

**SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2017-2022)**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN AND THE COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIPS AND TRANSFORMATION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Scrutiny Committee of the Children's Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Plan which covers the period 2017-2022. This report includes:
- a) An overview of the Children's Strategic Partnership, its vision and priorities for children and young people
  - b) How the plan was developed, including the engagement of children, young people and partners
  - c) How the plan will be delivered and impact measured.

**2. BACKGROUND TO THE CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

- 2.1 In 2010 the Coalition Government revoked the statutory duty for local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and to prepare Children and Young People's Plans.
- 2.2 In Sunderland the Children's Trust continued to meet until May 2014 and had at that time refreshed its Children and Young People's Plan. Unfortunately, the Trust then became dormant until it was re-launched as the Children's Strategic Partnership in early 2016. The Partnership has new members from all organisations who have a significant role in either commissioning or delivering services for children and young people.

**3. SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 Membership of the Children's Strategic Partnership is as follows:
- Sunderland City Council – Children's Service Portfolio Lead
  - Sunderland City Council – Deputy Children's Service Portfolio Lead
  - Together for Children – Chief Executive
  - Together for Children - Director of Education Services
  - Together for Children – Director of Early Help
  - Sunderland City Council - Public Health: Children and Young People Lead
  - Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board – Chair
  - Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group - Chief Executive
  - Northumbria Police – Chief Superintendent, South Area Command
  - City Hospitals and South Tyneside NHSFT - Divisional General Manager, City Hospitals Sunderland
  - Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust – Group Nurse Director, Specialist Care

- Sunderland City College - Assistant Principal Student and Customer Experience
- Primary School Representative
- Secondary School Representative.

3.2 Additional to this, the council provides policy and governance support to the partnership, and Together for Children provide performance and quality assurance support and ensure the voice of children and young people in the work of the partnership.

3.3 The terms of reference for the Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership set out its purpose as follows:

- Provide strong and effective leadership
- Support effective partnership work and take action to ensure that children and young people in Sunderland are supported to achieve their potential
- Set the strategic agenda for children and young people in Sunderland and seek to influence the strategic commissioning intentions of partners
- Monitor the effectiveness and impact of services for children and young people
- Using local intelligence, identify areas for improvement which require input from across the partnership and which add real value to the outcomes of children and young people
- Co-produce improvement plans on areas identified
- Influence strategic partnerships in the setting and reviewing of priorities
- Oversee the work of key multi-agency partnerships for children and young people.

3.4 The Children's Strategic Partnership will strive to ensure that all children and young people:

- are safe from harm
- do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for employment and for life
- are able to choose healthy lifestyles
- are happy and have fun growing up
- have a voice and are able to influence decisions that affect them.

3.5 It is important that the Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership does not duplicate the work of existing strategic partnerships, but complements their work and provides advisory support on issues relating to children and young people. These are the Health and Wellbeing Board, Economic Leadership Board, Education Leadership Board and the Sunderland Safer Partnership. The Children's Strategic Partnership will also adopt the same relationship with the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board.

3.6 The Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership has a specific role in:

- Ensuring that the needs of children and young people, particularly vulnerable groups, are reflected in the priorities and plans of these Boards
- Providing the mechanism by which these Boards can take forward work in relation to children and young people
- Advising these Boards on emerging issues for children and young people in Sunderland
- Informing the Boards of the progress in relation to the key priorities identified for children and young people in Sunderland.

#### **4. SUNDERLAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2017-2022)**

4.1 In September 2016 members of the Children's Strategic Partnership came together for a workshop. Colleagues were asked whether the current Children and Young People's Plan (2010-2025) vision was fit for purpose. The consensus was that it should be revised in to

something more succinct. They considered key issues affecting children and young people and explored: what was working well; things that we needed to do more of; things that we needed to stop. They then prioritised the areas they felt were most important.

