



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
18 DECEMBER 2019**

SUBJECT: REALIGNING CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAMME

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the work being done to Realigning Children's Services (RCS) Programme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the functions of the Council as a Social Work Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes and scrutinises the content of the report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the Care Inspectorate inspection of Children and Young People's Services in the Moray Community Planning Partnership in 2016, it was recommended that Moray consider applying to be part of the National Realigning Children's Service's Programme (RCS). The RCS Programme is run by the Scottish Government and Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). It gathers and analyses information which can help communities identify how to make services better at meeting children's needs, and to meet those needs as quickly as possible. This way of working empowers services and families to work better together to offer the right help at the right time, from the right people.
- 3.2 RCS has already supported five local authorities since it began in 2015, Moray being in the current third phase of its work.
- 3.3 Involvement in the RCS programme aims to support CPPs to make better joint strategic decisions about how to improve outcomes for children and families by:
- Bringing together organisational stakeholders to share information, build collective understanding, agree priorities and develop joint plans of action;

- Using data and evidence to map current need, services and totality of investment; identify priority outcomes and ways of addressing those; and evaluate subsequent changes to policy and practice;
 - Identifying ways to shift investment ‘upstream’ to allow prevention and early intervention and reduce the need for high intensity, high cost services;
 - Finding meaningful and effective ways of involving children, families and frontline practitioners in the process of service redesign; and
 - Using the lessons of implementation science and improvement methodology to bring about effective, sustainable and scalable change.
- 3.4 The RCS programme offers initial support over an 18 to 24 month period (August 2018 – February/August 2020), through a phased model of delivery (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.5 The methodology used by the programme has several elements:
- Children’s Wellbeing Survey, to provide a picture of wellbeing, from the standpoint of the children themselves and is linked to administration information held locally. This provides a broad evidence base in relation to children’s physical and mental wellbeing, the social factors that impact on these and patterns across different groups of children (i.e. deprivation, gender, year groups), (Primary 4 – 7 and Secondary 1 - 4). This has been completed and has provided an extremely rich data source on what life feels like to children and young people in Moray. Work is underway to capture the views and experiences of younger children and their families too.
 - Service Mapping, which aims to help the Partnership understand how public agencies and other bodies invest resources in children and how this investment matches local needs. Once collected and fully considered, the Partnership can use the service mapping information along with the well-being data and other sources of information to inform the development of priorities and identify financing strategies to support these.
- 3.6 This work will inform the development of the next Children’s Services Plan 2021-2024. This will in effect become a strategic commissioning plan for children’s services across Moray.

4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

- Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.
- Raising aspirations – building a better future for children and young people in Moray.

- The outcomes being that children and young people thrive; have a voice; learn; can get about; have a home; feel secure, healthy and nurtured to be supported to reach their full potential.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 placed a requirement on local authorities and health boards to present evidence to the Scottish Government in a Children's Services Plan which clearly sets out and demonstrates the actions planned, taken and delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. The work being undertaken through RCS will enable the Moray Children's Services Plan to be completed.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

By realigning effort and expenditure in a way that is better informed by research and family and community engagement, it is anticipated that RCS will improve outcomes for all children and their families and assist in reducing some of the impact of poverty and deprivation in Moray.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers within Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Senior Human Resources Adviser, Susan Leonard, Quality Assurance and Locality Manager, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor, Litigation and Social Care, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee notes the work being done to realign Children's Services to be in a position of making better strategic decisions about how best to improve outcomes for children and young people in Moray.

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Background Papers:

Ref: