

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
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CABINET

13 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF WELL-BEING AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.8 TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

(Report prepared by Keri Lawrence, Leanne Thornton and Gill Burden)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report outlines recommendations to Cabinet towards reviewing the Children and Young People's Strategy 2011- 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Children and Young People's Strategy has been in existence since 2011.
- The Strategy outlines three priority areas namely; Child Poverty, NEETS (16 to 19 years olds not in Education, Employment or Training), and Safeguarding.
- There is a timely opportunity to review and refresh the existing Strategy to take into account recommendations following a Home Office Peer Review relating to Ending Gang and Youth Violence and the current needs of young people, whilst engaging on a more comprehensive basis with relevant key partners.
- This work also provides the opportunity for the Council to work with key partner agencies to produce a Delivery Plan in order to ensure that progress is made against identified objectives, in compliance with Government guidelines and best practice.
- Without a Strategy and Delivery Plan in place there is a risk that there will be gaps and possible duplication of provision and services for children and young people in Tendring.
- It is proposed that the revised Strategy and Delivery Plan be reported to the local Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Cabinet agrees that the Children and Young People's Strategy should be reviewed and updated, and that the new Strategy and Delivery Plan be reported to the local Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet for approval.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Children and Young People's Strategy will contribute towards delivering across the spectrum of Council Corporate priorities including the 'Help children and adults achieve their full potential' and 'Address deprivation' priorities.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

Whilst there are no direct financial and/or other resource implications arising from the recommendations in this report, the development of a revised Strategy and Delivery Plan with associated interventions, projects and programmes, may impact upon the Council's financial and corporate resources.

Interventions assigned to the Council within the proposed Delivery Plan will be evaluated and costs presented for approval on a case by case basis in line with established governance protocols.

Risk

There is minimal risk to TDC in the implementation of this proposal other than reputational damage if successful outcomes are not delivered.

LEGAL

Under Section 21 of the Child Poverty Act 2010, the District Council, acting as a partner authority, has a duty to co-operate with the County Council, being the responsible authority, to reduce child poverty in the local area.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement. Area or Ward Affected

The Strategy and Delivery Plan seek to strengthen the District's response to the needs of Children and Young People and in so doing will respond to the challenges and opportunities at District, Ward and Sub-ward level.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The current Strategy was produced in 2011 for a five year period and identified three priorities for the Council:

Priority 1: Child Poverty – Tendring District Council is committed to ensuring children and young people are able to live their lives free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Tendring District Council is committed to improving the life chances of all and providing support for those you need it; wanting to break the cycles of poverty; remove barriers to work and reduce inequalities.

Priority 2: NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training) – Tendring Council is committed to help reduce the high number of young people between 17 – 19 years who are not in education, employment or training. Tendring Council will work closely with partners to increase opportunities and access to training, education and employment through strategic collaboration, mapping and delivery of appropriate and targeted support.

Priority 3: Safeguarding – Tendring District Council is committed to promoting the welfare and protection of children and young people. Children and young people have the right to participate and be safe in the services provided for them.

CURRENT POSITION

Emerging local issues and a recent Home Office Peer Review on Ending Gang and Youth Violence mean it is considered an appropriate time to start discussions with partner agencies on the development of a revised Children and Young People's Strategy and the preparation of a Delivery Plan. The review process will include wide consultation to identify gaps and to specifically address the findings of the Peer Review.

A formal Home Office report is imminent, however early findings indicate that in addition to current priorities, a revised Strategy and Delivery Plan should also consider:

- Capacity building and training of community, youth, faith and voluntary organisations,
- The development of bespoke engagement processes with youth voluntary and community groups; and
- The development of community-led prevention.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Children and Young People's Strategy 2011 - 2016

Children and Young People's Strategy 2011-2016

Our Vision

Helping to provide young people with the tools and opportunities to make positive life choices and to reach their full potential

To achieve our vision we will focus on three priority areas and deliver tangible outcomes to make a direct impact on children and young people's lives.

Priority 1: Child Poverty

Tendring District Council is committed to ensuring children and young people are able to live their lives free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. Tendring District Council is committed to improving the life chances of all and providing support for those who need it; wanting to break the cycles of poverty; remove barriers to work and reduce inequalities.

The Facts:

More than one in five children in Tendring live in income deprived households

Child poverty is most prevalent in Jaywick, West Clacton (including Golf Green, Rush Green and Pier Wards) and West Harwich. The issues relating to child poverty vary between wards but include: Poor diet (*less nutritious foods cheaper*); Chaotic families/ lifestyles (*lack of access to activities in local community*); Difficulty in finding decent housing (*can't always find deposit*); poor health/ mental health of parents; single parent families (*lack of access to childcare for under 3's*) and Isolation.

Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction.

Causes:

- Housing, environment and social inclusion
- Low self esteem and lack of motivation
- Poor education and social skills
- Unclear of what benefits are available
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Health, education and Social Care
- Single parents, isolation
- Cycle of deprivation
- Family breakdown / unstable home life
- Alcohol/ drug dependency of family members
- Child carers
- Large numbers of people (parents and children) in the area with special educational needs and disabilities (SEN&D)
- Housing of Multiple Occupations (HMO) in Tendring / poor housing conditions
- Poor diets (lack of nutrition for parents and children)

What Tendring District Council will do to address Child Poverty?

