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

**26 January 2023**

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

**Report by Lucy Butler, Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning**

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#### **Summary**

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

#### **Recommendation(s) 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 Children First 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<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- 1.2 The Board is made up of a wide range of West Sussex organisations and groups including young people, parent, carers and others who look after our children on a daily basis. It also comprises members from practitioners and officers of 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.

### 1.3 The Children First Board has agreed three main goals

These are to:

- Improve outcomes for children and young people who live in West Sussex, or who are cared for by West Sussex's children's services;
- Ensure that all agencies that provide services for children and young people in West Sussex work together effectively;
- Always listen and respond to the views of children, young people and their families, particularly when decisions are being made that affect them such as how services are run and funded.

### 1.4 To achieve these goals, the Children First Board will:

- Have oversight of key strategic planning for children and young people's services, especially when these plans affect more than one agency or service.
- Always remember that our children and young people have the right to be:
  - kept safe by everyone, and to learn how to keep themselves safe;
  - supported to be as healthy as possible – both physically and emotionally;
  - given the skills to be successful in adult life.

### 1.5 The Board will also:

- Be responsible for determining the key priorities for all partners that need to be addressed to improve the lives of children and young people in West Sussex;
- Agree how these priorities will be addressed and track progress and impact.

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

2.1 The final plan was published in an electronic format on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Plans for the CYPP's formal launch across the partnership are underway including a proposed event in April 2023. The plan can be found here: [Children and Young People's Plan | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

2.2 A CYPP Coordinating Group has been established to design and produce the CYPP Implementation plan and to drive its delivery, monitor progress and evidence impact. This group will manage all operational risks and issues and their mitigation referring these to the Children First Board for information and escalation. The work of this group will involve the

production of a CYPP Engagement Strategy – comprising a carefully planned series of stakeholder events – bringing partners, children, young people and their families together to share what is happening in relation to each of the CYPP’s priorities. This will include evaluating progress, celebrating success and learning from each other what we collectively need to do more of, differently or better to make a positive difference to the lives of children, young and their families.

### **3. Governance**

- 3.1 A review of the governance and meeting arrangements is now underway, which will consider the governance arrangements and how the Board is supported will be undertaken in order to build a stronger and effective set of partnership arrangements. A working group has been established to undertake this work and will report back to next Children First Board in March 2023.

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

- 4.1 The last meeting of the Childrens First Board was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Aside from an update on progress on the Childrens and Young People’s Plan and the agreement to review the Board, a report was received on Improving Perinatal Equity and Equality in Sussex 22 -25 Plan.
- 4.2 It was agreed that progress on the plan would be reported back to the Board in six monthly intervals.

### **5. Terms of Reference**

- 5.1 Following clarification from the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Terms of Reference have been reviewed and updated to secure compliance. The changes made included:
- a) Revision and update to the Code of Conduct
  - b) Revision to the reference to Children First Subgroups replacing with Working Groups.

### **Contact:**

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### **Background papers**

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