

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017 - REPORT NO.

MEETING TITLE AND DATE Health and Wellbeing Board

Director of Children's Services

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Agenda - Part:	Item:
Subject: Update on Enfield's Family Resilience Strategy	
Wards: All	
Cabinet Member consulted: -	
Approved by: -	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to update the board with respect to Enfield's Family Resilience Programme, which is being led by Children's Services under the auspices of the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). Appended to this report is a copy of the draft Family Resilience Strategy.

Progress to date

- An initial draft of the Early Help Strategy was compiled in summer 2016. Due to an evolving landscape and following feedback from various partners, Enfield Safeguarding Children's Board and Education and Children's Services Departmental Management Team (DMT), the strategy has been revised.
- The strategy has been renamed the Family Resilience Strategy (hereafter referred to as the 'Strategy') to better reflect our commitment to prevention as well as early help and has four key themes:
 - 'Think Family'
 - Family resilience
 - Developing the workforce
 - Embedding new ways of working
- The key recommendations from the original draft have been incorporated into the Strategy and it further embeds the Signs of Safety (SoS) and Thrive models.
- The Strategy sets out how we will provide early help and preventative services to families through an effective multi-agency approach, and also explains how we are delivering on phase two of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) national Troubled Families Programme, known locally as Change and Challenge.

- Alongside the Strategy, a draft action plan and proposed governance structure were presented to the DMT and discussed at a preliminary scoping meeting in November 2016.
- The preliminary scoping meeting invited key officers across various sectors and professions to feedback on the Strategy and help develop the governance of the Family Resilience Programme moving forward including, identifying who needs to be involved.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The board is invited to provide feedback on the strategy.
- A core steering group, led by and with representation from Assistant Directors within Education and Children's Services oversees the work of three workstreams. It is recommended that the board will receive update reports on the work of the steering group, noting that the key line accountability lies with the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board.

3. BACKGROUND

An initial draft of the Early Help Strategy was compiled in summer 2016 and reviewed by the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board on 6th June. The board agreed in principal to own the strategy, in line with Ofsted's recommendation to "...ensure that the ESCB robustly monitors, evaluates and influences the effectiveness of early help services."

Due to an evolving landscape and following feedback from various partner agencies, ESCB and DMT, the strategy has been revised and retitled as the Enfield Family Resilience Strategy. This is to better reflect our commitment to prevention as well as early help and has four key themes:

- 'Think Family'
- Family resilience
- Developing the workforce
- Embedding new ways of working

The Strategy recognises that we want families to:

- be resilient, thrive and strengthen their community
- preserve family life wherever possible
- have the best physical and mental health and wellbeing
- support children in their learning and education

- be as economically self-sufficient as possible
- live free of crime and domestic abuse

Context:

- 52% increase in referral rates
- Excellent examples of partnership working
- 97% 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools (March 2016)
- A skilled and committed children's workforce
- High quality Children's Centres
 - 80% of children with speech, language and communication needs seeing improved outcomes
 - 500+ families receiving 1-2-1 support each year
- A well-developed model for Troubled Families

Recent developments that have influenced the changes:

- All Party Parliamentary Group Report on Family Hubs
- Special Educational Needs & Disability inspection in June 2016
- Evidence of impact of Early Help services, such as those being delivered through Children's Centres
- DCLG reviews of Change and Challenge and need to develop a 'mature' model
- Reduction in Youth Services

A workshop was held on 21st November to present the revised strategy and agree membership of the core steering group, as well as three thematic workstreams, which will support the delivery of the Strategy.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Local Authority is acting on the recommendations of Ofsted and exploring all options to deliver Early Help services effectively.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Ofsted carried out an inspection of Children's Services in 2015 and recommended that we should:

“Ensure that the ESCB robustly monitors, evaluates and influences the effectiveness of early help services.”

“Prioritise the planned integration of the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) with the Referral and Assessment Team, so that referral pathways for children in need and those in need of protection are rationalised and better understood alongside the planned review of early help.”

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states that:

“Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- identify children and families who would benefit from early help;*
- undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and*
- provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.”*

In order to achieve for our families, it is imperative that all relevant decision making bodies are kept aware of development.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

None – this paper is for information only

6.2 Legal Implications

None – this paper is for information only

7. KEY RISKS

Risk of poor outcomes for families, increasing budgetary pressures on statutory services and not fulfilling requirements of Ofsted if work is not progressed.

Further risk analysis will be carried out against each action point as part of the thematic groups' work.

8. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Strategy recognises that we want families to:

- be resilient, thrive and strengthen their community
- preserve family life wherever possible
- have the best physical and mental health and wellbeing
- support children in their learning and education
- be as economically self-sufficient as possible
- live free of crime and domestic abuse

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Equality impact assessments will be carried out for any changes that are proposed as part of this work.

We will ensure that the implementation of this Strategy continues to give due regard to our duty and commitment to promote and maintain equality.

Background Papers

Draft Enfield Family Resilience Strategy