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## **Children and Young People's Services Standards and Quality Report 2014-2015**

**Report by the Service Director Children and Young People**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**19 January 2016**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Education Executive note the contents of the Children and Young People's Services Standards and Quality Report 2014-2015.**
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Service provides a range of services which make a positive difference to the lives of our children and young people, service users, families and communities. This Standards and Quality Report sets out a review of the contribution the Children and Young People's Service has made to the Council's strategic objectives through the delivery of positive outcomes and support for individuals and communities. The report also addresses how the Service will improve.
- 1.3 The report also outlines the high quality partnership working taking place, especially in tackling the significant inequalities that exist and where there is an impact upon children and young people.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:-**

**Notes the contents of the Children and Young People's Service Standards and Quality Report 2014-2015.**

### **3 Children and Young People's Services Standards and Quality Report 2014-2015**

3.1 This report highlights the achievements of our children and young people during the period 2014-2015 and the achievements of our staff in enabling and nurturing our children and young people to achieve. There are many areas of success :

- a) Improved attainment – more young people are attaining higher levels of qualifications and our young people are leaving school with better attainment than ever before – we are in the top quartile nationally.
- b) Attainment of our most vulnerable children and young people has dramatically improved – we have moved from the fourth to the second quartile nationally.
- c) Dramatic reduction in school exclusions – now in line with national averages and continually an improving picture.
- d) Improved attendance – above national levels and improving – top quartile performance.
- e) Higher participation levels than nationally in sports, in extra-curricular activities and in national awards such as Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering activities – increasing participation levels.
- f) Increase in positive destination levels and sustained destination levels – in top quartile nationally.
- g) Increase in foster carers – 33% - from 48 in July 2012 to 64 in July 2015.
- h) Improved timescales in achieving permanent placements for our children and young people.
- i) Externally validated high quality and robust Child Protection procedures.
- j) Wheatlands Young People's Unit –awarded the Residential Team of the Year National Award.
- k) Our Community Safety programme is highly regarded, responsive and relevant – extensive and successful work on rail safety completed in every school in 2015.
- l) Dramatic improvements in supporting income maximisation for our vulnerable families.

3.2 Our Standards and Quality Report is an opportunity to reflect on how we are making a difference to learners, participants, service users, families and communities. In this, it seeks to address:

- a) How well we deliver on outcomes and support individuals and

communities.

b) How well we improve the quality of our work.

- 3.3 Our on-going focus is to ensure that children and young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and respectful, responsible and included. Key to this is that they receive the help they need, when they need it. In line with both the Scottish Government Programme for Government and the Government's Public Sector Reform Programme, our clear focus is on prevention and early intervention. This is demonstrated through our commitment to achieving the aims of our Early Years Strategy and our approach to implementing the principles of GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child). We are well placed to meet all new statutory duties placed on Local Authorities arising from the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to Early Learning and Childcare, free school meals for all children in P1-3 and Corporate Parenting.
- 3.4 Sustained provision and partnership working will continue to underpin the delivery of our services. This is in line with the Scottish Government's increasing expectations for Community Planning Partnerships to work together collaboratively to improve outcomes. We also recognise the importance of making connections across services and the contribution of our services to a wide range of outcomes. In addition, the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill sets a clear agenda to build on our experience of working with communities to support them to achieve their own goals and aspirations through taking independent action and by having their voices heard in the decisions that affect their area.
- 3.5 Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) sets us the challenge of helping all children and young people develop the skills and attributes required to enable them to become successful, responsible, confident and effective citizens.
- 3.6 Through an ambitious Improvement Plan we continue to plan for, and respond to, the challenges and opportunities presented by a reduction in resources, changing demographics and trends in need and new legislation.
- 3.7 As a Directorate and in partnership with NHS Borders, Police Scotland, Safer Communities, Youth Borders, the Children's Reporter, Borders Sport and Leisure and a range of voluntary sector organisations, we are ambitious to achieve even better outcomes for our children and young people.
- 3.8 In this report there is reference to the many improvement actions and plans for services for children and young people. The Leadership of improvement and change is regularly monitored through the Community Planning Partnership, the Children and Young People's Leadership Group and the People Department Management Team. There is a clear focus on improving our processes and the quality of our services to make a greater difference to the lives of the children, the young people, their families and communities.

## 4 IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

### 4.2 Risk and Mitigations

Risks associated with improving the quality of services for children and young people are mitigated by the quality assurance systems and governance structures in place in both the Council and in the partnership structure set within the Community Planning Partnership and the Children and Young People's Leadership Group.

### 4.3 Equalities

It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

### 4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

### 4.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

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

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

## 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have not been consulted, but they will be providing feedback.

### Approved by

**Jeanette McDiarmid**  
**Depute Chief Executive, People**

**Signature .....**

### Author(s)

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**Background Papers:**  
**Previous Minute Reference:**

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

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 824000.