

Report of: Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	19 April 2018	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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**Subject: Co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents
– Findings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review commenced in September 2017. The overall aim of the review was to review how effective the council is in providing joined up services; and to ensure that there are effective processes and practices that ensure young people are involved in all aspects of their support and intervention.

- 3.2 The objectives of the review included: to evaluate how the views and experiences of vulnerable adolescents are considered when planning and delivering services; to assess if the support available to vulnerable adolescents from council services is sufficient, and how other support networks in the family, community, and peer groups can be developed to support further; and to consider the effectiveness of partnership and integrated arrangements that the council has, if these achieve better outcomes, and to consider if further join up operationally and strategically would assist.
- 3.3 In carrying out the review the Committee met with young people, council officers and representatives of partner organisations to gain a balanced view. The Committee also considered relevant strategies, plans and other documents.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the mini-review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the mini-review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the mini-review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 Overall the Committee was impressed with the wide range of support services available for vulnerable adolescents. The Committee considered a number of examples of different services and agencies working together to provide co-ordinated services for the benefit of young people. It is clear that the council and its partners recognise that providing joined up services is the best approach to supporting vulnerable young people. However, further improvements could be made to improve the effectiveness of services.
- 5.2 14 recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to a greater strategic join-up between services; working differently by adopting new practices, such as trauma informed and contextual safeguarding approaches; closer work with the Police around

domestic violence and the sharing of intelligence; making the most of existing resources; and communicating more effectively with young people and the professionals that support them. The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Co-ordinated and joined up services for vulnerable adolescents – Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

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