

Cabinet

1st November 2016



Report Title: *Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families –2016 - 2020*

Ward: All

Strategic Director: *John Readman, Strategic Director of People*

Report Author: *Sue Long/Bonnie Curran, Planning and Development Advisors*

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Recommendation for the Mayor's approval:

- 1. To agree Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2016-2020 for submission to Cabinet for approval**
- 2. Cabinet to agree to publication of the strategy in November 2016**
- 3. To agree delegation of the creation of the City Council elements of the action plan to Strategic Director of People which will follow in 2017 and will be reviewed and updated annually. The annual review will be presented to Cabinet.**



The proposal:

1. Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young people and Families (appendix 1) aims to:

- Establish a shared vision for the Children and Families Partnership
- Set out the focus of our shared work for the next four years
- Promote prevention and early intervention
- Provide the strategic context to drive future commissioning
- Support the implementation of the Mayoral City Vision and other city planning
- Demonstrate how partners fulfil the duty to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing

2. This is the overarching strategy for the Children and Families Partnership, one of Bristol's City Partnerships. The strategy focusses on shared priorities and does not detail all of the work of the partnership. It signposts to other strategies that the partnership have agreed, and includes a new city-wide outcome framework that will be used to improve the alignment of our future work with children, young people and families.

3. The Children and Families Partnership Board instigated the development of this strategy in March 2016 and established a cross sector reference group to lead the process.

4. This has not been a refresh of an existing strategy or plan, but has built on, pulled together, and signposts to a number of existing strategic documents from across the Children and Families Partnership.

5. The Children and Families Partnership Board endorsed the draft strategy on the 8th September 2016. They agreed to take the strategy to their networks and Governing Bodies to seek their commitment to the strategy, and their agreement to participate in more detailed action planning.

6. The Partnership Board will then be asked at their meeting on November 3rd to agree the strategy having formally gained the support of partners.

7. The development of this strategy has run in parallel with other strategic planning such as the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Children's Services Improvement Plan and the development of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, and links have been made where appropriate, for example:

- The same prioritisation criteria were used for the Health and Wellbeing strategy refresh and Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families
- Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families and the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy both propose the prioritisation of emotional health and wellbeing in the city. The Children and Families Partnership will also be working closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board, particularly to support delivery against their Healthy Weight priority.
- The Children's Services Improvement Plan forms part of a body of work sitting under this strategy and will deliver in this context.
- Both Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families and the Adults Social Care Plan include intentions to embed a common three tier model of support.

8. Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families is aligned with, and forms an integral part of, the emerging five year Corporate Strategy and annual business plan both of which are currently under consultation, and will deliver key outcomes within it.

9. We will work closely with Bristol Safeguarding Children Board and other City Partnerships to deliver the priorities in the strategy and so that we can ensure the needs of children, young people and families are at the forefront of decisions about housing, health, community safety and other important decision across our city. These partnerships include:

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Safer Bristol Partnership
- Bristol Learning City Partnership
- Bristol Homes Board

10. The strategy includes high level priorities that will remain relevant through the course of 2016 – 2020. The Children and Families Partnership Board will agree annual action plans and the Board will oversee and report on these. This work programme will be within the context of increasing demands and diminishing resources across the partnership.

11. The Children and Families Partnership Board has four subgroups, which were established in Spring 2016 and represent the breadth of the work of the partnership:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Joint Health Outcomes
- Think Family
- Youth and Participation

12. The action plan for the strategy will illustrate how all of these subgroups will play a role in addressing the priorities included in the strategy.

13. In line with the strategy intentions, the Partnership are committed to ensuring that children, young people and families are at the forefront of this work and that their views and experiences inform citywide decision making.

14. The Youth Council endorsed the strategy at their October meeting. They suggested that a separate version for young people may not be required. The draft being considered by Cabinet has not yet been designed, The Youth Council have agreed to help with the final design so that one document is suitable for an audience age 14 upwards.

Consultation and scrutiny input:

a. Internal consultation:

The Children and Families Partnership Board has representation from key departments within Bristol City Council, but also a reference group has been meeting on a regular basis to pull together the vision, outcomes and priorities for the strategy.

A draft vision, a set of outcomes and proposed priorities were consulted on from June 2016 to August 2016. All internal staff, including People Scrutiny, were invited to share their views and complete the on-line survey. Staff members were also involved in consultation briefings.

Strategic leads from other key partnership boards/key strategies have been kept up-to-date on progress and been given an opportunity to comment at relevant stages.

People Scrutiny were given a further opportunity to comment on 26th September and comments have either been incorporated into the final copy, or will be considered when the action plan is developed.

b. External consultation:

The reference group set up by the Children and Families Partnership Board has wide representation from external partners as well as internal staff. They have used their networks to enable early engagement events to take place.

