

Key Decision Required:	NO	In the Forward Plan:	NO
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CABINET

22 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR WELLBEING AND PARTNERSHIPS

A.9 REVIEW OF THE TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY 2011-2016

(Report prepared by Keri Lawrence)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable Cabinet to agree an updated Children and Young People Strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In March 2015, Cabinet resolved that the Tendring Children and Young People Strategy 2011-2016 (referred to herewith as ‘the Strategy’) be reviewed and updated.
- In Essex, the overall responsibility and accountability for meeting the needs of children and young people in the area rests with Essex County Council as lead authority.
- Tendring District Council as community leader plays a crucial role in facilitating and supporting a partnership approach to meeting the needs of children and young people in the District.
- Findings from the review indicate that whilst the vision for the Council should remain unchanged, the revised Children and Young People Strategy should include:
 - i) Reference to the Council’s Community Leadership role;
 - ii) A Partnership Delivery Plan with clear, measurable targets;
 - iii) Accountability for implementation of the Delivery Plan through established Governance structures; and
 - iv) Four priority areas namely: Safeguarding, Education, NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) and Child Poverty.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That:

- (a) Cabinet notes the findings of the Tendring Children and Young People Strategy 2011-2016 review;**
- (b) Cabinet approves the Draft Revised Tendring District Council Children and Young People Strategy at Appendix A; and**
- (c) Cabinet approves the Draft Tendring District Council Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan 2015/16 at Appendix B;**
- (d) The implementation of the annual Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan is overseen by the Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board; and**
- (e) Cabinet considers the recommendations from the Education and Skills Committee and Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee, and determines any actions they wish to take in response to those recommendations.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Children and Young People Strategy will contribute towards delivering across the spectrum of Council Corporate priorities including:

Affordable excellence –to deliver service improvement by making better use of resources.

Continue to improve public perception and reputation –demonstrating the Council's commitment to being a community leader and supporting those families with greatest need.

Help children and adults achieve their full potential – working with families to reduce chaos and enable a sustainable family existence.

Address deprivation –contribute to efforts to reduce deprivation.

Reduce health inequalities and disadvantage - by working with some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families.

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 Tendring District Council (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.

Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 places duties on the Council to ensure that all internal functions and services that are contracted out to other providers are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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.

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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 Tending Children and Young People Strategy was produced in 2011 for a five year period and outlined the Council's vision of:

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

In this respect it focussed on 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 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 has a statutory duty¹, to ensure that its functions and any services that are delivered either in house or externally are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Children and young people have the right to participate and be safe in the services provided for them.

CURRENT POSITION

This is a timely opportunity to review and refresh the Strategy to take into account the needs of young people whilst also aligning the strategic priorities with that of relevant key partners. Developments that were taken into account as part of this review include:

- i) Essex County Council (ECC) commissioning strategies for 2014-18²
- ii) The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex 2013-2018;
- iii) The recent publication of the Essex Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020;
- iv) Development of the joint North East Essex Joint Children Strategy by ECC and the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
- v) Plans for an Essex-wide multi-agency Youth Strategy led by ECC and Essex Police.

Review Findings:

1. Community Leadership role

The Strategy clearly outlines a vision for the Council and priority areas, however it fails to specifically mention the importance of the Council's role as Community Leader³, in delivering against these priority areas. In Essex, the overall responsibility and accountability for meeting

¹ Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004

² In particular [Children in Essex get the best start in life](#), [People in Essex have aspirations and achieve their ambitions through education, training and life-long learning](#) and [People in Essex enjoy good health and wellbeing](#).

³ The power of Community Leadership was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000.

the needs of children and young people in the area rests with with ECC as lead authority. However, as a democratically accountable body with wide-reaching powers, function and influence, TDC plays an important role to:

- i) Identify local needs of the community;
- ii) Agree local priorities; and
- iii) Lead and support partners to target resources.

2. Delivery Plan

The partnership approach is essential in delivering wide-reaching outcomes as it ensures creative, multi-facted, longer-lasting solutions. This is crucial to ensure that the needs of children and young people in the district are met in a planned, and sustainable way. This is particularly relevant given increasingly limited resources across public sector services. The key therefore is to work with all partners, in particular utilising the skills of the voluntary and community sector, to develop innovative solutions which deliver outcomes in the most cost-effective manner.

