

Agenda Item 24.

TITLE:	Children's Partnership Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY:	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2015
WARD:	None Specific
DIRECTOR:	Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To ensure that the Partnership is effective in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION

That Overview and Scrutiny note the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

As the report outlines that progress has been made against all the identified priorities. In particular:

On Priority 1:

- an Early Help Hub has been established as a multi-agency forum to deliver effective response for children and families .
- The Children with Disability Strategy has been drafted and is currently being developed in conjunction with partners.

On Priority 1a:

- An Early Help Strategy was agreed and implemented and is subject to further development in a "phase 2", to improve school readiness.
- A wide range of stakeholders, including health, Wokingham BC teams, parents and other family members have been involved in the ongoing development of the strategy and the resulting Practice Framework.

On Priority 1b:

- The joint Wokingham CCG and Wokingham BC Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy was presented to the Board on 11th June 2015. This included a detailed action plan for the coming year. Implementation of the strategy is well underway

On Priority 2:

- A revised School Improvement Strategy has been implemented.
- A Head's steering group has been established.
- The primary and secondary place provision strategies are in the process of being implemented, including a new secondary school in September 2016 and the Primary strategy is being refreshed.

On Priority 3:

- The local offer is on track.
- Transfers to Education Health and Care plans are proceeding in an orderly fashion.
- A joint Strategy is being developed with the CCG to commission services

Background

The Children's Partnership comprises partner agencies who work together to promote the safeguarding and wellbeing of children, young people and their families in the Borough. Its overarching strategy, The Children and Young People's Plan sets the direction and priorities for services for children and young people between 2014 and 2016. Whilst the Children and Young People's Plan is no longer a statutory requirement, Wokingham and its partners have found it to be a useful tool to capture the activities of the partners and promote cohesiveness in planning for children and young people.

Five key priorities were set in the Plan:

Priority 1 - Refresh and renew our Early Help approach, building on what works well, empowering professionals to always keep child centred and designing service to enable excellent practice

Priority 1a - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, develop an integrated 0-5 offer across the Local Authority, health and early years sector

Priority 1b - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, review emotional health and wellbeing services including primary CAMHS to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people.

Priority 2 - Ensure more Wokingham children have access to the best education and focus on delivering improvements for those most at risk of poor outcomes

Priority 3 - Implement changes required to deliver on the Children and Families Act 2014 and go further to bring the child and family into the centre of assessment, planning and support processes.

Analysis of Issues

Progress has been made in all areas of the Plan (see Appendix 1). The Partnership has progressed the development of an Early Help Hub and multi-agency practitioners are jointly trained in the use of the Practice Framework which offers practical tools for working with children and families and undertaking assessments. These tools give practitioners a way of working with families to resolve issues and prevent them escalating but at the same time helps them to recognise when statutory intervention is required in order to keep children safe. These tools include Signs of Safety, Restorative Practice, Family Star Outcomes.

The Multi Agency Early Help Hub assesses and prioritises cases and has input from partners across the Police, Health (including Health Visitors and CAMHS), Social Care and the Voluntary Sector.

Audit and analysis of the cases that have used the tools will help the Partnership to identify the next steps and any improvements required for the Hub.

Our partners at the CCG have reported that a good range of training opportunities are available to their staff. Many GP practices have also been offered and have taken up training in the use of Signs of Safety and in understanding Child Sexual Exploitation. There is evidence of the impact of the training offered however the CCG will be developing a database of training to monitor the effectiveness and to address any emerging issues. In particular the CCG wishes to evidence the voice of the child in their training.

An Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 11th June 2015 which sets out how integrated services commissioned and delivered by Wokingham Borough Council and Wokingham CCG will support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Wokingham by providing a holistic offer from prevention through to specialist intensive therapies.