The reference group jointly agreed the draft vision statement and the draft outcomes and priorities that were consulted on.

During the consultation period, we attended several events to promote the consultation and talk about the proposals. We also spent some time with community groups finding out what they felt was important.

Other options considered:

There is no longer statutory guidance on Children’s Trusts, but the requirement for local authorities to fulfil their duty to cooperate to improve children’s wellbeing, as set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004, remains in force. The withdrawal of statutory guidance means that local authorities have the flexibility to ensure that their partnership arrangements for children and young people fit with other local arrangements.

The requirement to produce a statutory children and young people’s plan was also removed, with guidance that local areas should continue to produce a plan where it makes sense locally. This is observed in inspection.

Within this context, it would be possible not to have a citywide plan or strategy for children and young people but the Children and Families Partnership Board decided to develop this to improve strategic alignment and to act as a framework that could draw together other joint strategies and key pieces of work.

This is also in line with other City Partnerships.

Risk management / assessment:

FIGURE 1							
The risks associated with the implementation of the (subject) decision :							
No.	RISK Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report	INHERENT RISK (Before controls)		RISK CONTROL MEASURES Mitigation (ie controls) and Evaluation (ie effectiveness of mitigation).	CURRENT RISK (After controls)		RISK OWNER
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
1	Individual partner organisations will not sign up to the strategy and subsequent work plan	High	Low	All partners have been involved in the development and consultation on this strategy	Low	Low	MF
2	The strategy and subsequent work programme will be delivered within the context of increasing	Medium	Medium	The partnership enables city oversight of impact, but will need to manage ongoing prioritisation	Low	Low	MF

	demands and diminishing resources. All partners will be responding to these pressures differently, which will affect how well the strategy is delivered			within this context. As it develops the workplan it will constantly check against this			
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FIGURE 2

The risks associated with not implementing the (subject) decision:

No.	RISK	INHERENT RISK		RISK CONTROL MEASURES	CURRENT RISK		RISK OWNER
		(Before controls)			(After controls)		
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
	Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report			Mitigation (ie controls) and Evaluation (ie effectiveness of mitigation).			
1	Without a strategy there is a risk of an incoherent offer to families.	Medium	Medium	The partnership board has approved the strategy. Once in place risk is mitigated	Low	Low	MF
2	There would be no overarching framework to promote joint commissioning and identify efficiencies.	Medium	Medium	Implementation of the strategy	Low	Low	MF

Public sector equality duties:

Before making a decision, section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic.
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the strategy in consultation with the council’s Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. While there is no direct adverse impact arising from the Strategy, the Partnership Board will need to ensure the impact assessment continues through the development and review of the action plans.

Eco impact assessment

There are no significant environmental impacts arising directly from the strategy. Impacts may arise from actions implemented to meet the outcomes: these will be reviewed and mitigated as the action plan is developed, in consultation with the council’s Environmental officers.

Steve Ransom, Environmental Programme Manager

Resource and legal implications:

Finance

a. Financial (revenue) implications:

There are significant financial pressures for Bristol City Council in Care & Support Children and Families that need to be addressed in the short and medium term. The partnership strategy seeks to address some of the medium term pressures by focussing on early intervention and preventative solutions to avoid future high cost support.

There are no direct finance implications relating to the overarching strategy, however this will be reviewed as part of the development and approval of the annual action plans.

Advice given by Michael Pilcher / Finance Business Partner **Date** 04/10/16

b. Financial (capital) implications:

There are no capital implications

Advice given by Michael Pilcher/ Finance Business Partner
Date 04/10/16

Comments from the Corporate Capital Programme Board:

N/A

c. Legal implications:

The Children Act 2004 imposes a statutory duty on local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority, its relevant partners and any other appropriate bodies who are engaged in activities in relation to children in the authority's area. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area relating to physical and mental health and emotional well-being; protection from harm and neglect; education, training and recreation; the contribution made by them to society and social and economic well-being. Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families is the overarching strategy for the Children and Families Partnership which promotes such co- operation.

Sarah Sharland

Team leader

Community Litigation Team

d. Land / property implications:

N/A

Advice given by

Date Insert

e. Human resources implications:

There does not appear to be any negative impact on workforce as a result of these proposals, if at any time in the future, changes need to be made then appropriate and full consultation would be implemented at that time with the relevant staff and their representatives

Advice given by Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, ABS Manager and L&OD Manager
Date 6th October 2016

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Bristol’s Strategy for Children, Young People and Families

Access to information (background papers):

No additional papers