

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 17 NOVEMBER 2016**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SERVICES****CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present draft terms of reference for a Children and Families Partnership to replace the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive as a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The new Partnership will be responsible for delivery of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme and will also have an expanded remit to include oversight of delivery of all the priorities for children and families set out in the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Link to the Local Health and Care System

2. The Children and Families Partnership will deliver the outcomes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which relate to children and young people. The Partnership will also oversee the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme to ensure that it is delivered effectively and in line with national policy and local priorities.

Recommendation

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to approve the terms of reference for the Children and Families Partnership, attached as Appendix A to this report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. The terms of reference for the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive were approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2016, following the transfer of governance arrangements for this area of work to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background

5. Since the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive was established, an analysis of the key programmes and partnerships supporting delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017 – 2022 has been undertaken. This analysis has identified that there is no appropriate body which can oversee delivery of all the priorities.
6. The outcome relating to children and families set out in the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be “Children and young people in Leicestershire are safe and living in families where they can achieve their full potential and have good health and wellbeing”, underpinned by the following priorities:-

- a. Ensure the best start in life for children and their families;
 - b. Work proactively in partnership to keep children and young people safe and free from harm and sexual exploitation;
 - c. Support those families identified as most troubled to become self-sufficient and resilient;
 - d. Enable children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and their families, receive personalised, integrated care and support to become increasingly independent;
 - e. Enable children in care to experience good physical and mental health.
7. This outcome and priorities are subject to approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board at this meeting.
8. The analysis of the key programmes and partnerships responsible for delivery of these priorities has identified the following groups:-
- a. Better Care Together Maternity and Neonates Workstream;
 - b. Local Safeguarding Children Board (note: this is a scrutiny body not a delivery/operational body);
 - c. Leicestershire County Council's Whole Life Disability Group;
 - d. Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive;
 - e. Leicestershire County Council's Corporate Parenting Board;
 - f. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Looked After Children Health Strategy Group.
9. It is clear from the list above that there are some gaps; some of the groups are Leicestershire County Council only and therefore there is no partnership arrangement in place. There is also no overarching body that can take ownership of the priorities and drive delivery. One of the key concerns raised by the Health and Wellbeing Board during the process of drafting the strategy was that priorities would not be delivered without clear accountability arrangements in place.

Proposals/Options

10. At its first meeting in September, the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive considered the following options to address the need identified in paragraph 7 above:-
- a. Establish a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Children and Families Partnership: This option would ensure that there was a joined-up approach to children's health and social care issues across the sub-region which was aligned to the STP footprint. However, it was felt that the accountability arrangements would be too complex and the partnership group too large to be effective if this option were to be

pursued. It would also mean that a single group would be responsible for delivering the priorities from three different Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, which could result in a lack of focus and dilution of priorities.

- b. Expand the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive: This option would be the most straightforward, as accountability arrangements and the relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board are already in place. It would, however, mean that there was no clear relationship with Leicester and Rutland or the STP footprint. It may also result in a lack of focus on the Supporting Leicestershire Families agenda.
- c. Create a new Children's Partnership for Leicestershire: This could expand on work already undertaken in 2014 on what a Children's Partnership should look like and would fulfil the requirement for an overarching group. This option presents a significant risk of duplication, particularly as the membership is likely to be largely the same as that of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive.

11. The Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive agreed that a hybrid of options b and c should be taken forward. The remit of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive has therefore been extended to include the ownership and delivery of the children and families priorities in the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The membership has also been expanded to include an operational police force representative and a representative of the probation service.

Terms of Reference

12. The terms of reference for the Children and Families Partnership have been drafted using the terms of reference for the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive, the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022 and the findings of the workshop held in 2014 regarding how a children's partnership in Leicestershire could operate. They are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Resource Implications

13. There are already resources in place to support the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive. There are therefore no new resource implications arising from this proposal.

Timetable for Decisions

14. Subject to approval of the draft terms of reference by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the first meeting of the Children and Families Partnership will take place on 5 December.

Background papers

15. Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 July 2016, Terms of Reference for the Supporting Leicestershire Families Executive
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s120533/SLF%20Executive%20ToR.pdf>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

16. None.

Officers to contact:

Paul Meredith
Interim Director of Children and Family Services
Tel: 01163057441
Email: paul.meredith@leics.gov.uk

Rosemary Palmer
Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0116 305 6098
Email: rosemary.palmer@leics.gov.uk

Relevant Impact Assessments**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

17. None arising from this report