- Provide a Benefits and Revenue Service to ensure that people on low income receive the benefits relevant to their housing needs
- Provide a grant to the CAB
- Provide Home Improvement Grants to properties that are below standard
- Develop/ adopt a Local Development Framework that requires a provision of Affordable Homes to be constructed
- Maintain a check on standards of Homes of Multiple Occupation
- Under take powers to purchase and pull down properties no longer habitable
- Require empty homes to be let for accommodation
- Encourage business start-up and businesses to relocate to Tendring
- Liaise with education providers on the likely skills base required in the area in the future
- Provide leisure activities at reduced charges for young people

Child poverty is the result of a vast range of issues and therefore it is not a simple case of listing a few actions. To be able to truly address the issue there has to be an understanding that goes back to the root of the problem. Very often it is a cyclical issue that needs to be broken whilst at the same time there needs to be a system in place to pick-up on areas where child poverty is a risk in order to prevent rather than cure.

Priority 2: NEETS (17 to 19 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Tendring District Council is committed to help reduce the high number of young people between the ages of 16 and 19 years who are Not in Education, Employment or Training within the district. Tendring District Council will work closely with partners to increase opportunities and access to training, education and employment through strategic collaboration, mapping and delivery of appropriate and targeted support.

The Facts:

The Tendring District has one of the highest level of NEET's in Essex with the figure being a third higher than the County average; and also more than the average across England.

Tendring faces a number of economic challenges, such as low skills and unemployment, fewer large employers and transport difficulties. Tendring's economy is smaller than the county average, and below the national average.

Tendring has a lower percentage of children achieving 5 A*-C grades (or equivalent) at GCSE than the England average and is one of the lowest in Essex.

Teenage conception rates are falling but not quickly enough and still remains as a high priority for the district.

Causes:

- Lack of job opportunities

- Poor transport links within the district
- Being a teenage parent
- Social deprivation
- Primary and Secondary school persistent absence rates
- Complex social, mental and physical issues
- Young offenders
- High number of young people with housing / accommodation issues
- Lack of motivation
- Low self esteem

What Tendring District Council will do to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training?

- Provide activities for young people to help improve confidence and ambition
- Work in partnership with organisations to help contribute to preparing young people to meet the challenges of moving from education to employment
- Continue to provide opportunities for young people through the Career Track
- Improved strategic coordination and joined up services for NEET across the district
- Work in close partnership with the Local Children's Commissioning and Delivery Board
- Share relevant data with partners
- Expand apprenticeship opportunities within the district
- Encourage new business to the area to create job opportunities
- Incorporation of local recruitment strategy into s106 negotiations
- Engage through social media such as Tendring Youth Network website
- Work with Job Centre Plus (JCP) to deliver a series of engagement events targeting 16 – 25 year olds e.g. Link up Start up and Tendring Jobs and Careers Fair.

NEET is a complex issue to tackle and there is no one central issue that can be seen to explain the levels of young people who are NEET in Tendring.

Priority 3: Safeguarding

Tendring District Council is committed to promoting the welfare and protection of children and young people. Children and young people have the right to participate and be safe in the services provided for them.

Under the Children Act 2004 and the Apprenticeships Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, Tendring District Council has a duty to co-operate with Essex County Council in discharging its duties as a Children's Services Authority and to promote the well-being of children and young people.

The Facts:

On average, every week in England and Wales at least one child is killed at the hands of another person.

In a single year, nearly 12,000 allegations of children suffering abuse were passed from the NSPCC helpline to police or social services

72% of sexually abused children did not tell anyone about the abuse at the time.

There are 4 main types of abuse that can affect children and young people;

Physical

- Neglect
- Emotional
- Sexual

Causes:

- Environment at home, arguments at home, children witnessing abuse between their parents.
- Drugs, alcohol and single parent raising
- Stress and depression
- Constant belittling, shaming, and humiliating a child
- Calling names and making negative comparisons to others
- Telling a child he or she is "no good," "worthless," "bad," or "a mistake."
- Frequent yelling, threatening, or bullying.
- Financial problems
- Ignoring or rejecting a child as punishment, giving him or her the silent treatment.
- Limited physical contact with the child—no hugs, kisses, or other signs of affection.
- Exposing the child to violence or the abuse of others, whether it be the abuse of a parent, a sibling, or even a pet.
- Religion, culture or social class

What Tendring District Council will do to promote the welfare and protection of children and young people?

- Raise the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to children and young people throughout the Council.
- Ensure that all staff understand the different forms of abuse and how to identify them.
- Prevent abuse by good practice, creating a safe and healthy environment to avoid situations where abuse or allegations of abuse occur.
- Ensure the relevant level of safeguarding training is given to council staff.
- Respond appropriately and promptly to concerns reported.
- Ensure that employees know how to record and report safeguarding concerns, incidents or allegations.
- Raise the awareness among Members and officers of the safeguarding duty the council as in relation to the Children Act 2004.
- Ensure all relevant staff are CRB checked on a regular basis and safe recruitment procedures are in place for those coming into contact with children.
- Designated Safeguarding officers are known to all staff within the council and are able to offer advice and support.
- Ensure all Members, employees and volunteers adhere to all appropriate safe working practices when working with children and young people.
- Review the Council safeguarding policies and procedures every year.

Although responsibilities for children's services rest with Essex County Council, Safeguarding and Child Protection is fundamentally important to Tendring District Council and the services it provides. Tendring District Council takes its responsibilities very seriously.