In practice this is achieved through:

- i) Formal Partnerships (including the Locality Boarding, Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board and Tendring Education Improvement Group);
- ii) Mutually agreed strategies;
- iii) Operational arrangements for joint working
- iv) Pooling of resources.

Without a Delivery Plan in place, however, there is a risk that there will be gaps and possible duplication of provision and services for children and young people in Tendring. As a result the revised Strategy is accompanied by an annual Partnership Delivery Plan with clear, measurable targets.

3. Governance

Whilst the Strategy outlines what Tendring District Council would do to address each priority area, it doesn't set out a delivery method or Governance structure. In keeping with the proposal outlined at 2 above for the revised Children and Young People Strategy to be accompanied by a Partnership Delivery Plan, it is also essential that accountability for delivery rests with a formal partnership body. In this respect it is proposed that the overarching accountability for delivery against the Children and Young People priorities rests with the Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board, providing regular review of delivery against targets. In addition, the Locality Board will provide oversight, considering relevant projects and initiatives within the context of its key work streams.

The Council is required to undertake a Section 11 audit on a two yearly basis with Essex County Council to benchmark current standards.

4. Priorities

In addition to the priorities outlined within the Strategy, it is proposed that the further priority of Education should be included in the revised Children and Young People Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan. This reflects the scale of need locally and the range of partnership work already underway.

The needs of children and young people are multi-faceted however, and as result many of the initiatives undertaken will deliver outcomes across all four priority areas.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:

The revised Tendring District Council Children and Young People Strategy and Delivery Plan was considered by the Education and Skills Committee (30 November 2015) and the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee (7 December 2015).

Committee proposals are as follows:

Education and Skills Committee:

That the Council should work with partners and utilise Planning processes to ensure future adequate provision of school placements in the District.

Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee:

That:

- i) The Council should seek to involve the larger Town and Parish Councils in addressing Child Poverty, recognising that they have an important role to play in supporting Children and Young People locally.
- ii) Equality impact assessments⁴ be undertaken on all future Council policies and strategies to determine what impact they may have in relation to Child Poverty.
- iii) A briefing be held for all Members to explore the indicators and causes of Child Poverty.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Tendring District Council Children and Young People Strategy (revised 2015)
Appendix B: Tendring District Council Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan 2015/16

⁴ An **equality impact assessment** (EqIA) is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people.



DRAFT TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY
(REVISED 2015)

OUR VISION

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

Ensuring all children and young people in Tendring achieve their potential means that as community leader, Tendring District Council (TDC) needs to continue to work collaboratively with parents, schools and other partner organisations to help provide the best possible opportunities, experiences and outcomes at all ages.

To achieve our vision we will work with our partners to focus on four priority areas:

- i) Safeguarding,
- ii) Education,
- iii) NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training); and
- iv) Child Poverty.

Meeting the needs of children and young people requires a multi-faceted approach and many initiatives will deliver outcomes across all four priority areas.

Review of the Children and Young People Strategy 2011-2016

In Essex, the overall responsibility and accountability for meeting the needs of children and young people in the area rests with Essex County Council as lead authority. However, in its role as Community Leader, Tendring District Council plays an important role in identifying the local needs of the community, agreeing local priorities; and leading, influencing and supporting key partners to target and pool resources.

This is a timely opportunity to review and refresh the Tendring Children and Young People Strategy to take into account the needs of our young people whilst also aligning the strategic priorities with that of relevant key partners. Developments that were taken into account as part of this review include:

- i) Essex County Council (ECC) commissioning strategies for 2014-18⁵.
- ii) The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex 2013-2018;
- iv) The recent publication of the Essex Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020;
- v) Development of the joint North East Essex Joint Children Strategy by ECC and the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG);
- vi) Plans for an Essex-wide multi-agency Youth Strategy lead by ECC and Essex Police.

⁵ In particular [Children in Essex get the best start in life](#), [People in Essex have aspirations and achieve their ambitions through education, training and life-long learning](#) and [People in Essex enjoy good health and wellbeing](#).

PRIORITY 1: 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.

'Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children' - Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2015)

Essex County Council and the Essex Safeguarding Children Board aim to keep children and young people in the county safe from harm, to ensure that they feel secure and well cared for, and to enable them to reach their full potential. Under Section 11, Children Act 2004, the Council has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Tendring District Council also has a duty to co-operate with Essex County Council in discharging its duties as a Children's Services Authority in line with the Apprenticeship, Skills and Learning Act 2009.

