



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 24th FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

LEICESTERSHIRE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP PLAN: PROGRESS UPDATE

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board a progress update on the delivery of the Children and Families Partnership Plan 2021-23.

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. The Children and Families Partnership Plan is aligned to the Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan and focuses on the added value of approaching strategic priorities across the partnership to ensure consistent communication and service delivery to children and families.

Recommendation

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress in delivery of the Children and Families Partnership Plan.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. In November 2016 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the 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 expanded remit included oversight of how the priorities for children and families as set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, are delivered.
5. In May 2018, the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Children and Families Partnership Plan for 2018 – 21 and requested that it received regular progress updates.
6. In November 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for a Children and Families Partnership, required to reflect the decision to strategically align the Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership, SEND and Inclusion Board, Youth and Justice Partnership Board and the Early Help Partnership to the Children and Families Partnership.
7. In November 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the refreshed Partnership Plan for 2021 - 23. The Partnership agreed that the current five priority areas and key actions were still relevant, and the focus of actions should remain on identifying where improved partnership working would add value.

Background

8. The Children and Families Partnership Plan is a strategic document which sets out the shared vision for children, young people and their families and the priority outcomes that need to be improved. The Plan is not intended to be a detailed description of the individual work of each partner, but rather a summary of key areas of work that are best delivered together to have the biggest impact on the lives of children and young people.
9. The five priorities of the Partnership Plan are:
 - i. Ensure the best start for life
 - ii. Keep children safe and free from harm
 - iii. Support children and families to be resilient
 - iv. Ensure vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support
 - v. Enable children to have good physical and mental health
10. The Integrated Care System Children's Design Group, Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership, SEND and Inclusion Board, Youth and Justice Partnership Board and the Early Help Partnership provide regular reports to the Children and Families Partnership.

Progress update

11. The Partnership Plan for 2021 – 23 has been updated with indicative success measures for each priority, as requested by the Health and Wellbeing Board, which is shown in the appended Partnership Plan.
12. Priority leads have continued to work with partners and other key stakeholders to deliver current action plans. It is important to note that the pace of delivery and progress of actions continues to be affected by Covid-19 due to resources being re-focussed on responding to the pandemic. Key progress includes:

Priority 1 - Ensure the best start for life

Develop an integrated Early Years Pathway to ensure the needs of vulnerable children are identified:

- The universal offer to support parents accessing the two year check has been published on the Two to School webpage.
- Providers and professionals have welcomed the virtual meetings appointment system to receive professional advice to support vulnerable children and feel that children have been better supported as part of the graduated approach. Drop-ins have been planned for the year to provide additional assistance where providers have concerns about children who need further strategies and support.

Develop a shared understanding of the importance of the first 1001 Critical Days and school readiness:

- A communications campaign has been implemented to share key messages around the importance of accessing preschool places and getting school ready.
- Work is being undertaken with the County Council's Communities team to analyse take up of early years provision and localised Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) of low take up.
- 785 children were identified as having not accessed pre-school prior to starting school in September 2021. A communications plan is now in place around starting school and work is being undertaken with School Admissions and Information Governance teams in the County Council to enable parents to be contacted if their child is not attending pre-school and, in future, to enable parents to opt in to be contacted about starting school and accessing their free early education entitlement.
- Officers from the County Council's Early Years and Inclusion Service have also attended Children's Social Care (CSC) management meetings to raise the importance of supporting vulnerable children to accessing their early education entitlement at 2,3 and 4 years and the support that can be offered.
- Work has been undertaken with health, schools and the early years sector to help understand the impact of the pandemic on school readiness has identified self-regulation skills, gross/fine motor skills, poor core strength and behaviour for learning as key areas. A new action is being developed under this priority to develop support for early years professionals and parents to address developmental areas impacted by Covid 19.
- An e learning module to raise awareness of the importance of the first 1001 critical days is being built by the County Council's Children and Family Services (CFS) and will be piloted with staff in Children and Family Wellbeing Services (CFWS) before sharing wider via the Authority's learning hub. The multi-agency 1001 Critical Days task group are exploring how the module can be shared across partners.
- Workshops on 1001 Critical Days have been delivered to staff from the County Council's CFS, Health and Midwifery and links are being made with colleges around including 1001 Critical Days as part of the training for students on Health and Social Care courses.
- An online 1001 Critical Days event to raise awareness of key messages took place on 10th Nov with 90 attendees from a range of partners across LLR.
- A 1001 Critical Days animation is being developed by the County Council's CFS and has been shared with parent focus groups for feedback. It is anticipated the animation will be launched in spring 2022 as part of a communication campaign, including the refresh of the 1001 Critical Days parent leaflet.

