

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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West Sussex Families Strategic Plan 2020

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That the adoption of the draft West Sussex Families Strategic Plan is agreed in principle.**
- 2.2. **That the Head of Community Services be authorised, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Services, to formally adopt the plan, subject to changes as the plan is further consulted on and developed that do not have significant resource or other implications.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The West Sussex Families Strategic Plan (the Plan) (see Appendix) has a vision that “all children, young people and families in West Sussex will thrive and prosper”. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) recognises that no one organisation can achieve this vision alone. WSCC has therefore brought together partners in the Start of Life Partnership Board with the purpose of developing the Plan and overseeing its delivery.
- 3.2. The Plan sets out how the vision can be achieved by working together. Membership of the Partnership Board includes all West Sussex District and Borough Councils, the three West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sussex Police, Fire and Rescue, third sector, private and independent sector service providers and the business community. The Start of Life Partnership will focus on preventing families reaching crisis point by intervening at the earliest opportunity to support families to help themselves.
- 3.3. The Plan builds on and integrates existing work and is intended to create a “strategic bridge that aligns activity and resource under one set of outcomes, one performance framework and one governance structure”. The Plan builds on The Early Help Action Plan 2014-17, adopted by Cabinet in February 2014, and the West Sussex Community Safety Agreement 2015-16 which the District Council has also previously approved. The Plan assumes shared organisational values and behaviours and partners are encouraged to be “bold and courageous, honest, value and trust in each other “and be “enabling and empowering”.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

4.1 The Plan has identified four outcomes that will enable children, young people and families to thrive and prosper. These are:

- Children and young people get the best start in life, they are physically and emotionally healthy
- Children and young people are safe and secure
- Families are resilient and able to access support when they need it
- Children and young people and families succeed in learning, work and life

4.2 To achieve these outcomes and ensure the correct data is in place, the Start of Life Partnership will bring together relevant managers across the Partnership area to align methods and share knowledge. They will be accountable for the delivery of the anticipated outcomes and establish an agreed set of performance indicators to enable all partners to monitor progress. These outcomes will support those included in District Council's Corporate Plan particularly around "supporting our Communities and vulnerable individuals" and "helping our Communities to be healthy and active". They will also implement a single "wellbeing measure" and develop a strategy that outlines how they will maximise participation and feedback from service users.

4.3. The District Council is already working towards the outcomes of the Plan through the Early Help and Think Family projects and the work of the Community Safety Partnership. Our Think Family keyworker has supported families to become more resilient, including getting back into employment, maintaining tenancies and young people re-engaging with education. Crime and anti-social behaviour has reduced in our Think Family Neighbourhood areas and communities are beginning to do more for themselves. The Start of Life Partnership Board has already established working groups and cross cutting themes. The intention is to create a learning County, that uses and shares knowledge to build individual and community resilience.

5. Proposal

5.1. It is therefore proposed that the District Council adopts the Plan in principle and commits to support the outcomes of the plan within the scope of existing resources, policies and ongoing work streams. The District Council will furthermore support the Start of Life Partnership Board with appropriate representation.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

6.1. The District Council could choose not to adopt the Plan. However, as it has already signed up to a number of supporting plans, to do so may be seen as a rejection of our commitment to those plans. The District Council could lose any influence over the cross cutting themes and lose opportunities to work collaboratively with partners and services. This could impact on our ability to deliver effective services, mean families not receiving the right support and increase demand on our reactive services and so add cost in the long term.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. The Plan refers to the potential for exploring the more effective use of resources e.g. by possibly pooling current budgets up to 2020 and redesigning processes so that services can be delivered more efficiently and opportunities available. This should minimise duplication of effort and identify local gaps in service provision. In turn this will enable the Plan to be delivered within existing resources but should this situation change a further report will be brought to Cabinet. Committing to the Plan should not result in greater demand on funding and resources but there would be an expectation to continue with our current level of commitment and consider the outcomes of the Plan, when reviewing our Corporate Plans, policies and procedures.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. WSCC consulted with service users both face to face and online to ensure that views of the parent, young person and child are reflected in the Plan and specifically those relating to early help, health and wellbeing, ready for school/work, housing and safeguarding.
- 8.2. Partner agencies, including the District Council, are being consulted via an online survey which runs from 7 October until 3 November. Feedback from Cabinet will be included in our response. There is an expectation that partners will be involved in further development and delivery of the Plan as it evolves. WSCC expects to have the Plan in operation by April 2016.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1. The Plan aims to bring a number of existing plans together to support children, young people, families and communities in a coherent and collaborative way.
- 9.2. The corporate risk is associated with an increase in the level of expectation/demand above the commitment already established and resources available. However the Plan is in its early stages and as it evolves opportunities to pool resources, reduce demand and serve Chichester District families and communities more effectively will be investigated and implemented.

10. Other Implications

Crime & Disorder: The Plan implies a positive reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.	Yes	
Climate Change:		No
Human Rights and Equality Impact: The Plan will have a positive impact in supporting our most vulnerable families and preventing families needing crisis support.	Yes	
Safeguarding: The Plan and Start of Life Partnership Board are accountable to the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and will have a positive impact on keeping children and families safe.	Yes	

11. Appendix

11.1. West Sussex Families Strategic Plan (Draft)

12. Background Papers

12.1 None