

West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board



Children First Strategy Development

10 October 2019

Report by John Readman, Director of Children's Services

Executive Summary

The Children First Strategy is a multi-agency Strategy sponsored by the Director of Public Health, the Director of Education and the Director of Children's Services. This report provides an update on the process of co-production and consultation to date and that programmed ahead of the scheduled November 2019 approval by the Cabinet member.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 1) Agree the strategic leads from each organisation to be involved in a monthly partner steering group between October and April. (Appendix 1).
- 2) Consider and respond to the questions for discussion in 2.6

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children First Strategy will set out our ambition as a partnership of local public, community and voluntary sector services describing what it means to put children first in West Sussex (strategic intent) and how we will all work together to ensure that children really do come first (culture or behaviours).
- 1.2 The strategy builds upon several strategies that exist across West Sussex (including for example Health and Well-Being Strategy; Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy; Children's Services Performance Improvement Plan etc.) Significant work has been carried out across the partnership since the strategy was last discussed at Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Proposals

Proposed Scope

2.1 West Sussex County Council has committed to coordinate work across a broad partnership to develop a new Children First Strategy.

2.2 The Children First Strategy will not supersede existing more detailed pieces of partnership work (e.g. the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy, Community Safety, Practice Improvement Plan etc.). Rather, it is intended to act as an overarching and accessible coordination of that more detailed work, speaking to all the different strategies and plans and describing how we will put children and the heart of our approach across everything that we do.

2.3 The Children First Strategy is broad in scope. It will relate to all children. The complex issues our children, families and carers face cannot be tackled by any single organisation or strategy. As a partnership we will commit to putting children first.

2.4 The strategy will set out our ambition as a partnership of local public, community and voluntary sector services describing what it means to put children first in West Sussex (we call this our strategic intent) and how we will all work together to ensure that children really do come first (we call this our culture or behaviours). The first step in developing the strategy is to work together to define our strategic intent and the behaviours that will help us to deliver it.

2.5 At the last Health and wellbeing Board priorities of the Children First strategy were discussed. Since this time a wider set of partners have been engaged through a series of meetings and workshops. Building on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board galvanising support, developing and iterating these priorities.

2.6 To help develop the strategic intent and behaviours it would be helpful for members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a steer on the following questions:

- What would be different if Children and Families came first in West Sussex across our organisations? Do you think they already come first?
- Where are the opportunities to work better together for children and families and their carers?
- What are the barriers and how can we overcome them?
- Why do you think previous strategies haven't worked in the ways we hoped?
- What can you/your organisation bring to this agenda? What can you commit?

3. Next Steps

Proposed timeline

- **October** Strategic intent and behaviours developed with partners drawing on the data, evidence and the insights we have from what children and families tell us. This document will be short and developed through partner workshops and conversations (c. 4 pages).
- **October** West Sussex County Council Select Committee receive an update on the consultation work undertaken to date.
- **November** Cabinet decision to endorse strategic direction and culture / behaviours described.
- **November** Partner launch of the strategic direction and culture / behaviours and start of development of the fuller strategy.
- **December – January** Further work across the partnership/s to map strategies and plans, identify gaps, work with children families and carers, define priorities and outcome measures
- **February – March:** Draft full partnership strategy together with partners and local children, families and carers
- **April** – launch strategy

John Readman

Director of Children's Services

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Appendix 1: Proposed attendees at Partnership Steering Group

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| West Sussex County Council – Early Help | Becca Randell | Children & Families Commissioning Lead |
| West Sussex County Council - Public Health | Jenny Hacker | Consultant in Public Health - Starting Well |
| NHS Crawley, Horsham & Mid-Sussex CCGs | Patience Okorie | GP and Clinical Director, Crawley CCG |
| NHS Crawley, Horsham & Mid-Sussex CCGs | Veryan Nicholls | Children's & Maternity Lead Commissioning Manager, Alliance Planned Care Team |
| Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust | Kate Pilcher | Director of Operations |
| Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust | Ruth Hillman | Executive Director, Children & Young People's Service (CHYPS) |
| Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | Marianne Griffiths | Chief Executive |
| Crawley Borough Council | Kate Wilson / Victoria Wise | Head of Community Services |
| Adur & Worthing Councils | Mary D'Arcy | Director for Communities |
| Horsham District Council | Adam Chalmers | Director of Communities |
| HealthWatch West Sussex | Katrina Broadhill | Consumer Champion & Healthwatcher (Locality Manager) |
| West Sussex Parent Carer Forum | Grainne Saunders | Parent Carer Forum |
| Sussex Police | Mark Eyre | Detective Chief Inspector |
| Arun | Philip Dart | |
| MIND, Coastal West Sussex | Katie Glover | Chief Executive |
| Crawley Borough Council | Natalie Brahma-Pearl | Chief Executive |
| Community Works | Emma Baars | Relationship and Development Manager |
| West Sussex County Council | Paul Marshall | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People |
| Sussex Police | Chief Inspector Miles Ockwell | Chief Inspector |
| Sussex Clubs for Young People | Chris Cook | Chief Executive Officer |