Priority 2 - Keep children safe and free from harm

Develop and embed an integrated model of services to prevent harm to children and young people:

- The Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Vulnerability Ops Group continue to meet regularly to progress the delivery plan. Key areas for action include developing a strong model around transitions into adulthood, learning from data and work completed on children who go missing in order to develop a stronger offer, earlier and work around adolescents harmed outside the home.
- A review of partnership data collection has been completed and new performance indicators have been identified to focus on understanding the local landscape, challenges and the targeting of resources. Multi agency review of all high-risk case are in place to determine risk, threat and response.
- Following a successful bid for DFE recovery funding on behalf of the regional response to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Leicestershire is developing a framework to adopt a contextual approach to respond to children at risk of harm outside the home - Extra Familial Harm (EFH). To support the development and integration of this approach, work will be undertaken with the Safer Young Lives Project, Bedfordshire University, including case studies, the oversight of a peer assessment project and work on the implications for practice and policy guidance. Leicestershire will be responsible for the dissemination of learning for LLR, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

Priority 3 - Support children and families to be resilient

Review Early Help Partnership governance and leadership:

- The County Council's Cabinet approved the development of a Family Hubs model of service delivery at its meeting on the 11 February. This model will provide the framework for an Early Help strategy.

Develop early help data sets:

- The Early Help Partnership data group has been expanded to include City and Rutland to align this group to incorporate the work of Supporting Families national programme and the Violence Reduction Network.
- The LLR Strategic Information Management Group has agreed to take on the role of the LLR EH Data Governance Group. This group will provide strategic direction and will be able to address barriers to data sharing.
- An LLR Early Help Data Sharing Board has been established. The current focus of work is police data and mapping is taking place to understand how data is currently shared between Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council and police.

Develop shared systems and process for early help:

- A "Phone Fist" pilot was run with Hinckley schools to enable them to phone a dedicated line to discuss possible referrals into the County Council's CFWS before completing a multi-agency referral form (MARF). The scheme has now been rolled out to Harborough and Melton.
- A draft early help assessment is currently being piloted by a small group of schools. This pilot will end early April and next steps will be decided following evaluation.

Develop the early help workforce:

- Home Office funding was secured in July 2021 to support the design and delivery of training around Trauma Informed Practice and Barnardo's have been contracted as a service provider.
- A Design and Delivery group has been established and is meeting regularly and feedback to inform the training is being sought through multi-agency design workshops and consultation with children families.
- Tier 1 and 2a training, targeting front-line staff and managers, has been designed and is being delivered from January to March 2022 with positive feedback from participants to date.
- DWP and Public Health funding was secured to deliver a Reducing Parental Conflict programme on, which will be known locally as Relationships Matter. A Leicestershire Practitioner Toolkit has been developed and will be available to all staff who are trained across the Partnership.

Priority 4 - Ensure vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support

Provide integrated, outcome-based, high quality, cost effective provision:

- Discussions are being held between the County Council and Health partners, as part of the review of the current Complex Care Panel pathway and protocol, to look at a sample of cases and agree plans for future joint commissioning.

