



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL EMERGENCY CABINET ON 3 JUNE 2020

SUBJECT: FORMAL SIGN OFF OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-23

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To request the Cabinet to formally sign off the 2020-23 Children's Services Plan. The final plan is attached (**APPENDIX A**).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Emergency Cabinet following a decision of Moray Council on 25 March 2020 to temporarily suspend all delegations to committees as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic (para 2 of the minute refers).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommend the Cabinet formally sign off the 2020-23 Children's Services Plan for the Council's interests therein.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Section 8(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period.
- 3.2 At a meeting in March 2020, the Children and Young People's Committee scrutinised and noted the draft Plan for formal sign off by the council. Due to the suspension on 25 March 2020 of all scheduled council meetings, this was not possible. The final Plan is therefore brought before the Cabinet to be formally signed off.
- 3.3 For presentational purposes the following have been added to the version of the Plan scrutinised and noted by Children and Young People's Committee:-
 - A Foreword
 - A fourth signature
 - In Section 3, an additional half page detailing the development of the Vision
 - In the section about financial resources, 2 pie charts and a bar graph of total spend across age groups have been added

4. The Plan

4.1 The focus of the plan is prevention and early intervention.

4.2 The 2019 Scottish Government guidance “Protecting children and young people: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities” states that Child Protection Committees must:

- ensure strong and robust strategic planning links to wider integrated children’s services planning arrangements
- ensure child protection specific issues are appropriately raised and taken account of in local children’s services planning processes

4.3 Moray committed to co-producing the Children’s Services Plan (CSP) with all key stakeholders. The plan was therefore produced under the guidance of the GIRFEC Leadership Group chaired by Police Scotland. The Child Protection Committee and the Chief Officer’s Group has also been involved. The plan will also be submitted for final sign off to the Moray IJB later this month.

4.4 A number of planning and engagement activities were completed during the information gathering stage which have informed the development of the CSP. These included:

- A School Wellbeing Survey (part of Realigning Children’s Services programme work) detailing the voice of children regarding their wellbeing.
- An additional survey work undertaken with children who were out with the age range for the RCS survey and their parents.
- An online survey with parents of school age children.
- A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to provide a clear picture of the needs of our children in Moray.
- Service mapping across integrated services and commissioned services including financial information.
- A review of national and local strategic policy direction which informs the CSP.
- Development of a Communication and Engagement plan for the development of the CSP which detailed the activities planned to ensure a shared approach with all stakeholders.

4.5 A range of workshops was facilitated by the RCS Programme Team with a wide range of stakeholders. This produced the agreed vision with manageable strategic themes, an analysis of strategic priorities and an agreement of the outcomes planned to be achieved.

4.6 The agreed vision statement is:

“It is my right to live in a community where my voice is heard and builds me up to be all I can be”

4.7 Themes and priority areas identified are:

- Improve wellbeing (mental, physical and social)
- Reduce the impact of poverty
- Ensure children and young people are safe and free from harm
- Improve the outcomes and life chances for looked after children

4.8 There are action plans for each of the strategic priorities. These are attached as Appendices to the Plan.

5 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The finalised Children's Services Plan will be a core component of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan. It will support the Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray priority.

(b) Policy and Legal

Section 8(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period.

A progress report must be submitted to the Scottish Government on an annual basis.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equalities/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee of the development of the Children's Services Plan (2020-23).

(h) Consultation has been carried out with Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services; Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Corporate Services; Senior Human Resource Adviser; Head of Education; Head of Integrated Children's Services; Head of Education Resources and Communities; Chief Social Work Officer; Sean Coady, Head of Service Operations (Adult & Children's Services) and the Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Moray.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 As a key stakeholder, the Cabinet is requested to formally sign off the Plan on behalf of the Council.

Author of Report: Roddy Burns, Chief Executive
Background Papers: