



2nd November 2020

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROGRESS ON THE IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress against the Improving the Effectiveness & Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan originally presented to Committee on 16th September 2019.
2. To consider whether there are any further actions Committee requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Information

3. On 16th September 2019 the Children and Young People's Committee received a report entitled '2019/2020 Children and Families Budget Update'. This report provided a comprehensive assessment of the challenges facing the departmental budget, the factors behind the volatility of spending on children's services and the actions proposed in mitigation. Committee agreed to receive an update every three months. Due to the cancellation of Committee meetings due to COVID-19 this is the first report available to the Committee since December 2019.
4. An update on the departmental budget position is presented quarterly to the Committee within the report entitled 'Children and Young People Core Data Set'. As the information is available to Committee through that source the analysis is not repeated within this report.
5. An updated version of the 'Effectiveness and Efficiency Plan' is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Progress Against the Plan

6. Whilst a small number of elements within the plan have been delayed by the pandemic generally progress has been good in most areas with the completion of some identified programmes of work, including the commencement in October 2020 of services funded through a Social Impact Bond and with additional funding through the Lottery's Life Chances Fund.
7. Due to the financial impact of the pandemic unfortunately the previously identified funding for additional capacity to support the development of a renewed financial culture within the

department which was a recommendation of an audit report in 2019 is no longer available. Whilst the associated elements of the plan are marked as “at risk” it is still hoped that alternative methods of delivering these outcomes can still be identified and timescales will not be overly affected.

Other Options Considered

8. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. These recommendations provide the range of measures being taken by the Children and Families department via the Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children’s Services Plan, to address the financial and service challenges currently being faced.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The ‘Effectiveness and Efficiency Plan’ aims to address the financial challenges that the Children and Families department is facing due to increased demand.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee considers whether there are any further actions required in relation to the information contained in the report on progress against the Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children’s Services Plan.

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Constitutional Comments (LW 08/10/20)

12. Children & Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 16/10/20)

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

[2019-2020 Children and Families budget update – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th September 2019](#)

[Progress on the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Children's Services Plan – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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