Develop a post 16 multi-agency delivery model:

- The multi-agency Joint Housing and Social Care protocol for 16- and 17-year olds at risk of homelessness is being reviewed.
- A working group has been set up to explore options for the extension of CAMHS services to care leavers until they 25. In recognition that this is likely to be a longer-term aspiration, the task group will identify smaller, achievable steps and actions that can be taken in the interim.
- The County Council's Leaving Care team are recruiting to a mental health worker post to help address the lower level mental health concerns of young people. There is also a therapeutic fund which allows access to £2,000 per year for young people who need support in this area.
- The LLR Joint Commissioning Strategy has now been launched, including and action to develop an LLR Pathway to Adulthood Strategy.

Priority 5 - Enable children to have good physical and mental health

Develop a programme of work to implement Trauma Informed Practice aligning to the LLR Trauma Aware workstream:

- Work is on-going to develop a programme of work, including the development of an LLR Trauma Informed Practice strategy

Understand why breastfeeding initiation across Leicestershire are lower than national average:

- Data quality issues were identified and addresses by NHS Digital and now meets validation criteria
- A Maternity Equity Analysis has conducted and has identified areas where additional support is needed around breastfeeding initiation and sustaining.

Reduce A and E attendances for 0-18s across the County:

- Public health are working with the County Council's Environment and Transport on an air pollution campaign. Forty primary schools signed up to the campaign.

Reduce food poverty (including holiday hunger) through further development of the Leicestershire Food Plan:

- A Food Poverty Officer has been appointed to develop a programme of work to address food poverty
- CFS, working with Active Together co-ordinated the delivery of DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food 2021 programme across Leicestershire to target children in receipt of free school meals for free holiday club provision over the Christmas holidays. £105,000 was awarded fund 22 providers to deliver 1500 places at 39 venues across the County and for CFWS to deliver family fun days and food hampers to eligible case load families.

Youth Voice

- Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and representatives from County Youth Council for Leicestershire (CYCLe) attended the Board meeting in January to provide an update on activity they have been engaged in from August 2021, including:
 - i. The launch of SEND CYCLe and Young Carer CYCLe groups in November 2021
 - ii. The launch of a leaflet in October 2021 that highlights common causes of cancers in young people. The leaflet has been shared with schools, governors, LPT and elected members and will be shared with young people engaging in group work with Children and Family Wellbeing Service
 - iii. Contributing to the development of a national survey led by the London School of Economics to gain the voice of young people on the impact of Covid 19.
 - iv. Involvement in six interview panels for roles within CFS where their views were given equal weighting in the recruitment decisions. CYCLe members who participated have also been involved reviewing the young person's Interview Training Pack created by De Montfort University
 - v. Working with LPT to produce a Young Carer short video which was released to GPs across LLR to enhance their knowledge of young carers to increase the recognition of their needs within GP services
 - vi. Supporting United against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) in the development of the Healthy Relationship game as part of an LLR project
 - vii. Formulating questions for a Q and A session with the Police Crime Commissioner about police, crime and things that affect young people which will be delivered in February 2022 Feb 2022
 - viii. Working with Victim Impact and the police on victim support

Future Developments

13. Work over the next six months will include:

- Launch of the 1001 Critical Days animation and 50 Things to Support Your Baby to Thrive by Five video
- Development of a funded project targeting young parents not in education or employment
- Development of a core data set which will support the early help/Supporting Families agenda
- Delivery of 3 workshops in March 2022 for senior leaders and managers across partners in LLR on Becoming a Trauma Informed Organisation
- Delivery of Relationships Matter - Reducing Parental Conflict training to CFS and voluntary sector family workers and inquiry workshops with Police, Education, Health and districts to understand their training requirements around this agenda.
- Joint audit by Children's Social Care and Districts on 16/17 homeless cases and actions taken
- Co-ordination and delivery of the 2022 Holiday Activities and Food Programme over the Easter and Summer holidays to target children eligible for free school meals

Background papers

Report to the Cabinet – 11 February 2022 – Development of a Family Hubs Model In Leicestershire

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6773&Ver=4>

Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board – 8 July 2021 – Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership Plan – Update

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1038&MId=6584&Ver=4>

Appendix

Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership Plan

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