 2005. The existing Children and Young People's Plan can be found here:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/6615/interimchildrenandyoungpeoplesplan2021-22.pdf>

- 2.2 The Children and Young People's Strategy is intended to both fulfil the Council's legal duty to have a plan and to provide an overall strategy for the district. This is the reason why the document under consideration is called a Strategy rather than a Plan.

- 2.3 The Children and Young People's Strategy previously came to Children's Overview and Scrutiny committee on 15 March 2023.

<https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=20530>

- 2.4 **This section of report will focus on the actions form the previous Committee meeting:**

1. This Committee requests that the comments and suggestions raised by members be considered by officers, as part of the development of the Draft Children and Young People's Plan.
 2. That the Children and Young People's Plan be presented to this Committee prior to it being finalised.
- 2.5 Bringing the Children and Young People's Strategy back to this Committee is delivering on the second action above. A copy of the revised Children and Young People's Strategy can be seen/reviewed by using the links below and compared with the version taken to Committee on the 15 March 2023 using the link above.

Current draft summary version of the children and Young People's Strategy

<http://bradfordgov.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/reports-policies-projects-and-strategies/bradford-district-children-and-young-peoples-strategy-summary/>

Current draft for the full Strategy:

<http://bradfordgov.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/reports-policies-projects-and-strategies/bradford-district-children-and-young-peoples-strategy/>

- 2.6 The Committee members suggested that more work needed to be done to clarify the priorities and how they would be evaluated. The main theme was how would we know that we were making a difference.
- 2.7 Following the Committee meeting on the 15 March 2023 the senior officer re-engaged with the statutory and non-statutory partners and amended and extended the priorities from 12 to 18. The revised Strategy now provides more

clarity on how the key priorities would be delivered and the 29 key metrics that will be monitored to let us know if we were making a difference. The governance structure for the Children and Young People's Strategy has now been developed and sits with the Children and Young People's Executive Board.

- 2.8 The final action from the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 15 March 2023 was that a progress report would be brought to the Committee in 12 months. There has only been seven months since the last meeting and it is suggested that that a review report should be brought 12 months following the Children and Young People's Strategy being finalised.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There are no other direct or indirect matters that were not considered at the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There are no additional considerations that were not provided at the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 There are no legal issues arising this should be stated, but only on advice from the City Solicitor.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Children and Young people's Strategy is in line with the Human Rights Act.

7.5 TRADE UNION

Trade Unions have been and will be consulted on relevant aspects of the plan, for example, the changes to the Integrated Front Door.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The Children and Young People's Strategy is intended to apply to all the wards in the Bradford District.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The whole Children and Young People's Strategy is concerned with improving outcomes for children and young people across the District.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

No issues identified.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Not applicable.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Children's Overview and Scrutiny committee acknowledges the amends to the Children and Young People's Strategy.

10.2 The progress report should be brought back 12 months after the date which the Strategy is made final.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Strategy, long version.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 See above links within the report.