

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Safeguarding Sub Committee	27 November 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Review of Children and Young People's Plan and Children Executive Board Governance Arrangements	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Chris Pelham, Assistant Director, People Services	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

The current City of London Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) covers the period 2012–2015 (see Appendix).

The plan identified seven key strategic priorities across the following areas:

- Stronger Safeguarding
- Early Help Offer
- Children's Workforce Development
- Healthy Living
- Achievement and Learning
- Partnership
- User Engagement.

The work of the CYPP is overseen by the Children Executive Board (CEB) which is chaired by the Director Community and Children's Services.

In order to ensure that the work of the CEB continues to meet the needs of the City community, is responsive to local/regional and national policy development and is compliant with updated statutory requirements, it is important that the CEB reviews and plans for a new CYPP to take effect from 2015.

A proposal was taken to the CEB and the Local Safeguarding Children Executive Board in September 2014, seeking agreement to carry out a review of the plan and accompanying governance arrangements, with the aim of implementing the new plan from April 2015. This was agreed by both Boards.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members to note that the review of the Children and Young People's Plan is under way and a final version will be presented to this Sub Committee in 2015.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The current City of London Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) covers the period 2012–2015. The plan was agreed at the same time as the current Children Executive Board (CEB) governance arrangements and Terms of Reference were established in 2012.
2. The plan identified seven key strategic priorities across the following areas:
  - Stronger Safeguarding
  - Early Help Offer
  - Children's Workforce Development
  - Healthy Living
  - Achievement and Learning
  - Partnership
  - User Engagement.
3. Sub groups of the CEB were identified to support the delivery of these priorities and progress was reported back to each CEB meeting.
4. In order to ensure that the work of the CEB continues to meet the needs of the City community, is responsive to local/regional and national policy development and is compliant with updated statutory requirements, it is important that the CEB reviews and plans for a new CYPP to take effect from 2015.
5. This report updates Members on progress made against the current plan and confirms that arrangements to review the plan are now under way.

### **Current Position**

6. Since 2012 and the launch of the current CEB and CYPP, significant progress has been made in the governance, business processes and outcomes for children and families in the City of London.
7. In April 2013, the appointment of the Director Community and Children's Services to the City of London has helped ensure that the CEB drives forward the CYPP objectives. The Director is Chair of the CEB.
8. Engagement from the partnership has been positive. The development of the early intervention and prevention (EIP) offer has built on the successes identified in the Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspection in March 2012.
9. The Early Intervention and Prevention Framework, the accompanying early intervention assessment tools (Pre-Common Assessment Framework) and the engagement of partners across universal and specialist services has helped to strengthen the offer to children and families.

10. Work has recently been completed to develop a new thresholds document, a new resources document and an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy. The future oversight and governance of these three areas may move from the current EIP Sub Group if the review determines an alternative structure should be in place.
11. The work of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) was reviewed as part of the pilot Ofsted inspection in Hackney in 2012, which judged the quality of the work as outstanding. The work of the Sub Committee has provided oversight of a number of key safeguarding policies, procedures and practice areas.
12. Notable progress has been made in respect of:
  - joint working arrangements between City of London Police and Children Social Care
  - increased awareness of the local authority Designated Officer
  - the link with early intervention through a single service offer in the Children and Families Team
  - the launch of the electronic recording system in Children and Families (FWi)
  - the successful inspections across partners that highlighted outstanding safeguarding arrangements including City Gateway, police (domestic violence), Sir John Cass School and Sir John Cass Children's Centre
  - the implementation of the Targeted Education Resources Panel which draws education and childcare/social care closer, for example through the role of the Virtual Head Teacher
  - increased participation and engagement in services for children under five years.
13. Over the past two years the workforce has continued to develop and demonstrate effective multi-agency working following shared learning through:
  - a robust training programme regarding child sexual exploitation led by the police
  - the early intervention training led by the Children and Families Team
  - Solihull training across the partnership led by the Children and Families Team
  - safeguarding training across a range of partner agencies, which took place for the first time in the City led by the CHSCB
  - the launch of the Knowledge Transfer Programme, including the initiation of a three-year research programme into the implementation and impact of the Solihull approach.
14. Performance information is now regularly reported into the CEB, the Safeguarding Sub Committee and the Early Intervention Sub Group.
15. In 2013, City Gateway was successful in winning the tender to deliver youth services for 11–18-year-olds. As a result, a review of the participation and

engagement strategy resulted in the suspension of the previously established Youth Engagement Sub Group (YES) as City Gateway introduced new ways of working in respect of the Youth Services offer. The new participation strategy has been presented to the CEB.

16. Changes in health service structures and personnel contributed to delays in launching the Health Outcomes Sub Group, although progress is now evident in 2014.
17. It is now important that the CEB begins to plan for the next phase of its work. The current CYPP is in place until 2015. Building on the successes since 2012, learning from the areas that have been less successful and planning for the next three years are key to the development of a new CYPP.
18. The review will be led by the Community and Children Services Policy Team, sponsored by the Assistant Director People. The Policy Team will develop a detailed project plan. However, the review will need to consider community needs as evidenced via:
  - joint strategic needs assessment
  - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
  - Child Poverty Strategy
  - Resident Information Database.
19. The review will need to ensure that the CYPP and CEB demonstrate compliance across key legislative areas already in place or recently introduced, including the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014.
20. The review will need to ensure that the voices of children and families are evident in shaping the future direction of the plan.
21. Consideration will need to be given to relevant inspection frameworks to ensure that standards of outstanding practice are embedded into the practice of all partners.
22. The review will consider the relationships between key partnership boards, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the City Safer Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. As such, the review will be required to make recommendations on the most effective governance arrangements, including, where relevant, sub groups and membership. The review should also consider where there is current multi-agency work taking place that is not formally part of the governance arrangements. For example, the Targeted Education Resources Panel and the Admission Forum.
23. The review will commence in autumn 2014. A draft CYPP and governance/membership framework will be presented to the CEB early in 2015 with a view to implementation of the new plan and structure in April 2015.

## **Proposals**

24. The process will be overseen by the Assistant Director People with support from the Policy Team who will coordinate the engagement of partners and draft the plan and new governance and membership arrangements.
25. Agency leads will need to be identified to support the editorial and sign-off process. The leads group will be made up of:
  - the Chairs of the sub groups
  - the Service Manager, Children and Families
  - a police representative
  - a health representative
  - a City Gateway representative
  - the Service Manager, Performance
  - the LSCB.

## **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

26. The Review of the CYPP and CEB will consider the relationship between the CEB, the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Since the launch of the CEB, the Health and Wellbeing Board has been established and forms part of the formal governance arrangements of the Court of Common Council. The review will need to consider how the CEB fits into this governance framework.

## **Implications**

27. There are no financial implications; however, the review will require time for partners to engage in desktop and workshop-based activities.

## **Conclusion**

28. The report sets out the need to progress the review of the CYPP and CEB, starting in autumn 2014 with a planned implementation date of April 2015.

## **Appendix**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2012–2015

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