The Wokingham Primary and Secondary Strategies are being implemented. A new secondary school is on track to open in September 2016. Three new primary schools were built in 2013 and the Evendons Free Primary school has also opened. New schools are in development as part of the borough's SDL developments. The School Improvement strategy undergoing 2nd review. The percentage of good/better schools improved (83-86%), with significant improvements in Early Years and Primary School results. The preliminary data in relation to the gaps in attainment is mixed with elements of improvement in 2015.

A Head-teacher steering group has been established to strengthen strategic focus to learning. These groups meet termly throughout the year. Schools have benefited from better and more timely distribution of data packs to support them in the delivery of their self-evaluations. School improvement officers reported that these self-evaluations were focused and succinct and the appropriate support was put in place.

From September 2014, The Children and Families Act 2014 required all local authorities to publish in one place information about the services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This was published however technical issues initially prevented it from being as useful as it should have been. These issues have now been resolved and the offer is accessible on the Wokingham Information Network.

A Joint Children with Disabilities Strategy is in development and is currently subject to consultation with partners, in particular with Wokingham CCG and will promote integration of service delivery for children with disabilities. We are progressing with the implementation of Education Health and Care assessments and plans, personal budgets and new transition arrangements.

We are confident that we have made good progress so far with the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan and that the Partnership is now moving into a new phase of consolidating and strengthening its approach to joint delivery and integration. Partnership Recruitment and Retention activities are underway as part of the Workforce Development Strategy to help us deliver our intentions in relation to Early Help and across the wider children's workforce. The next steps are to align and accelerate the development of a joint workforce induction programme and to ensure sustainability of our approach to joint working.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The financial implications of each component of the plan will be dealt with decision by decision, rather than through the further development of the plan.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

- Wokingham Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 2016

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Children and Young People's Partnership update on priorities 2014-16

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
<p>Priority 1 - Refresh and renew our Early Help approach, building on what works well, empowering professionals to always keep child centred and designing service to enable excellent practice.</p>	<p><i>Children in need often have poorer outcomes than their peers. (JSNA).</i></p> <p><i>Wokingham has proportionally fewer children in need than seen elsewhere and the numbers are relatively small. This is also true for looked after children and children subject to a child protection plan. (JSNA).</i></p> <p><i>Children eligible for free school meals are more likely to start school at a disadvantage and the gap in performance does not decrease as the children progress through school (WBC).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of multi-agency front door team -Bringing together a range of early intervention activity (September 2014). • Joint strategy agreed for children with disability including options promote integration for service delivery (December 2014) • Implementation of the WSCB Levels of Need for services for children in Wokingham (Apr 2014). 	<p>The Early Help Hub has been established in Wokingham as part of the Multi-Agency Early Help offer. The Early Help Hub is a multi-agency forum that meets on a weekly basis to support the allocation of Early Help referrals based on family consent and agency support. The Early Help Hub monitors all families that are signposted to level 2 support.</p> <p>The Wokingham Children with Disability Strategy has been drafted and is currently in subject to consultation (and further development) with partner agencies and in particular the Wokingham CCG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to early years forum in March 2015 (50+ attended) • Presentation to child-minders forum (30+ attended) • Audit undertaken by Ingson in March 2015 assessed how Levels of Need were used and appropriateness – confirmed they were correct level and showed impact on outcomes for children • Revised July 2015 and open to consultation for WSCB members until September 2015

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring impact of the Levels of need (Sep) • Integrated workforce strategy to deliver a skilled and motivated workforce across organisations (Apr 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to managers leading change (children’s social care) in August 2015 <p>In relation to the current Practice Framework MTM (England Innovations Programme) completed a survey in Wokingham based on how motivated staff feel across Children’s Services, the survey shows that staff feel that they have a better understanding of harm/risk with families, more opportunity to have their say, they more involved in decision making and feel that they have clearer goals to work towards. The survey also shows that Wokingham are below the National average in relation to their workforce feeling “stressed” and that they feel that management provide good support for difficult or stressful situations, along with feeling positive about supervision. These feelings are also reflected in our Q1 evaluation whereby our retention statistics have reduced to 9.9% with recruiting more permanent staff to continue to support the turnover statistics.</p>

