
Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2024

Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2024 – 2027 – Cover Report

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The proposed Early Years and Childcare Strategy - Right from the Start sets out the vision for early years and childcare support for children and their families in West Sussex. The Strategy has been developed with stakeholders to ensure there is a strategic framework for efficient quality provision to maintain efficient and quality provision that provides the best outcomes for Children. This will help support the expansion of early years entitlement from April 2024.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills is due to approve the Strategy in March 2024 as set out in the attached draft decision report.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the proposed Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2024 -2027 and provide comments to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills for consideration as part of her decision-making.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- The overall aims and objectives of the Strategy and how the benefits of the approach will be realised. Are these clear and as expected?
- How have the feedback and issues identified by stakeholders been addressed within the strategy to ensure full ownership?
- How the implementation and impact of the strategy will be monitored. Do members see anything missing from the approach proposed?

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

1. Background and context

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills is due to make a decision on the adoption of the Strategy in March 2024, following consideration of the Committee’s feedback.

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendices

- Appendix A: Draft Key Decision Report – Right from the Start Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2024 – 2027

Annex 1: Right from the Start Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2024 – 2027

Annex 2: Strategy Engagement Analysis

Background papers

None