

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE
20 MAY 2014**

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES – A JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN BRACKNELL FOREST 2014 – 2017
Director of Children, Young People and Learning

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Executive for Creating Opportunities - a Joint Strategic Plan for Children, Young People and Families in Bracknell Forest 2014 – 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Children and Young People’s Plan 2014-17 (attached as annex 1) is approved.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Children and Young People’s Plan is the defining statement of strategic planning for children and young people in the borough and is central to the work of the Children and Young People’s Partnership. It identifies six evidence based priorities which are felt to be essential in ensuring improved outcomes for children, young people and families living and growing up in Bracknell Forest. It is important that the Council endorses the priorities in the plan and that there is support for the delivery of the priorities through existing services and resources.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Children and Young People’s Partnership has considered the option of no longer having a plan, but believe that the plan has proven to be an effective tool that continues to provide a focus on areas for improvement that can best be achieved through working in partnership.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Section 10 of the Children act 2004 places a duty on the local authority to make arrangements to secure co-operation among a number of partners set out in the Act and in statutory guidance on interagency co-operation to improve the wellbeing of children. This duty falls within the remit of the Director and the Lead Member for Children Young People and Learning as set out in statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities.
- 5.2 The Children and Young People’s plan is intended to be a strategic, overarching plan for all local services working with children, young people and families. This is the third Children and Young People’s Plan that has been developed for Bracknell Forest and will cover the period 2014 to 2017.
- 5.3 The Plan was developed using a strong evidence base which included recommendations from Ofsted Inspections and Peer Review processes, performance

information, local and national research, needs analysis, consultation with partners and stakeholders and significant consultation with children and young people.

- 5.4 The Plan identifies **six priorities for improvement**, these include targeting and working with children, young people and families who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Outcome Priority One: Raise levels of attainment and pupil progress across all phases of learning for all pupils.

Outcome Priority Two: Improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing from conception to birth and throughout life.

Outcome Priority Three: Safeguard and protect children and young people.

Outcome Priority Four: Improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

Outcome Priority Five: Strengthen families through effective multi-agency coordination and support.

Outcome Priority Six: Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people.

- 5.5 In order to secure effective outcomes in these priorities all partners working with children and young people will ensure that a small number of principles underpin the work they do:

- Supporting the child / young person's journey through key life stages and ensuring support where it is needed.
- Active engagement of children, young people and families in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services.
- Prevention and early intervention systems in place to provide effective early help.

- 5.6 An action plan at the end of the document identifies the key actions which sit under each of the outcome priorities. These actions will be led by a range of partners including the Local Authority, schools, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Group and Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Drug Action and Alcohol Services and Thames Valley Police.

- 5.7 Where relevant key priorities have been matched up across partnerships to secure maximum benefit; an example of this is the priority on safeguarding children and a focus on domestic abuse which is a priority in the LSCB Business Plan and in the Community Safety Strategy.

- 5.8 Progress against the actions will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership on a bi-monthly basis, and an annual review of progress against priorities will ensure that the actions remain reflective of current needs and are amended as necessary.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions particularly Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 are set out within the main body of the report

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that the Council can meet the priorities set out in the Plan through existing services and resources.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An Equalities Impact Screening has been completed (attached as annex 2).

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The priorities in the plan are reliant on the strength of partnership working and on the commitment of agency partners to support delivery. Monitoring of the priorities through the Children and Young People's Partnership, and regular reporting to the Bracknell Forest Partnership, LSCB and to Members through Overview and Scrutiny will ensure this is closely monitored and early action taken to address any areas of concern.

Other Officers

- 6.5 N/A

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Partners and Stakeholders
7.2 Children and Young People

Method of Consultation

- 7.3 Partners and stakeholders were consulted through a range of focus groups and discussions.
7.4 Children and young people participated in an online survey which saw over 2,500 responses. In addition a series of focus groups of 200 children and young people (some from targeted vulnerable groups) took place facilitated by the Children's Society to maintain independence.

Representations Received

- 7.5 Views received have been included in the report, and where relevant have been incorporated into the plan priorities and actions detailed in the plan.

- 7.6 A series of presentations to a variety of audiences has enabled the views of children and young people to be shared widely. The consultation response can be found at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

Background Papers

Relevant reference materials are identified within the report.

Contact for further information

Janette Karklins
Director Children, Young People and Learning
janette.karklins@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Sandra Davies
Head of Performance Management and Governance
sandra.davies@bracknell-forest.gov.uk