



Report of: **Corporate Director Children's Services**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	14 January 2015	Item	All

Delete as appropriate	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Children and Families Prevention & Early Intervention Strategy 2015-2025 and the Early Intervention Summit

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This paper presents the Children and Families Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2015-2025 for adoption by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), which reflects the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities. It also references the recent Early Intervention Summit. The summit informed the final version of the strategy and brought partners together to further embed prevention and early intervention in the early years with some focused work on conception-3 years.

2. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to

- adopt the Children and Families Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2015-2025
- ensure that children and young people's needs are fully reflected in the JSNA to ensure commissioning and service planning and development responds to needs
- commit to actively champion and drive the agenda, committing to a long-term focus on early intervention and prevention

3. Background

Children and Families Strategy 2015-2025

Strategy rationale

- 3.1 Islington's Children and Families Strategy, developed by the Children and Families Board in consultation with a range of stakeholders, is an early intervention and prevention strategy in recognition of the growing body of evidence showing that investment in support that identifies and meets the needs of children and their families earlier is more cost-effective (in terms of human and financial cost for individuals, society and the public purse) than intervening later in a child's life or in the life of a problem. Identifying and preventing problems as early as possible must be the core business of services; whilst ensuring that when the need arises, targeted and specialist services are involved to help address problems early.
- 3.2 Islington's national profile as an early intervention leader is strong, having been selected as an Early Intervention Pioneer Place by the Early Intervention Foundation. However, this strategy sets out the challenge to continue to embed a focus on early intervention and prevention, working innovatively and in partnership to make best use of resources, and prioritising investment that will achieve critical outcomes for ensuring wellbeing at every stage of a child and young person's development and ultimately being ready for adulthood and parenthood, thus breaking the cycle of disadvantage.
- 3.3 The key strategic priorities will ensure we continue to stay focused on what is most important for securing the long term welfare of our children, young people and families:
- 1) Improving outcomes from conception to 19 through good and outstanding universal services
 - 2) Strengthening our early help support for children and families who have additional needs
 - 3) Supporting our most vulnerable children to be safe and thrive and to be able to overcome the challenges they face as they grow up
- 3.4 The strategy is set within a context of a challenging economic climate where huge savings to local authority funding have already been required and further reductions are needed over the next four years. Partnerships are key if we are to maintain effective services, avoiding duplication, and continue to improve outcomes for children through further alignment of resources and more formal joint commissioning arrangements. The Strategy is therefore a 10 year strategy to ensure we hold our nerve and embed a long term focus on early intervention and prevention.

Consultation Process

- 3.5 Islington's Children and Families Board held responsibility for developing the Children and Families Strategy in consultation with key stakeholders in the borough. Board members actively engaged their constituencies in the development of the strategy, including engagement of young people and families.
- 3.6 In addition, the strategy has also drawn on the key messages emanating from a range of work that has been undertaken by the partnership over recent years, including the recent early intervention summit (see below for more detail), the youth strategy review, the council's financial strategy, consultation with young people during the development of the child health strategy and the priorities identified as important to young people through the Youth Council elections. In addition the Youth Council were formally consulted on this strategy.

Number of consultation responses: 25

Partnership area	Number of responses
Voluntary Sector	6 - CYPVSF and also responses from individual organisations (Chance UK, Caspari Foundation, Islington Play Association) , Holloway Children's Centre Cluster, Early Intervention Foundation
Council:	14 - Family Support and Outreach Area Managers; Early Years; Targeted Youth Support; Family Information Service; Play, Youth and Post 16; Families First; Children's Partnership Commissioning Team; Schools Health and Wellbeing Team; Targeted and Specialist Children's Services; Strategy and Community Partnerships; Community Safety, Public Health
Safeguarding	1 - ISCB
Health	1 - CCG
Partnership Groups:	3 - Children and Families Board, Early Help Advisory Group, Children's Service Improvement Group

Key messages from the consultation

3.7 There was a unanimous commitment across all partners to a focus on early intervention and prevention and agreement with the strategy's Vision, Principles and Priorities. There were a number of themes that were common among a number of respondents:

(i) Language/tone

The strategy needed to be more empowering and less paternalistic in its language and tone, highlighting the strengths and capabilities of children, young people and families and the need to work in partnership with families to identify the right support to enable the family to address their needs and achieve positive progress and outcomes. The language of the strategy has been changed in light of this.

