

North Tyneside Council Report to Council

Date: 18 March 2021

Title: Children and Young People's Plan 2021 – 2025

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Peter Earley

Report from Service

Area: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Responsible Officer: Jacqui Old – Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding **Tel: (0191) 643 7317**

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the adoption of the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025 "the Plan").

1.1.2 The Plan is a key strategy used by the North Tyneside Partnership to deliver the priorities set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan, particularly in relation to 'Our People'. It sets out the strategic framework and partnership priorities to ensure that all children in North Tyneside are able to achieve their full potential.

1.1.3 The Plan sets out how the Authority and its partners will work together to achieve its vision for children and young people in North Tyneside, which is:

“Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or disabled, are ready for school, ready for work and life, cared for and supported.”

1.1.4 The Plan then sets out the Authority's and partners' priorities to achieve this vision, which are:

1. Ensuring children and young people are living safely
2. Supporting children to have a healthy early childhood
3. Narrowing the gap in educational outcomes
4. Ensuring the right support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs
5. Supporting children to be active citizens
6. Developing resilience, confidence and independence in children and young people

1.1.5 The priorities within the Plan build on the positive work delivered across the partnership in recent years and are based on a detailed understanding of need across the borough, as well as recognising the impact of COVID-19 on services across all partners.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council

(1) Approve and adopt the final version of the Children and Young People's Plan 2021 – 2025 appended to this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

1.3.1 Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 11 February 2021.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

1.4.1 The Plan is one of the Authority's key plans that forms part of the Authority's Policy Framework. Accordingly, this report is submitted to Council pursuant to the rules under Part 4.7 of the Constitution for formulation and approval of plans and strategies within the Policy Framework.

1.4.2 The Plan is a key mechanism by which the Authority delivers the objectives linked to 'Our People', set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan. It focuses on delivering improved outcomes for all children and young people up to the age of 19 years, and those young people aged up to 25 years who are care leavers, have special educational needs or a disability and live in the borough.

1.4.3 This report relates to the following priorities in the 2020-2024 Our North Tyneside Plan:

- Be listened to so that their experience helps the council work better for residents;
- Be ready for school – giving our children and their families the best start in life;
- Be ready for work and life – with the right skills and abilities to achieve their full potential, economic independence and meet business needs;
- Be healthy and well – with the information, skills and opportunities to maintain and improve their health, well-being and independence, especially if they are carers;
- Be cared for, protected and supported if they become vulnerable including if they become homeless; and
- Be encouraged and enabled to, whenever possible, be more independent, to volunteer and to do more for themselves and their local communities.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 The North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025 is developed and owned by the Children and Young People's Partnership. The partnership brings together public, voluntary and community sector organisations to improve the lives of the borough's children and young people.

1.5.2 The Plan is the third Children and Young People's Plan that the partnership has produced. The previous Children and Young People's Plan 2014-2018 has underpinned the delivery of key success and significant service developments and improvements, which include:

- Children’s services were judged Outstanding by Ofsted in March 2020, noting that “strategic partnerships are mature, well-developed and highly effective”;
- Continuing to successfully deliver the Troubled Families programme in North Tyneside, successfully ‘turning around’ 1,500 families, demonstrating improved outcomes across a range of indicators;
- Entering into a long-term, strategic partnership with Barnardos to develop new and innovative solutions supporting children and young people’s emotional wellbeing and mental health;
- Establishment of schools-led, peer-to-peer, exclusion panels, as part of a borough-wide Keeping Children in School programme, which have contributed to improved exclusion and attendance rates; and
- Multi-agency Keeping Families Connected service, funded by the Department for Education innovation funding, has effectively supported a reduction in entries to care, stabilisation of existing placements, and reunification where possible.

1.5.3 Despite the many significant achievements that the Authority has delivered in recent years, there remain many challenges that the Authority continues to be focused on. Alongside the changing need and demand that the partnership expects as a result of the impact of COVID-19, the Authority’s understanding of its challenges and what is important to children and young people have informed the priorities and actions set out in the Plan.

1.5.4 The priorities and deliverables set out in the Plan are aligned to the strategic outcomes the Authority and partners wants to see for children and young people, which are:

Outcome 1: I am Safe

Priority 1.1: Ensure children and young people are living safely

Outcome 2: I am Healthy

Priority 2.1: Supporting children to have a healthy early childhood

Outcome 3: I have Opportunities

Priority 3.1: Narrow the gap in educational outcomes

Priority 3.2: Ensure the right support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs

Outcome 4: I have a Voice

Priority 4.1: Support children to be active citizens

Outcome 5: I am Happy

Priority 5.1: Develop resilience, confidence and independence in children and young people

1.5.5 These priorities and actions have been developed through engagement with a range of stakeholders across the children and young people’s partnership, as well as drawing upon engagement with children and young people which is a central component of the Authority’s approach.

1.5.6 The initial proposals for the refresh and development of the Plan were agreed at Cabinet on 30 November 2020 and recommendations and comments from Overview

and Scrutiny committee meetings on 18 January and 2 February 2021 have been incorporated into the final version of the Plan, with final approval of the Plan given by Cabinet on 22 February 2021 and its agreement that the Plan be submitted to full Council for its approval.

1.6 Decision options:

1.6.1 The following decision options are available for consideration by Council

Option 1

Approve and adopt the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025.

Option 2

Refer the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025 Plan back to officers for further consideration of the relevant issue(s) identified by Council.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

1.7.1 Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- The Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025 is a key plan to deliver the priorities linked to 'Our People', as set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan and provides the shared strategic vision that will enable partners to further integrate the planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services, to address their shared priorities.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: North Tyneside Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jacqui Old, Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, tel. (0191) 643 7317

Mark Jupp, Senior Manager, Transformation, tel. (0191) 643 5332

David Dunford, Senior Finance Business Partner, tel. (0191) 643 7207

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report:

- (1) [2014-18 Children and Young People's Plan](#)
- (2) [2020-24 Our North Tyneside Plan](#)
- (3) [North Tyneside Council Constitution: Part 4.7 Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules](#)
- (4) [The Children and Young People's Plan \(England\) Regulations 2005](#)
- (5) [Cabinet 30 November 2020](#)
- (6) [Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18 January 2021](#)
- (7) [Overview and Scrutiny Committee 02 February 2021](#)
- (8) [Cabinet 22 February 2020](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

2.1.1 The Plan's priorities are aligned with the Our North Tyneside Plan and are consistent with the Authority's existing financial and resource planning priorities.

2.2 Legal

2.2.1 Under the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 the Authority is required to prepare, consult upon and publish a Children and Young People's Plan and to review the Plan. The Regulations specify amongst other things what should be included in the Plan, how consultation on the Plan should take place as well as the timing and manner of publication of the Plan and how a review of the Plan should be undertaken.

The Children and Young People's Plan is the shared responsibility of Cabinet and Council. As such it is included in Schedule 3 of The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and is therefore a function which is not to be the sole responsibility of Cabinet. It is for this reason that the Plan forms part of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and colleagues at all levels across Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding. The Plan incorporates the recommendations and comments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The key dates for consideration are as follows:

- Initial proposal for the Plan considered by Cabinet on 30 November 2020
- Draft Plan approved by Overview and Scrutiny on 18 Jan 2021
- Final proposal for Plan approved by Overview and Scrutiny on 2 Feb 2021
- Final approval of the Plan and agreement to its submission to full Council by Cabinet on 22 Feb 2021
- Final adoption and approval of the Plan to be considered by Council 18 March 2021

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Plan and its priorities have been developed through engagement with partners represented on the Children and Young People's Partnership.

The Authority and partners have engaged with children and young people and provided opportunity for them to share their views on the Plan through a variety of mechanisms and methods, including consultation with Children and Young People's Partnership Board, Young Mayor and Youth Council, where their views were central to the development of the Authority's priorities.

2.4 Human rights

2.4.1 There are no human rights issues arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

2.5.1 The Plan will contribute to the Authority's statutory equalities duties. It will advance the equality of opportunity for children and young people, with a focus upon those who are experiencing or at increased risk of experiencing vulnerability and / or deprivation. It will also contribute to towards the achievement of the two other key aims of the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty; to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations.

2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 Failure to deliver significant priorities, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, could limit the Authority and partnership's ability to improve outcomes for children and young people. Therefore, the Plan proposes a focus on a smaller number of priorities to ensure the Authority's efforts are focused on the key issues facing children, young people and their families.

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 The partnership's work to reduce risk taking behaviour will incorporate young people engaged in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 There are no direct environmental and sustainability issues arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service X