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## **Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board**

**20 July 2023**

### **Update on the Children First Board (a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board)**

**Report by: Lucy Butler Director of Children Services**

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#### **Summary**

This report provides a summary of the work of the Children First Board formed in October 2020.

#### **Recommendation to the Board**

**The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to;**

- (1) Note the contents of this report.
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#### **Relevance to [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)**

1. Starting Well
2. Living Well
3. Working Well

#### **1. Background and context**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Children First Board is to provide the leadership, governance and engagement opportunity for the strategic planning and delivery of services for children and families within West Sussex. The Board is chaired by Cllr Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. Meetings are held four times a year and the inaugural meeting was held on the 8 October 2020.
- 1.2 The Board is made up of a wide range of West Sussex organisations and groups. It includes representatives from a wide range of stakeholders and specifically from young people, parents and carers. It also includes staff and senior managers from the County Council; people elected to represent the views of the people of West Sussex, Districts and Boroughs, schools, colleges, police, health partners, and representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The voice of young people is provided through four young people on the Board and the Board's vice-chair is also a young person; Harley Collins. They are all supported by the Council's Voice and Participation Team and to facilitate their participation, Board notes and

papers are written in an accessible style to promote inclusion and engagement.

- 1.3 During the first year of its existence the Board has been focused on providing a vehicle to promote partnership working and to develop the voice and engagement of our service users. During this time the Board acknowledged that it needed to develop and improve the governance arrangements which deal with the breadth of the children's agenda. The Board therefore started a process to review its arrangements with the aim of maintaining strong levels of engagement whilst improving the overall effectiveness of the strategic management.

## **2. Governance Arrangements**

- 2.1 Following a review of the governance in the Spring 2023, a number of recommendations were agreed at the March Board which have now been progressed. These include;
  - Securing an independent chair: a role profile has been created and Officers are currently working with colleagues in the voluntary and community sector to recruit a suitable candidate.
  - Introducing a new role of Partnership manager to support and coordinate the Board and its working groups and to coordinate the implementation of the Children and Young Peoples Plan. A key part to this role will be to develop partnerships to support and enable all partner agencies to take a full and active role, that the partnership is resilient, and that effective cooperation between agencies is facilitated. This role is currently being recruited to.
  - Move to a new two-part format: part 1 will focus on the strategic and operational business of the board; and part 2, will focus on the engagement with children and young people and other stakeholders. This new format will commence at the next Board in the Autumn.

## **3. The Children and Young People's Plan update**

- 3.1 The final plan was published in an electronic format on 7 December 2023. Plans for the Children & Young People's Plan's (CYPP) formal launch across the partnership are underway. The plan can be found here: [Children and Young People's Plan | Your Voice West Sussex](#)
- 3.2 The CYPP Coordinating Group has completed a mapping exercise on key strategies and activities currently in place for each of the five themes and from these identified a range of metrics. A stakeholder event is being planned for September 2023 to share this, identify any gaps and actions which in turn would form the basis of an implementation plan. This will include one event for strategic partners and another for children and young people.
- 3.3 In order to improve overall engagement and understanding of the plan, an animation is currently being produced and will be launched when the plan is published in September 2023.

#### **4. Childrens First Board Update**

4.1 The last meeting of the Childrens First Board was held on 12 June 2023. Aside from an update on progress on the CYPP and governance arrangements, two further reports were received:

- Improving Perinatal Equity and Equality in Sussex 22 -25 Plan – 6 monthly update
- An introduction to Children and Young People Core20PLUS5

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#### **Background papers**

Link to Children and Young People's Plan: [Children and Young People's Plan | Your Voice West Sussex](#)