(ii) Role of partners

The consultation was a key opportunity for partners to further shape the strategy ensuring it captured the varied role and responsibility of all partners towards achieving our vision for children and young people.

Some of the feedback from the voluntary and community sector captured the need to more clearly articulate the important and unique role the VCS play in the community and the resources this sector can lever in. There was a need for the strategy to better reflect the current and potential opportunity for a strong partnership and collaboration between this sector and other partners.

Feedback from other partners, particularly health, has been extremely positive, due to the partnership recognising how crucial emotional and physical health outcomes are to wider outcomes.

The strategy has been amended to strengthen these messages.

(iii) Needs

Feedback generally highlighted that the needs assessment summary (key data and information drawn from the overall JSNA including the Vulnerable Children Needs Assessment) was comprehensive. However, there were a number of areas that were missing. These included the following areas: needs of young fathers; population churn; in-work poverty; children missing from home, care and education; sexually transmitted infections; youth offending and siblings.

These areas of need are now reflected in the strategy's needs assessment summary (Appendix D).

(iv) Outcomes

The outcomes have now been amended to better reflect the soft and hard outcomes the partnership believe to be important for the short and long term wellbeing of children and young people and to break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

There is now a distinct section on parental outcomes to ensure we give significant focus to enabling parents to achieve outcomes important for the wellbeing of their children.

Feedback from the consultation indicated a need to focus on the very early years from conception to 3 years. Therefore the first developmental band has been broken up to identify key outcomes from conception to 3 and outcomes for 3-5 year olds. In addition, following feedback, each developmental band from conception to 19 overlaps to ensure children at the bottom and top of age bands do not get neglected and to show the fluidity of children's development.

Prevention and Early Intervention Summit – 20 November 2014

- 3.8 Islington's Early Intervention Summit in November, with a focus on the early years, and was an opportunity to bring partners together to reflect on the huge amount of work already taking place in the borough and to recognise the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- 3.9 The discussions and insights during the summit fed into the amended outcomes within the Children and Families Strategy and also reinforced the key actions for the first 4 years of the strategy.
- 3.10 The discussions at the summit are directly feeding into a refresh of Islington's Conception – age 3 approach across Islington, bringing together partners across the CCG and council, including education, public health, children's centres, social care, Whittington Health and the third sector, to ask how we can

prioritise those things that matter most in children's lives. Through this process partners will continue to be engaged to ensure developments make best use of the expertise, insight and resources across the partnership.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Children and Families Strategy has been developed alongside the financial strategy.

4.2. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications. Achieving an early intervention approach as set out in the strategy supports a range of statutory duties. This includes the requirements of the Working Together 2013 statutory guidance for early help, securing the wellbeing of children outlined in the Children Act 2004 and the duty for Health and Wellbeing Boards to encourage integrated working between commissioners of NHS, public health and social care services under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

4.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

Early intervention seeks to address a range of inequalities to help all children and young people thrive and build resilience to factors that may disadvantage them. A focus on equalities runs throughout the entire strategy, from the Vision to ensure all children and young people have the best start in life, through the principles that underpin the work of the partnership and the Priorities that focus on what the Partnership will do to ensure children, young people and families get the right support to ensure their long term wellbeing and to achieve the very best outcomes.

4.4. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

An effective early intervention approach is beneficial for the health and wellbeing of Islington people.

Making a strategic shift to early intervention will require:

- Taking a long-term approach
- Strong 'whole-place' leadership to ensure the gains made through early intervention are not lost to national or local funding, management or political cycles;
- Taking a risk in funding prevention and early intervention approaches;
- Commissioning for early intervention and prevention across all health, education/employment, social care and other commissioning portfolios; and
- 'In-practice' activities to maintain a legacy that prevents problems and/or doesn't store up problems for the future such as collaboration with external partners such as schools and the third sector, and innovation and building the evidence.

The current Children and Families Strategy expires in March 2015. The Health and Wellbeing Board, as the formal body bringing partners together to improve the health and wellbeing of Islington's population, are asked to adopt the Children and Families Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2015-2025 which will underpin the focus of the Children's partnership over the next ten years.

Background papers:

Attachments: The Children and Families Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2015-2025

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

CM Blair

05/01/2015

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Date

Received by

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Head of Democratic Services

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Date

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