

# **Children and Young People**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**30 September 2021**

### **DRAFT Warwickshire Children's Strategy 2021-2030**

#### **Recommendation**

That the Children and Young People Overview And Scrutiny Committee comment on the draft Warwickshire Children's Strategy 2021 -2030 before it is finalised and goes to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This is a Draft Warwickshire Children's Strategy which is coming to committee for final comments and shaping before this is finalised. The establishment of the first Warwickshire Children's Strategy offers a real opportunity to take positive steps forward prioritising children and childhood in our post pandemic recovery work and in the future Council Plan.
- 1.2 The Warwickshire Children's Strategy has been designed by cross-services within the Council and with partner agencies. This allows for a whole council and partner, long-term plan. This is a County Council strategy but to be successful it is vital that we build and use the power of partnerships. Multi agency endeavours underpinned by one aim, one set of collective principles, ambitions, outcomes, and measures will allow us to collectively improve the life chances and outcomes of children, young people and families.
- 1.3 The strategy establishes a clear and simple aim: to achieve a Child Friendly Warwickshire. This means that Warwickshire is county that puts children at the heart of all we do. This will support our Council's overall vision for Warwickshire to be the best it can be.
- 1.4 Accountability for the plan will be held by the Strategic Director People in their statutory role as Director of Children's Services. However, it will be overseen on a regular basis by the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health & Wellbeing Board. Other partnership boards will have some cross over into the strategy too including the Corporate Parenting Board, Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnership and the Warwickshire Together for Children Board.

- 1.5 In forming the strategy we have engaged with many people. This has included cross Council teams and partner agencies including headteachers, health colleagues, police, various commissioned services and voluntary and community organisations. Over 138 individual comments and suggestions were received. We have also engaged with 1,807 children and young people through the Child Friendly Warwickshire survey which helped identify our priority areas and with the parent and carer forums.
- 1.6 The strategy is brief, five pages. This was completed on purpose to ensure the document remains high level but it incorporates key priorities and ambitions. This will be used to formulate a detailed delivery plan to assign individual leads and clear timescales for completion.
- 1.7 We have worked with colleagues in Leeds City Council as part of the Strengthening Families, Protecting Children Project in formulating the strategy. In particular, the establishment of clear measurable objectives has been established. This will allow us to have one children's outcomes framework which we intend to implement within power BI to help elected members and senior managers to measure, monitor and scrutinise the delivery of the strategy. The five outcomes, fourteen priorities and twenty-four measures are designed to incorporate all parts of Children's Services. They will merge into one performance framework to enable members to measure progress, impact and outcomes achieved for children.
- 1.8 The Obsessions section has been significantly debated but parents, young people and professionals chose the three obsessions. It was felt that if we get these things right then we know children and young people will be supported in Warwickshire to have the best childhood. All children attending school, engagement in education, training, or employment at 16 plus and reduced numbers of children requiring care by the County Council, will be monitored across Children's Services in Warwickshire on a weekly basis to make sure all children are being supported to achieve.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this strategy. Any specific projects that have a financial implication will need to be managed by the Assistant Directors within the current budget or through separate business case through the Council Change Gateway.

## **4. Environmental Implications**

- 4.1 There are no adverse environmental implications.

## **5. Implementation of the strategy**

- 5.1 The table on pages 3-5 will be formulated into a more detailed delivery plan. An update on progress the of strategy will be timetables on at least an annual basis at the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an update of the strategy, with any revisions will be provided to Cabinet on an annual basis.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Overview and scrutiny committee are asked to comment and shape the draft Warwickshire Children's Strategy 2021-2030.

## **7. Background papers**

- 7.1 There are no background papers.

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix A – DRAFT Warwickshire Children's Strategy 2021-2030

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