Tendring District Council has a Strategic Safeguarding Group that meets to review policy, serious case reviews, training and undertakes the Council's safeguarding audits. Whilst Safeguarding referrals are made directly to Essex County Council, the Strategic Safeguarding Group (including the Local Authority Designated Officer for Safeguarding) provide advice and an initial information point.

Information sharing is vital to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. A key factor identified in many serious case reviews (SCRs) has been a failure by practitioners to record information, to share it, to understand its significance and then take appropriate action⁶.

Promoting the welfare and protection of children and young people, what success looks like:

1. All Council staff and Members understand the duty of care responsibilities relating to children and young people.
2. All Council staff and Members are provided with the appropriate level of safeguarding training.
3. Information is shared utilising established principles of good practice - safeguarding concerns, incidents or allegations are recorded and reported appropriately, accurately and timely.
4. Safe recruitment procedures are in place for those coming into contact with children.
5. Designated Safeguarding officers are known to all staff within the council and are able to offer advice and support.
6. Members, employees and volunteers adhere to all appropriate safe working practices when working with children and young people.
7. Council safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.

PRIORITY 2: Education

Tendring District Council is committed to working in partnership in order to raise aspirations in families and improve educational attainment across the district. Improving the opportunities for young people to achieve their true potential is pivotal to addressing many of the wider issues facing our community.

⁶ Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, HM Government, March 2015.

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Tendring District Council has a comprehensive approach to working with partners, including Essex County Council and primary and secondary schools through the Tendring Education Improvement Group (TEIG). In addition, the Tendring Locality Board, which brings together the County, District and Town and Parish Council's, has education as a key work stream.

Education in Tendring, what success looks like:

1. Every child in Tendring is ready for school;
2. Every child in Tendring is able to attend a school that is good or outstanding;
3. Each child in Tendring has a positive experience during their school years;
4. Children in Tendring have high aspirations and opportunities to achieve their potential.

PRIORITY 3: NEETS (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Tendring District Council is committed to help reduce the high number of young people 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.

Confident and effective, young people will be well prepared for the challenges of work or further study and equipped to be active and contributing participants in their communities. A well developed and capable character, literate, numerate with a good understanding of what to expect from the world of work.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Education (DfE) define NEET as young people who are not in any form of:

Education: Any formal course of education (full or part-time)

Employment: Any paid work (including part time or temporary work), self employment. Employment does not include voluntary work or work experience.

Training: Any formal employment-related training course (full or part-time) and including traineeships, 'Basic Skills' and engagement programmes for the most disengaged.

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. Tendring faces a number of economic challenges, including lack of skills to meet the labour market, fewer large employers and limited transport links within the district.

NEETS, what success looks like:

1. Young people in Tendring have access to activities to help improve confidence, ambition and skills;
2. Young people are prepared to meet the challenges of moving from education to employment;
3. Apprenticeship opportunities are expanded within the district;
4. Job opportunities are created through innovative partnership working between the Council, Voluntary and community sector and private sector; and
5. Improved transport links across the District.

PRIORITY 4: 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.

Child poverty is defined in Government literature and in the Essex Child Poverty Strategy as a child living in a family with an income below 60% of the median national income. Poverty exists when there is a lack of sufficient income to meet basic needs and is primarily a result of worklessness and low income exacerbated by insecure, irregular or low paid work.

While these are the fundamental causes they offer a dangerous over simplification of a multifaceted issue with both drivers and consequences such as physical and emotional health, housing, debt, education and skills, aspirations and isolation; compounding financial shortcomings in order to make it difficult for families to move forward.

All districts in Essex have made progress in reducing poverty since 2009, however it is a county where prosperity and disadvantage exist in close proximity. In some wards (Rush Green Ward and Golf Green Ward in Tendring), poverty levels are as high as 48% and 49.9% respectively. Areas of greatest disadvantage in Essex echo the areas where health, early years and educational outcomes are also low (Basildon, Harlow and Tendring).

