

16 September 2013**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST EARLY HELP DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2013 - 2016****Purpose of the Report**

1. To invite the Committee to comment on the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Early Help Development Plan 2013 – 2016 and recommend it to Policy Committee for approval.

Information and Advice

2. The Early Help Development Plan, attached as **Appendix 1**, aligns key strategies across the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust and replaces the current Early Intervention strategy; it acts as an umbrella for existing work that is underway through the Child Poverty, Early Years and Closing the Educational Gap strategies and will continue to embed the language for life strategy.
3. The Plan has been developed to further improve the multi-agency early help offer to children, young people and families across Nottinghamshire. It takes account of the increased focus on early help within Working Together 2013. Early help is also a key area of focus within the revised Ofsted framework for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.
4. The Plan aims to ensure that all agencies across the Children's Trust coordinate their activities to provide a coherent and seamless service to children and families.
5. Nottinghamshire has adopted Professor Munro's definition of Early Help, meaning help provided early in the life of a child and early in the emergence of a problem. The Plan has been developed in line with Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision which supports practitioners to appropriately identify the support needs of children and families.
7. The Plan identifies a number of key actions to ensure that the multi-agency early help offer is effective, high quality and easily accessible.
8. The Early Help Development Plan also has links with the ONE project, which will deliver an integrated assessment and planning process for children with special educational needs, and with the Five Steps to Collective Responsibility strategy. The interdependencies with the relevant strategies will be managed through the responsible officer attending the Early Help Executive.

9. The Plan outlines a performance and governance framework to measure the impact and success against key performance indicators which link to the Early Help Dataset.
10. The Plan will be governed by the Children's Trust Board and the detailed action plan, which is available as a background paper, will be overseen by the Early Help Executive, chaired by the Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services.

Other Options Considered

11. No other options have been considered. The benefits of well-coordinated early help are widely recognised and the Plan supports the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust ambition of Nottinghamshire being a place where children are 'safe, healthy and happy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential'.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The Early Help Development Plan brings together key strategies across the Children's Trust workforce and will support the work to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families through the improved coordination of evidence based interventions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

14. The plan supports the ambition for children and families to receive the most appropriate support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity.

Financial Implications

15. The financial implications of the early help development plan can be met within existing resources in the Children, Families and Cultural Services departmental budget.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

16. The Children's Trust workforce supports vulnerable children and young people. In some instances the cases are complex with some safeguarding concerns which do not meet the threshold for statutory Social Care assessment and intervention. The early help development plan will strengthen the arrangements for working together and improve the tracking of outcomes for children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Children and Young People's Committee:

- 1) comments on the Early Help Development Plan 2013-16 and recommend it to Policy Committee for approval.
- 2) receives regular updates on the Early Help Development Plan 2013-16.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 22/08/13)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report subject to approval by the Policy Committee or the Full Council.

Financial Comments (KLA 29/08/13)

18. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 14 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Early Help Action Plan
Working Together to Safeguard Children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – Department for Education, March 2013

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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