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## **A REFRESHED INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2018-2021 FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**Report by Interim Service Director Children and Young People**  
**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

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**29 November 2018**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report proposes that Scottish Borders Council notes the refreshed Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders 2018-2021, complying with the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is committed to safeguarding, supporting and promoting the well-being of all children and young people across the Scottish Borders, and this is carried out through the work of the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG).
- 1.3 The CYPLG partners of Scottish Borders Council (SBC), NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the Third Sector take an integrated approach to service planning (a requirement of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014), and focus on shared priorities to deliver meaningful and sustainable improvements to the lives of all our children and young people.
- 1.4 The CYPLG has reflected on a much changed national and local policy context as well as the issues facing our children and young people in their homes, in schools, and in their communities and has recognised the need to refresh the existing Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2020 plan to address this changing context. The CYPLG reviewed and revised its current approach and agreed to refocus on four key priorities, and a renewed commitment to involve children, young people and their families in the decisions about the service that affect them.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that Scottish Borders Council notes the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan for the Scottish Borders 2018-2021 described in this report and attached at Appendix 1.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires an integrated approach to service planning by partners. In the Scottish Borders, this translates into an Integrated Children and Young People's Plan produced by and supported by the Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG), made up of Scottish Borders Council (SBC), NHS Borders, Police Scotland, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the Third Sector, and signed off by the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP).
- 3.2 There is a current plan in existence for 2017-2020, and good progress in delivering actions set out in this Plan has been made, in particular around child protection practice and the approach to addressing the emotional health, wellbeing and resilience of young people. However it was felt appropriate to refresh this plan to make the most of new opportunities as well as addressing the current complex and changing strategic and legislative context, for example the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.
- 3.3 The new Scottish Borders Community Plan, SBC Corporate Plan, and Financial Plan 2018-19, as well as the NHS Clinical Strategy demonstrate real commitment and focus on supporting children and young people, as well as early intervention and prevention. Significant investment is allowing activities to be set up, involving partner agencies to improve mental and emotional health and create positive opportunities regarding exercise, diet, nutrition, lifestyle and employability.
- 3.4 The CYPLG continues to reflect on the issues facing children and families in their homes, schools and communities. Direct feedback from young people has enabled the group to understand some of the challenges that they face which can impact on their emotional health and wellbeing as they grow up, as well as other barriers that exist to achieving their full potential.
- 3.5 The importance of early intervention and prevention and of reducing inequalities (key priorities for the CPP) is recognised in the funding and commitment shown to our children and young people by partners, and this needs to be reflected in service planning going forward.
- 3.6 To define strategic priorities and outcomes for 2018-2021, the CYPLG considered the outcome of the previous joint inspection for children and young people in the Scottish Borders undertaken in 2016, as well as relevant national and strategic context, to arrive at a new vision and four key priorities with clear outcomes which will be progressed over the next three years and beyond. These priorities set out where partners and the partnership will focus work going forward, and provides strategic direction for integrated services.

### **4 REFRESHED INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2018-2021**

- 4.1 In light of the significant changes outlined in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3, the CYPLG has refreshed the 2017-2020 Integrated Children and Young People's Plan to make the most of new opportunities, and to enable partners to work

towards closing the gap between our most deprived and least deprived families and communities.

- 4.2 The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021, presented at Appendix 1, aligns to the outcomes in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework 2018 (and in particular the outcome relating to children and young people: "We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential") and locally, to the outcomes in the CPP's new Community Plan 2017.
- 4.3 The vision of the new plan is "*Working together we will ensure all children and young people have a sense of belonging, self-worth and self-confidence to achieve their unique potential*".
- 4.4 Children and young people, along with their families and carers, should be at the centre of what the CYPLG does. The four refreshed priorities aim to impact positively on their lives, but be influenced by a new approach which sees intervention as early as possible and a focus on prevention. The four key priorities of this plan are:
1. Keeping children and young people safe
  2. Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities
  3. Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion
  4. Increasing participation and engagement
- 4.5 Members of the CYPLG are decision makers within their respective organisations whose work has an impact on the lives of children and young people in the Scottish Borders and join together through a shared vision and set of priorities. The group is now working on the principles of:
- Focussing on early intervention and prevention to support children, young people and their families where and when they need it most
  - Engaging with, and listening to children, young people and their families to increase our understanding of their issues and vulnerabilities
  - Working with children, young people and their families to help them strengthen their own relationships and the relationships with services available to them.
- 4.6 The CYPLG will now work to design and implement a detailed action plan to effectively address the four key priorities in the plan and design a performance scorecard to ensure that progress can be monitored effectively.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no costs attached to the recommendation contained in this report. Respective partners use existing budgets to implement the work identified by the CYPLG, and articulated in the refreshed Plan. To complement existing budgets, the CYPLG manages a budget of approximately £720k to commission appropriate services in order to work towards its priorities. Additional money was identified in the Council's Financial Plan for 2018-19 as a one-year investment to complement current resources. A CYPLG Commissioning group oversees and monitors this funding to ensure that

positive outcomes are achieved for children and young people across the Scottish Borders.

## 5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 aims to deliver four key priorities as set out in paragraph 4.4. In developing the action plan to implement these priorities, the CYPLG takes cognisance of general risks across the Plan as well as risks associated with specific priorities.

- I. There may be differing approaches to partnership working which could delay delivery of objectives. The CYPLG will mitigate this by gathering evidence of each action and priority through self-evaluation.
- II. There may be difficulties in engaging with families and young people and a misunderstanding of their needs. The CYPLG will mitigate this by using quantitative data designed to measure effectiveness through use of a scorecard.
- III. There is a risk that participation and engagement with children and young people is unsuccessful if existing approaches are continued. The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 addresses this by designing new mechanisms to encourage participation and engagement in an informed, targeted way.
- IV. There may be a lack of capacity to deliver improved health and wellbeing in the current school curriculum. The one-off funding described in paragraph 5.1 will enable the development of this important issue.
- V. The actions arising from the plan may not be enough to keep children and young people safe. The CYPLG will monitor the effectiveness of education programmes, assist in the design of new approaches and continue to work with the Child Protection Committee where appropriate.

## 5.3 Equalities

A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this plan and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

## 5.4 Acting Sustainably

The priorities of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 will be implemented in a sustainable manner in order to improve fairness and equality of access to services where they are needed most. The plan will offer opportunities to engage and participate in actions which will benefit children, young people and their families.

## 5.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on carbon management as a result of this report.

## 5.6 Rural Proofing

The Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021 focuses on strengthening access to services where needed most, regardless of where children and families live in the Scottish Borders.

## 5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes required to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021.

## 6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

6.2 Others consulted –

- Corporate Communications

### Approved by

**Stuart Easingwood**

**Signature .....**

**Interim Service Director Children and Young People**

### Author(s)

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**Background Papers: n/a**

**Previous Minute Reference: n/a**

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Janice Robertson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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