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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

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

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To request the Committee to formally sign off the 2020-23 Children's Services Plan. A copy of the final plan can be found in the meeting documents section of the agenda for this meeting on the Council's website.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee following a decision of Moray Council on 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this committee the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Children and Young People Services, Governance, Strategy and Performance (para 9 of the minute refers).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended the Committee 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 June 2020, the Moray Council Emergency Cabinet formally signed off this Plan for submission to the Scottish Government for approval.
- 3.3 In response, in light of the current pandemic the Scottish Government have requested commentary be added to the Plan. Accordingly, the following paragraphs have been added to the Plan and the Action Plan. The Plan and the Action Plan otherwise remain as approved by the Emergency Cabinet.

### 3.4 Plan

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*“The global COVID 19 pandemic and the health and safety measures implemented by the Scottish Government to stem the spread of the virus have clearly had a significant impact on the work of the Children’s Services Partnership in Moray.*

*Resources have been refocused to ensure continuity in the delivery of essential services and partners have rapidly altered their method of delivery, with a greater reliance being placed on the use of digital technology.*

*Whilst the pandemic presents real challenges, it has also created opportunities to adopt more creative and innovative approaches to partnership working, with a clear focus on early intervention at a locality level. Notably, we have witnessed the incredible resilience of our local communities, as demonstrated by the rapid growth of community led supports for families. Nevertheless we understand that we are working during a time of unknowns: this pandemic does not come with a blueprint and predictable model that we can implement over time. This means that working together with our communities and in partnership has never been more important.*

*Our four high level priorities have been reviewed with this in mind and we have concluded that they remain valid in these exceptional times. As a partnership we will continue to be agile and responsive to changing circumstances. We particularly recognise the need to place specific focus on our more vulnerable children, young people and families. To do this both effectively and meaningfully, we will invest our time and resources in seeking out and actively listening to their voice.*

*Our collective commitment to The Promise, following the Independent Care Review, must be regarded as central to this plan, and built on the foundations of Voice; Family; Care; People; and the scaffolding and support system. Our work will focus on creating responses to families that are community based, responsive and timely; working with family assets; focusing on empowerment and agency; flexible; holistic and relational; therapeutic; patient and persistent; and underpinned by children’s rights. This is entirely in keeping with the Scottish Government’s Children and Families leadership group ambitions for family support, informed by the COVID pandemic.*

*Together we aim to ensure that our vision for Moray’s children is realised.”*

#### Action Plan

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*“During the first year of the Plan, each of the Strategic Groups responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the Action Plan will revise priorities having sought out and considered evidence of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and performance measure accordingly. Our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis will be updated annually and the national wellbeing survey tools will be utilised*

*to systematically collate the views of children and families. This information will be used to both monitor progress and review priorities.*

*The regular collation, interpretation and reporting of real time data required by community planning partners locally and by national bodies in response to the pandemic will be shared with the Strategic and Locality Planning Groups, allowing for a co-ordinated and responsive approach to address emerging trends.”*

#### **4 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 not been required.**

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The Committee is requested to formally sign off the Plan as amended in light of the current pandemic.**

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