



CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report subject	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2021 - 2024
Meeting date	24 February 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The draft BCP Children and Young People's Plan has been developed by the BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board, the successor body to the previous Learning Partnership Board. The difference is to focus on all issues for children, not just education and to a lesser extent, children's social care.</p> <p>Having a plan in place is a requirement placed on BCP by the Local Government Reorganisation process so in that sense it is a plan required by Government of us.</p> <p>The draft Plan sets out the proposed strategic priorities for partnership action to improve outcomes for BCP's children and young people and to help them achieve their potential. It is consistent with existing BCP policy about improving child outcomes</p> <p>Central to this is that the Council plays its part in the Partnership to help BCP's children and young people to be "fulfilled, happy, included, and resilient".</p> <p>This report provides a copy of the draft plan at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>The draft Plan has been subject to public consultation during the month of January 2021.</p> <p>This Plan, when finalised, will be championed by the multi-agency BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board. An action plan will be an integral part of the final document. This will be monitored through the Board.</p>

Recommendations	<p>1) It is RECOMMENDED that members of Overview and Scrutiny take this opportunity to contribute and provide feedback on the proposed priorities to enable the development of the final plan before it is recommended by Cabinet for adoption by the Full Council.</p> <p>2) That the Committee decides how it wishes to scrutinise delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan over the course of its life.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To achieve maximum constructive engagement and plan for ongoing scrutiny given the significance of the Plan for children and young people in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mike White, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding – Corporate Director – Children’s Services
Contributors	Anthony Douglas CBE - Independent Chair of the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board Neil Goddard – Service Director – Quality and Commissioning
Wards	Council Wide
Classification	For Recommendation/ Update and Information

Background

1. The BCP Children and Young People’s Partnership Board has been developing a new 3-year strategic plan to improve long term outcomes for children and young people. The BCP Children and Young People’s Partnership Board evolved from the BCP Learning Partnership Board and is a multi-agency partnership which includes partners from police, health, schools, early years settings and the voluntary and community sectors. In 2020 BCP Children and Young People’s Partnership Board affirmed their shared commitment to working together for children and young people in the BCP are and created their Governance and Terms of Reference document setting out the role and aims of the partnership.
2. Children’s Services reported to Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2020 about the evolution of the BCP Learning

Partnership Board (LPB), into the new BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board (C&YPPB).

3. The newly formed BCP C&YPPB retains a strong focus on learning and education as it evolves from the LPB and aims to maximise the life chances through education of all children and young people in the BCP area. Education has remained the central issue for the Board because of the numerous issues facing schools and colleges in the pandemic.
4. The BCP C&YPPB membership has expressed a strong commitment to taking active steps together to make further improvements to the lives of all children and young people in the BCP area over a period of years. All board members are committed to taking personal and organisational commitment and responsibility to make this happen believing that working together well changes lives for the better.
5. Anthony Douglas CBE is the interim Chair of the Board. He is also the interim chair of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership.
6. The draft Plan went out for consultation in January 2021. It is anticipated that the final version will be signed off by Cabinet in March 2021.

The Children and Young People's Plan

7. This plan began development at the end of the first wave of COVID 19 and we knew that the recovery period would be challenging to get right, with so much to do and so many justifiable concerns about the level of care and support some local children and young people will need from us.
8. Since then the country returned to a national lockdown for a second time in 2020, and the country is again locked down for the third time as we go into 2021. This has meant it has been harder to focus on the medium-term and long-term as most effort has had to go into managing the present situation safely for children, young people and their families

Capturing the Voice of Children and Young People

9. Each partner organisation has their own mechanisms to enable participation and to gather views and feedback, finding out what children and young people are worried about. These views inform the work that they do and what they bring to the Partnership, ensuring that children's and young people's views are sought, and that these views inform our plan.
10. To help develop our plan we asked the children and young people of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to share with us what makes for a happy life and what makes them happy. This survey took place throughout the month of November 2020 – the month we went into the 2nd national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Children and young people shared their

thoughts about happiness, and we created our BCP happiness cloud (see the document cover of the C and YPP).

11. Teachers shared their experiences of the conversations they had with their students about happiness. Knowing what happiness looks like for children and young people in BCP enables us to create an environment where happiness is not only possible but can flourish. In talking about what makes for a happy life children and young people also touched on what has made them sad as they reflected on the recent restrictions that have been imposed on the country. Understanding this sadness also helps us to plan though it is wrong to generalise from either misery or happiness. Good to outstanding services respond well to all situations facing children and young people.

BCP C&YP Plan priorities and ambitions

12. Listening to what children and young people told us has helped us set our 4 priorities:
 - a) **Fulfilled** - Children and young people have the opportunities and are supported to achieve their full potential in education, learning and future employment.
 - b) **Happy** - Children and young people can enjoy healthy lifestyles and make positive choices.
 - c) **Included** - Children and young people are accepted as valued members of society enabling them to achieve within, and contribute to, the wider community.
 - d) **Resilient** - Children and young people are supported to be resilient in the face of the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic.
13. To achieve these ambitions, it is envisaged that the Partnership will have 2 or 3 active programmes at any single point in time working on both short - term priorities, and other continuous programmes addressing the longer-term priorities.
14. The plan will be updated as targets are achieved, and their desired impact confirmed as well as when each next set of priorities is identified and agreed.

Consultation

15. A press release was issued on 11 January 2021 to accompany the Plan. This was also sent to partner organisations for distribution within their own organisations.
16. All members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan, and to comment on it

prior to the launch of the consultation period which ran from Monday 11 January 2021 until 31 January 2021.

17. More than 20 people commented on the plan by email or online form, sharing their views. All comments were positive and helpful. Views were also shared through meetings and forums.
18. All comments and suggestions received during the consultation period were considered and either reflected in the final version of the plan or taken forward to the board.

Summary of financial implications

19. The Children and Young People's Plan will guide and enable joint allocation of resources across the partnership to ensure we meet our objectives and develop effective and efficient ways of working.
20. Where there is opportunity to jointly bid for additional funding this will be taken.
21. The day to day working of the Board will be delivered through existing resources across the partnership so no additional expenditure is identified. Understandably, over the course of 3 years, some new priorities that will be identified will need some funding. It is recommended these are dealt with on an issue by issue basis at the time
22. There are already additional funds committed to implementation of the Children's Services and SEND action plans, these are being progressed by Children's Services, not the Partnership Board.

Summary of legal implications

23. The statutory requirement for a Children and Young People's Plan was revoked in 2010 and statutory guidance requiring Local Authorities to have a Children and Young People's Plan was removed by the Government in 2011.
24. Whilst, there is no longer a requirement for Local Authorities to have such a document, they may choose to do so where it makes sense locally in order to identify and formalise commitments.
25. As part of the LGR framework, BCP is required to have a jointly agreed plan by April 2021. The final plan will be presented for sign off to Cabinet in April 2021.

Summary of public health implications

26. The Children and Young People's Plan strengthens the partnership commitment to ensuring every child in BCP has the "best start in life" and development into adulthood, as outlined within the Public Health Prevention at Scale ambitions.

27. Public Health are represented on the Board and are actively involved in the development of the Plan.

Summary of equality implications

28. In achieving the ambitions of the Board as set out in the Plan resources will be targeted at the disadvantaged.

Summary of risk assessment

29. A risk register will be produced after the first 6 months of the Partnership, when more detailed planning and delivery is under way.

Background papers

None

Appendices

The *draft* BCP Children's and Young People's Plan 2021 – 2024