
Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 25 April 2024

Report title: Update on the Children First Board (a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board)

Report by: Lucy Butler, Director of Children Services

Summary

This report provides a summary of the work of the Children First Board.

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. 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.

2. Governance Arrangements

- 2.1 The Board has successfully recruited an Independent Chair whose appointment will be confirmed to Board members prior to the next meeting on Tuesday 23 July.
- 2.2 Cllr Jacquie Russell, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning as current chair of the Board will now step down from this role and take on a new position as Board's "Sponsor".
- 2.3 WSCC has also recruited to the post of Stakeholder, Partnership and Engagement Manager who will be responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with key stakeholders to ensure effective delivery of the priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

3. The Children and Young People's Plan update

- 3.1 The final version of the Children and Young People Plan was published in an electronic format on 7 December 2022. The plan can be found here: [Children and Young People's Plan | Your Voice West Sussex](#)
- 3.2 A short animation of the plan was published in December 23 and promoted as part of a three-week social media campaign. Feedback from the animation was well received and wholly positive. A link to the animation can be found [here](#).
- 3.3 A scorecard has been developed, covering the five high level priority areas from within the Children and Young People's Plan. The scorecard requires data from a range of organisations within the Children First board and work is on-going to ensure consistent reporting, metrics and timelines are in place. This work is important to enable the Board to have an overview of the performance of the plan. It is a complex piece of work due to the different ways in which different organisations manage and report on their data. The scorecard will be ratified at the July Board meeting.

4. Childrens First Board Update

- 4.1 The last meeting of the Childrens First Board was held on 6 February 2024. Aside from an update on progress on the Childrens and Young People's Plan and governance arrangements, four further reports were received:
- 4.2 **Part 1 - Update on the Pan- Sussex Childrens Board – Standing Item**
 - Pan Sussex Childrens Board is currently chaired by the East Sussex County Council Director of Childrens Services and meets quarterly and has now agreed the Pan Sussex Children and Young Peoples priorities.
 - These priorities are based around five CYP pillars: Best Start; Mental Health; Physical Health; SEND; and Vulnerable Groups.

- A system wide data dashboard has been developed which covers high level indicators across the five pillars and was scheduled to be presented at the 14 March Board meeting.

4.1 Update from Working Groups

4.1.1 Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Working Group

- The Group is conducting a reset and revised Terms of Reference have been circulated which will be tabled at the April CFB meeting; a Forward Plan; and governance reporting.
- The Board received a presentation on the Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy and introduced to the needs assessment that is currently underway.

4.1.2 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

- The Board received an update on the comprehensive multiple agency improvement plan that that is supported by six partner working groups.
- As the SEND inspection Report was still embargoed this will be tabled at the April Meeting.

4.1.3 Education and Learning

- The Board received a presentation on the new Early Years & Childcare Strategy: Right from the Start which was scheduled to be presented to WSCC Cabinet in March.
- A request for a working group jointly led by Early Years and Health to oversee outcomes reporting back to the CFB was supported.

4.2 Part 2 - Engagement Session with Young People

- A number of Young People engaged with Board in a thematic session Special Education Needs and disabilities. The outcomes were summarised into 2 problem statements:
 - Timeliness of neurodiversity assessments and how it may affect a young person's wellbeing.
 - Sharing resources which make young people more aware of how to speed up diagnosis deadlines as a tangible action.
 - Solutions around these statements will be taken forward for consideration as part of the SEND engagement activity and will be reported in future reports.

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Background papers

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