
Report to: Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 24th September 2020

Subject: Children's Services Plan 2020 - 23

Report by: Chief Social Work Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To update Council with regard the Children's Services Plan 2020-23. Originally, this plan was to be submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of May 2020. However, the Scottish Government has acknowledged that not only has Covid negatively impacted on Councils' ability to complete these plans, but also, that these plans may now have to be amended.
- 1.2. This report is to advise Council that we are taking up the Government's option of deferring our new plan. This will enable us to amend and adapt the plan following a consultation process so that we will be able to produce a new two year Children's Services Plan 2021-23. This conforms with the new guidance.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council
- 2.2. Notes that work on the 2020-203 Children's Service Plan had been progressing until the outbreak of Covid-19;
- 2.3. Notes that the Scottish Government has advised councils that they can take up the option of deferring finalising the new plan
- 2.4. Notes that deferral will allow the partnership the opportunity to undertake proper consultation and will also allow the plan to address the impacts of COVID 19 on children and to incorporate the outcome of the Independent Care Review - The Promise .
- 2.5. Notes that, Clackmannanshire Council will submit a statement to Scottish Government by 30 September 2020 setting out its intention to defer finalisation of the new plan. The statement will then be published on the Council's website.
- 2.6. Notes the revised timetable for developing and finalising a new two-year plan (2021-23) is 30 April 2021 and notes that the plan will therefore be considered by Council at its meeting on 22 April 2021.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. In November 2019, the Strategic Director for People presented a report to the People Committee summarising progress against the 2017-20 Children's Service Plan. The Committee was advised that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group had initiated the process to create the 2020-23 Plan.
- 3.2. Two workshops were held in early 2020 with all partners being present. Unfortunately, this process was then impacted on by Covid which prevented the completion of the planning process.
- 3.3. In addition to preventing the completion of the planning process, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a shifting landscape for many local authorities in the process of drafting and finalising their plans. As a consequence, and in most cases, these plans require to be revised as a direct result of the pandemic. The Scottish Government has recognised this and has recently provided clarification regarding the Children's Services Plan for the period 2020-23.
- 3.4. The Scottish Government has provided options for local authorities to consider, and they require an official statement outlining intentions by 30 September 2020. The timescales for submission remain 'as soon as is reasonably practicable', but partnerships may either opt to submit a completed children's service plan by 30 September 2020 or publish a statement explaining the timetable and process for revising the draft plan, confirming what plans are currently supporting integrated working, and sending revised plans to SG by 31 March 2021.
- 3.5. Due to the impact that Covid has had on Clackmannanshire's Children's Services Plan, we have taken the option to submit a statement as this will ensure that our Plan for 21 -23 is transformational and will enable our young people to receive the help and support they require to help them flourish and reach their potential.
- 3.6. The above will allow a full consultation process to be completed to ensure that our Children's Services Plan incorporates the views of our children, young people, families and communities.
- 3.7. Core to our plan will be the findings and recommendations of the Independent Care Review ('The Promise') which was published at the end of March 2020. We have given a commitment to changing and improving our practice so that the lives of children and young people in our care system can be transformed. This additional time will ensure that we can deliver on our promise.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. N/A

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ✓

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ✓

5.4. Staffing

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ✓

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ✓

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ✓

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

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