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
<p>Priority 1a - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, develop an integrated 0-5 offer across the Local Authority, health and early year's sector</p>	<p><i>Despite overall good results in early years there are some disadvantaged children who do not achieve a "good standard of achievement", which is designed to measure school readiness. (WBC).</i></p> <p><i>Children eligible for free school meals are more likely to start school at a disadvantage and the gap in performance does not decrease as the children progress through school (WBC).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Early intervention Strategy for 0-5's will lead to more joined up services for early years youngsters and their families, help more children be ready for school and narrow the gap in outcomes experienced by those at risk of being left behind April 2016 • Multi agency and stakeholder consultation on 0-5 design (Jun-Sep) • Strategy agreed including resource shifts (Dec) 	<p>Our Early Help Strategy is being implemented with a renewed commitment and focus on early help for families by developing and embedding effective working and service practice for the benefit of families. An action plan has been developed for Phase Two which aims to tackle and redress the underlying root causes of disparity in school readiness amongst some of our young children.</p> <p>Wide stakeholder events were held with key personnel including those from the Local Authority, Wokingham Borough Council Public Health, Public Health services for Berkshire, Children's Services, Children's Centres, provider services (including Health Visitors, Midwives, Family Nurse Practitioners), Clinical Commissioning Group, voluntary sector, Education, etc.</p> <p>A number of consultation events were also held with parents (mothers and fathers), grandparents, foster carers, etc., at a number of venues within Wokingham. The output from these events fed into the local service specification and service build.</p>

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
<p>Priority 1b - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, review emotional health and wellbeing services including primary CAMHS to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people.</p>	<p><i>Continued and increasing high usage of both Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and wider counselling and emotional health and wellbeing support services (JSNA).</i></p> <p><i>Partnership reviews Identify the need for all tiers of emotional health and wellbeing provision to work together as a better system, so that children and young people are identified early and access any support they need quickly at the lowest and least restrictive tier possible. (JSNA).</i></p> <p><i>Wokingham Borough scored significantly worse than the national average for the previous National Indicator relating to the emotional health of children (JSNA).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree an integrated Wokingham CCG and Wokingham Borough Council emotional health and wellbeing strategy setting out how children and young people are able to access the right support at the right time (Sep); • Improve specialist CAMHS access and outcomes through local partnership working and monitoring and action (next measure Sep); • Re-commission Tier 1 and 2 Emotional Health and wellbeing services (Apr 2016); • Continue to improve monitoring of impact, building on the outcome monitoring models developed by specialist CAMHS (next measure Sep). 	<p>The joint Wokingham CCG and BC Emotional health and Wellbeing Strategy was presented to Board on 11th June 2015.</p> <p>Work is in progress to identify how best to implement the re-commissioning of Tier 1 and 2 services. This includes through a developing partnership with other Berkshire authorities</p> <p>The next course of Nurture Assistant training advertised to schools to start September 2015. Pan-Berks group set up to increase this type of training to early years.</p>
<p>Priority 2 - Ensure more Wokingham children have access to the best education</p>	<p><i>All Secondary Schools in the Borough good or outstanding (WBC).</i></p> <p><i>Some performance issues at primary and the attainment gap at KS2 and KS4 (GCSEs) between children eligible for free school meals and those who are not Children in need often have</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise School Improvement strategy to ensure appropriate actions to address priorities identified in recent self-evaluation. A dual focus on inequalities where gaps between the achievement of the majority and vulnerable pupil 	<p>Actions completed. Preliminary “gaps” data is overall better with mixed elements for 2015. Improved in priority areas eg Early Years, more able primary pupils. School Improvement strategy undergoing 2nd review % good/better schools improved 83-86%,</p>