- 4.2 This workshop and further engagement with all members of the Children's Strategic Partnership, as well as engagement with the Children and Young People's Advisory Network (see section 5 of this report) has informed the current Children and Young People's Plan priorities for 2017-2022.
- 4.3 The vision of the Children's Strategic Partnership is "***Working together for children, young people and families***". The partnership listened to the views of children and young people who didn't like the proposed vision, and amended it accordingly.
- 4.4 To achieve the vision the partners will provide the support necessary to tackle inequalities in education and health and wellbeing, and ensure the safety of all children and young people.
- 4.5 The partnership has selected six priorities which it believes are a powerful starting point, providing a way to improve outcomes for all children, young people and their families and to tackle the complex issues affecting the most vulnerable. They are:
1. All children, young people and families who are vulnerable and need help are **identified and supported as early as possible**
  2. All children have the **best start in life**
  3. All children and young people enjoy **good health and wellbeing**
  4. All children and young people do well at all levels of **learning** and have **ambition** and the **skills for life**
  5. All children and young people are kept **safe from harm**.
  6. All children, young people and their families will have a **voice and influence**

The Children and Young People's Advisory Network has considered the priorities and agree these are the right ones for us to focus on.

- 4.6 The principles that underpin the partnership's approach are:
- Voice and influence of children, young people and their families
  - Efficient and intelligence-led services
  - Early identification, intervention and prevention
  - Narrowing the gap
  - Strong and inspiring leadership and a skilled and stable workforce.
- 4.7 Each of the six priorities is considered in detail in the plan, this includes:
- Explaining why the priority is a priority
  - Supporting data presented in a simple format
  - The actions the partnership will take to achieve this
  - The indicators the partnership will monitor to measure impact
  - Links to supporting plans and strategies.

## 5. THE VOICE AND INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 5.1 Listening to and respecting the views of children and young people is one of the leading principles underpinning our approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

5.2 There is a lot of good work happening around the city to engage with young people and ensure they have a means to participate and have their views heard. The Children and Young People's Advisory Network have been engaged in the development of the plan and partners will engage all relevant groups of children and young people in the delivery of their priority actions. This includes the following groups:

- Sunderland Youth Parliament
- Change Council (Looked After Children)
- Children and Young People's Advisory Network
- Sunderland Young Inspectors
- City Equals (disabled children and young people)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT)+ Forum/ Support Group
- EYE Group (Mental Health) - NTW.

5.3 The Children's Strategic Partnership is keen to develop its approach and further strengthen the voice of children, young people and families in service development and in decisions that affect them. They hope to empower people across the city to influence decisions and to participate in family, community and social life. To do this the partnership is currently exploring how to enhance the capacity of the participation and engagement role within Together for Children.

## 6. DELIVERING THE PLAN AND MEASURING IMPACT

6.1 The actions identified to achieve the vision and priorities described in the plan will be delivered through existing work programmes and strategies, or through newly founded task and finish groups. An action plan has been developed which identifies lead officers for each of the priorities and actions. Those lead officers are responsible for reporting progress to the Children's Strategic Partnership through a bi-monthly performance programme which is set out below. Whilst lead officers are identified, it is important that they are not solely responsible for delivering the improvements. This CYPP is a partnership plan and it will only be successful if there is joint working to provide partnership solutions to the issues identified.

6.2 Whilst the plan covers the period 2017-22 it is anticipated that the actions will be achieved in the first two years. Therefore, the action plan will be reviewed annually to assess the impact on the lives of children, young people and families, and new actions will be developed accordingly.

6.3 Where there are particular concerns or improvement actions are found to have little impact, partners will challenge one another to take decisive action. Where positive impacts are identified, partners will explore how to extend this good practice to other areas of work.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 This report seeks to ensure that the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee has an understanding of the Children's Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Plan which covers the period 2017-2022.

7.2 It is **recommended** that Scrutiny notes the report and receive a progress update following the partnership's annual review of the plan in 2018.