There are a number of strategic drivers which underpin Tendring District Council's commitment to addressing child poverty . These include:

1. The **Council's Corporate Plan 2010-2016** which outlines three priorities 'Our Prosperity' (build a thriving local tourism industry, promote sustainable economic growth, ensure people have the knowledge and skills to secure good employment), 'Our People' (including to reduce health inequalities and disadvantage), and 'Our Place' (including to ensure all our residents live in high quality housing which meets local needs and to regenerate the District and improve deprived areas.)
2. The **Tendring Health Inequalities Strategy 2010-2016** focuses on narrowing the health inequalities gap through achieving the greatest improvements in the least healthy and often poorest population groups in Tendring. Priorities in the Strategy include employment, housing and fuel poverty.
3. The **Essex Child Poverty Strategy 2015-2020** and the **Essex Children, Young People and Families Partnership Plan 2013-2016** which sets out to '*ensure children, young people and families reach their full potential*' and receive '*early help to assist them in managing their difficulties*'.

Addressing Child Poverty in Tendring, what success looks like:

1. Barriers to work are removed, with a greater number of families in employment in Tendring;
2. Families with one or more parent in work have access to upskilling, training and improvement employment opportunities;
3. People in Tendring have access to low-cost loan options and debt advice;
4. Social isolation is reduced, with increased access to mental health service provision.

DELIVERING IN PARTNERSHIP

The partnership approach is essential in delivering the wide-reaching outcomes set out in this strategy. Working collaboratively in partnership ensures creative, multi-faceted, longer-lasting solutions. This is crucial to ensure that the needs of children and young people in the district are met in a planned, and sustainable way. This is particularly relevant given increasingly limited resources across public sector services. The key therefore is to work with all partners,

in particular utilising the skills of the voluntary and community sector, to develop and facilitate innovative solutions which deliver outcomes in the most cost-effective manner.

In practice this is achieved through:

- i) Formal Partnerships (including the Locality Board, Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board and Tendring Education Improvement Group);
- ii) Mutually agreed strategies;
- iii) Operational arrangements for joint working;
- iv) Pooling of resources.

The annual Tendring Children and Young People Partnership Delivery Plan will ensure clear, measurable targets and reduce the risk of gaps or duplication of provision for children and young people in Tendring.

GOVERNANCE

Overarching accountability for delivery against the Children and Young People priorities rests with the Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board, providing regular review of delivery against targets. In addition, the Locality Board will provide oversight, considering relevant projects and initiatives within the context of it's key work streams.

DRAFT TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN
2015/16

TENDRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN 2015/16			
Performance Target (SMART)	Key Partner(s)	2015/16 Target	Contribution to Corporate Priorities/Goals
<p>Education Deliver the agreed plan to improve educational attainment and aspiration in Tendring.</p>	<p>Essex County Council, Barnardo's, Tendring Education trust, Tendring Education Improvement Group, Locality Board</p>	<p>i) Work with primary and secondary schools in the District to understand and find solutions to recruitment and retention problems. ii) Support families to improve school readiness for young children in Tendring iii) Improve governor capacity. iv) Work with partners, including commissioners, to raise aspirations of young people.</p>	<p>Affordable excellence</p> <p>Continue to improve public perception and reputation</p> <p>Help Adults and Children achieve their full potential.</p>
<p>Safeguarding</p>	<p>Essex County Council, Members, TDC Staff</p>	<p>i) Provision of safeguarding training to Members. ii) Ongoing review of Safeguarding policies. iii) Ongoing staff safeguarding training. iv) Review of TDC Information sharing protocol. v) Section 11 audit</p>	<p>Affordable excellence</p> <p>Continue to improve public perception and reputation</p> <p>Help Adults and Children achieve their full potential. Reduce health inequalities and disadvantage.</p>
<p>Child Poverty</p>	<p>Essex County Council, CAB Tendring, Health</p>	<p>i) Support Public Health Specialist post to deliver against Child Poverty and Fuel poverty priorities outlined in Health Inequalities Strategy. ii) Review of Universal Credit Personal Budgeting support. iii) Support of Mental Health Hub pilot iv) Support of NEE Children's Partnership Board sub-group on Child Poverty.</p>	<p>Affordable excellence</p> <p>Continue to improve public perception and reputation</p> <p>Help children and adults achieve their full potential</p> <p>Address Deprivation</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and disadvantage.</p>

<p>NEET's</p>	<p>DWP, Essex University, Anglia Ruskin University, Colchester Institute.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Work with partners to improve access to further education. ii) Work with partners to improve access to employment. iii) Work with partners to ensure provision of quality careers advice. iv) Work with partners to ensure accessibility to employment and training through adequate transport links. v) Work with partners to promote the availability of free Adult Literacy and Numeracy provision. 	<p>Affordable excellence Continue to improve public perception and reputation Help Adults and Children achieve their full potential.</p>
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