

To: Improving Life Chances Group

On: 27 June 2018

Report by:

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Title:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 27th March 2014. Part 3 of the Act places a joint duty on local authorities and health boards to produce three yearly Children's Services Plans. The first plan was required to commence on 1st April 2017.
- 1.2. Statutory Guidance on Children's Services Planning was published in December 2016. The Guidance sets out a number of new requirements for the process local authorities and health boards must follow in developing, implementing and reviewing their new children's services plans. The Guidance encourages innovative presentation formats and emphasises the importance of consultation with children and young people, in developing the plan.
- 1.3. The new Children's Services Plan requirements coincided with the return of our children's wellbeing data in February 2017. The data was fundamental to the strategic needs analysis required of a robust children's services plan. We wanted to take the opportunity to fully analyse the data in concert with our planning partners and to share the data with our children and young people before we produced our new children's services plan. The Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership agreed to produce an interim plan to cover the period 2017-18. The plan was approved by the Board on 01 June 2017.
- 1.4. A new, three year Children's Services Partnership Plan for 2018-2021 has been produced in collaboration with children and young people, Council colleagues, statutory partners and third sector organisations. The Plan is informed by extensive consultation with children and young people. Following their feedback, we have

taken the approach of producing a 'Plan on a Page'. The one page format conveys the all of the essential, high level information required of a plan in a manner which is accessible to children and young people.

- 1.5. Our 'Plan on a Page' includes multi-media functions which present short video clips of council officers explaining the purpose of the plan as well as links to websites of relevance to local children and young people.
- 1.6. The new approach is innovative and is inspired by this Scottish Year of Young People. The attractive and accessible format of the plan helps Renfrewshire to deliver on its aspiration of being a 'child friendly' Council.
- 1.7. The 'Plan on a Page' is informed by detailed action plans which are currently being developed by the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership. Development of the action plans is being timed to allow their alignment with new national inspection and reporting requirements which will be published imminently.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is asked to:

- (a) Note the attached Children's Services Partnership 'Plan on a Page' including the interactive multi-media resources; and
- (b) Support the ongoing development of detailed actions plans to support delivery of the priorities detailed in the plan. The action plans will be aligned to the new inspection framework and requirements of the new national minimum dataset are confirmed by the Scottish Government and will be completed early in the summer.

3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire's approach to the design, delivery and evaluation of children's services is robust and underpinned by the views and needs of our children and young people. We are committed to involving children and young people in the design of services and in giving them opportunities for meaningful participation for and dialogue with community planning partners and elected members.

- 3.2 In 2016/17 we became the first local authority to repeat the collection of wellbeing data about our children and young people. Over 10,000 children and young people participated and provided us with valuable information about their key developmental outcomes and the risks and protective factors in their lives. The survey data also allowed us to evaluate the impact of our previous children's services plan and to identify new priorities for the planning period 2018-21.
- 3.3 During 2017, we shared the wellbeing data with a wide range of stakeholders in the statutory and voluntary sectors, as well as with many groups of children and young people. Their feedback highlighted three clear priorities for action:
- Improving adolescent mental health and wellbeing;
 - Increasing physical activity for all children and young people; and
 - Promoting positive adolescent relationships.
- 3.4 We also consulted extensively with children and young people about what they wanted from our new Children's Services Plan. Their feedback was clear – they wanted a plan which they could easily read and understand and which explained what the Council and its partners would do to improve their lives. Many young people told us that they had never before read a children's services plan because they found it too long and felt it was aimed at professionals.
- 3.5 Mindful that this is the Scottish Year of the Young Person and also of Renfrewshire's aspiration to be a 'child friendly' council, we decided to develop a new, innovative plan which was attractive and accessible to our children and young people. The 'Plan on a Page' sets out in an eye-catching and colourful format the high level priorities of the Children's Services Partnership and highlights the outcomes we are all working to achieve.
- 3.6 The Plan also uses interactive, multi-media content to engage and inform children and young people. The Plan includes QR codes which enable smart phone users to access short video clips of the Director of Children's Services and other key staff explaining the purpose of the plan and providing other relevant details about local services and the delivery of the priorities. The Plan also includes links to useful websites such as the 'No Worries' site, Renfrewshire Youth Services and the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- 3.7 The plan incorporates the winning drawings from an art competition in which local primary school children were asked to draw pictures of what they liked best about growing up in Renfrewshire. The winning drawings were chosen by our Champions' Board.

- 3.8 The plan is designed to be visually attractive and engaging and to provide the essential information about the Partnership's vision and priorities in a way which is meaningful to its principal audience – children and young people. The plan is underpinned by detailed action plans which set out how partners will deliver the plan and how progress will be measured.
- 3.9 The actions will be aligned to the Community Plan, the Children's Services Improvement Plan, the Education Improvement Plan, the Attainment Challenge Plan and the National Improvement Framework. Alignment of actions across the spectrum of children's services will harness partners' activities to shared objectives and strengthen delivery of improved outcomes.
- 3.10 Finalisation of the action plan is being timed to enable us to reflect imminent changes to statutory inspection requirements. We are currently awaiting recommendations from the national Child Protection Improvement Programme, as well as publication of the new inspection framework. It is anticipated that the Government will confirm new requirements early in the summer and we will ensure that our children's services actions and measurements align with the new national minimum data set and assist our compliance with inspection requirements.