

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING CABINET BOARD

2nd MAY 2019

Report of the Head of Children & Young People Services – Ms K. Warren

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

NEATH PORT TALBOT'S PLAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES 2019 - 2022

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the public consultation on Neath Port Talbot's Draft Plan for Children & Young People Services 2019-2022 ('the Plan') [Appendices 1 – 3] and seek approval to implement the Plan.

2. Background

2.1 On 2nd August 2018 the Social Care, Health & Well-being Cabinet Board approved a 90 day public consultation of the Plan.

2.2 The Plan set out the Council's proposals for the medium term future of Children & Young People Services in Neath Port Talbot, and covers the functions of:

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Safeguarding
- To ensure that Looked After Children have high quality, stable care
- Implementing outcome focused interventions across Children's Services
- Supporting Young Carers

2.3 A range of engagement and consultation activities took place between 5th August and 3rd November 2018 to help inform the Plan, and consisted of:

- Overarching public consultation
- Stakeholder consultation, including linking with existing partner groups
- Formal written responses

The purpose of this was to:

- Ensure the consultation was available to as many residents and stakeholders as possible

- Ensure the consultation documents were available in appropriate formats
- Provide a mechanism for people to contribute their views of the Plan
- Find out whether people agreed or disagreed with the proposals and the reasons why
- Provide a mechanism for people to make comments and suggestions
- Enable people to suggest alternative proposals

3. Findings

3.1 A wide ranging consultation yielded 6 questionnaire responses, 2 email responses, plus a range of comments gleaned from stakeholder events held. A full consultation report is included as Appendix 5 to this document, including a “you said, we did” section. Many comments received were statements which did not require a response or were not related to the draft Plan under consideration. In the latter case signposting to other documents has been made and all comments received are included for reference purposes.

3.2 A key theme was the acknowledgement that resources are increasingly limited and what bearing that would have on sustainability of service provision when implementing the Plan. This included ongoing funding of Third Sector organisations to help deliver early intervention and prevention services.

3.3 Partner organisations also expressed the desire to be closely involved in the development of more detailed service planning activity.

3.4 Following scrutiny by Cabinet Board, Members requested the rewording of parts of the Safeguarding section within the Plan. In light of the consultation responses the essence of the Plan remains intact, i.e. the themes outlined in 2.2 above.

4. Monitoring, Review and Delivery

The themes from this Plan will inform the basis of our Directorate Business Plan, which will be monitored through the Corporate Performance Management System, the Council’s Annual Report and the Director’s Annual Report.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the Neath Port Talbot Plan for Children & Young People Services 2019 – 2022 attached as Appendix 1 to Appendix 3 to this report.

6. Reason for Proposed Decision

The Plan sets out the Council's proposals for the medium term future of Children & Young People Services in Neath Port Talbot, including placing greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention services.

7. Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

8. Equality impact assessment

The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to assess likely impact of proposed policies and practices on its ability to comply with the general duty (to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different groups) for all people with protected characteristics.

The Plan has undergone a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) [Appendix 4]. The outcome of the EIA is that Officers recommend the Plan is approved by Members because it will have a positive effect on service provision.

9. Workforce impacts

The Plan seeks to ensure that all employees within Children & Young People Services have clear priorities and objectives as part of the Council's performance management framework. There are no currently intentional Council workforce implications inherent in the Plan.

10. Legal impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

11. Financial impacts

The Plan has been developed on the basis of the Directorate's budgetary savings. It is not however possible to accurately cost any such savings at present.

12. Consultation

On 2nd August 2018, Members approved a 90 day public consultation in respect of the Plan. During this period, 5th August to 3rd November 2018, a

number of consultation and engagement activities took place. The outcome of this activity is detailed in Appendix 5, and has helped confirm the content of the final Officer draft of the Plan which is the subject of this report.

The volume of response was not statistically significant enough to suggest any negative feedback was representative of any widespread objections and, given how widely the exercise was publicised, could be interpreted as suggestive of general support for the proposed Plan.

13. Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this item.

14. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Neath Port Talbot Plan for Children & Young People Services 2019 – 2022

Appendix 2 – Easy Read version

Appendix 3 – Plan on a Page

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 5 – Consultation Report

15. Background Papers

None.

16. Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

Keri Warren, Head of Children & Young People Services

Telephone: 763328

Email: k.warren@npt.gov.uk

Chelé Zandra Howard, PO for Commissioning

Telephone: 685221

Email: c.howard@npt.gov.uk