



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 2 JUNE 2020

DRAFT CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE DEPARTMENTAL PLAN
2020/23

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to present for comment and consideration the draft Leicestershire Children and Family Service Departmental Plan 2020-23 (attached as Appendix A to the report).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The draft plan for 2020-23 has been developed to fulfil statutory duties and provide a basis for the Children and Family Service's vision, planning, commissioning and delivery of services until 2023. The plan and associated actions provide a vehicle for the Children and Family Service to work together on shared priorities, maximise resources and expertise and to avoid duplication.
3. The draft Children and Family Service Departmental Plan 2020 – 23 is aligned to the County Council's Strategic Plan for 2018-22 'Working Together for the Benefit of Everyone' and aims to set out how the Department will contribute to the delivery and achievement of the Council's five strategic outcomes.
4. It also aligns to Leicestershire's Children and Families Partnership Plan and partner plans including Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Infant Feeding and Infant Mortality Strategies, Leicestershire and Rutland Sport Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Leicestershire Food Plan and Future in Mind.

Background

5. The Children and Family Service has developed a new draft Departmental Plan for 2020-23, setting out the vision and ambition for its services. The department has identified four ambitions and associated priority actions to contribute

towards improving outcomes for the children, young people and families of Leicestershire:

- Help every child to get the best possible start in life:
 - Priority 1: Identify those children who would benefit from support at the earliest opportunity
 - Priority 2: Embed the offer around school readiness and children's early language skills
 - Priority 3: Promote clear and consistent messages relating to 1001 critical days and the life chances of young children

- Help children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity:
 - Priority 1: Establish a revised Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) offer following the evaluation of early help services and the integration of family, youth, and children centre services.
 - Priority 2: Develop effective multi-agency identification, assessment and support for families with children who require additional support or who have special education needs.
 - Priority 3: Work with partner agencies to develop early help assessments and early help support at Tier 2 of the multi-agency Safeguarding Children Partnership threshold
 - Priority 4: Provide effective, co-ordinated support for children at key transition points, such as school readiness and the journey to adulthood.

- Help children in Leicestershire to live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments:
 - Priority 1: Ensure all children and families receive the Right Service, at the Right Time, in the Right Place
 - Priority 2: Ensure there are sufficient, good quality placements to meet children's needs
 - Priority 3: Children understand their care plan and have emotional permanence
 - Priority 4: Support young people to prepare for adulthood

- Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential:
 - Priority 1: Ensure that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) achieve the best possible outcomes delivered through appropriate education settings
 - Priority 2: Ensure that every child has access to good school places in all Leicestershire areas
 - Priority 3: Ensure best possible outcomes for all learners

Priority 4: Effective admissions arrangements promote diversity and choice and meet the needs of vulnerable groups

6. It is the intention to launch the Children and Family Service Departmental Plan in late June 2020.

Consultation

7. The Children and Families Service actively seeks feedback from children, young people and families across Leicestershire as part of direct work undertaken with families, through specific engagement activity and through forums including the Children's Youth Council for Leicestershire (CYCLe), Children in Care Council and the SEND Parent Carer Forum. Their views have been considered as part of the development of the Plan. The Plan has also been shaped by key themes emerging from the Make Your Mark 2019 National Youth Ballot in which over nine thousand young people from across Leicestershire voted on the issues most important to them.

Resource Implications

8. The Plan will provide the context within which Children and Family Service budgets are produced and will continue to ensure that the County Council makes the best possible use of its resources.

Timetable for Decisions

9. The draft Departmental Plan is due to be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 June 2020. Any comments raised by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be taken into consideration. It is intended to then officially launch the Plan in late June 2020.

Conclusion

10. The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the draft Children and Family Service Departmental Plan.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

11. There are no specific equality or human rights implications arising from this report. The Children and Family Service has an interest in ensuring that there are effective arrangements in place so that the services provided meet the identified needs of local children, young people and families. An EHIRA assessment has been undertaken.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

12. Delivery of the plan will require the Department to maintain and develop effective working relationships with a range of partners, including but not limited to colleagues across all other County Council departments, District Councils, Health, Police, Leicester City and Rutland Councils and the voluntary and community sector.

Background papers

13. <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/the-strategic-plan>
https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2018/9/17/Partnership_plan.pdf

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

14. None

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List of Appendices

Appendix A: Children and Families Partnership Plan