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
<p>and focus on delivering improvements for those most at risk of poor outcomes</p>	<p><i>poorer outcomes than their peers. (WBC).</i></p> <p><i>There is a higher proportion of children with special educational needs among the Wokingham children in need population. Whilst there are relatively fewer children eligible for free school meals in Wokingham than seen nationally, the percentage of these children with statements of special educational need is higher than seen elsewhere (JSNA).</i></p>	<p>groups are too wide and to increase the proportion of good and outstanding schools (December 2014).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Primary and Secondary place strategies, delivering five new Primary Schools and a new Secondary School by 2016 • Task-and-finish Headteacher group to sign off policy documentation (July 2014) • Heads' steering group established to ensure sustainable strategic focus (September 2014) • Revised data packs circulated to schools to aid their self-evaluations (September 2014) • Support for Headteacher groups put in place (December 2014) • Improved self evaluations evidenced (March 2015) 	<p>with significant improvements in Early Years & primary school results</p> <p>The Wokingham Primary and Secondary Strategies are being implemented. A new secondary school is on track to open in September 2016. Three new primary school were built in 2013 and the Evendons Free Primary school has also opened. New schools are in development as part of the borough's SDL developments.</p> <p>Task completed and documentation in place</p> <p>Steering Group established and met termly through the year</p> <p>Data packs were expanded and issued earlier to be more effective in 2014. Reviewed again for 2015</p> <p>Task completed/Support in place</p> <p>School Improvement Officers report self-evaluations well focussed and succinct</p>

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<p>Priority 3 - Implement changes required to deliver on the Children and Families Act 2014 and go further to bring the child and family into the centre of assessment, planning and support processes.</p>	<p><i>Section 26 of the Children and Families Act 2014 sets out statutory requirements for local authorities and clinical commissioning groups and other NHS bodies with a duty for the provision of services and facilities under the National Health Service Act 2006 for children and young people to make joint “arrangements about the education, health and care provision to be secured for children and young people with special educational needs for whom it is responsible and for those with disabilities”.</i></p> <p><i>Support for children in transition is particularly important for Wokingham – we have low numbers of children transitioning from children’s to adults services and recent service reviews suggest areas for improvement (JSNA)</i></p> <p><i>There is a higher proportion of children with special educational needs among the Wokingham children in need population. Whilst there are relatively fewer children eligible for free school meals in Wokingham than seen nationally, the percentage of these children with statements of special educational need is higher than seen elsewhere (JSNA).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Offer published online setting out Education, Social care and Health services available for children and families (September 2014) • Education and social care personal budgets tested with EHCP cohort (July 2014) • Arrangements for allocation of personal budgets across implemented (Sep 2014) • Education, Health and Care Assessments tested on cohort (July 2014) 	<p>Local Offer on track. Some system issues which have been a national concern now resolved. Additional providers added through Alternative Provision Task and Finish group. First update of information underway. First publication of feedback due 31st August 2015. Ongoing challenges (Staffing and services updating information) and the need for strategic management going forward as the Local Offer is the shop window of council, health and other services.</p> <p>A test programme of Independent Budgets is in development.</p> <p>New requests for assessment – where supported – are now being delivered through EHC Plans.</p> <p>EHCP program of transfers underway. Very positive feedback form schools and families regarding the quality of the process. Each session taking longer than expected as very thorough and still a</p>

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Health and Care Plans implemented (Sep 2014) • Transfer arrangements in place (Sep 2014) • Transfer action plan agreed (Sep) • Changes to transition services (April 2015) • Implementation of multi-agency front door team -Bringing together a range of early intervention activity (Sep 2014). • Joint strategy agreed for children with disability including options promote integration for service delivery (Dec 2015) 	<p>learning process for all involved. National guidance changed in July 2015 to lengthen the transition period.</p> <p>All Sencos trained on transfer review process, offered to health staff.</p> <p>Additional resources (1/2 FTE staff post) secured to support transition.</p> <p>Early Help Hub launched (see above)</p> <p>The strategy is in draft and is subject to consultation with health partners.</p>

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