

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive (People)

to

Cabinet

on

20th June 2017

Report prepared by: Nick Faint; Programme Manager

Children & Young People 2016/17 Annual Report and Children's Integration Plan

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): People Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor Courtenay

A Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update of the successes and achievements delivered through the Success for All Partnership Board (Success for All);
- 1.2 To agree the Integrated Children's Strategy as recommended by Success for All;
- 1.3 To provide Cabinet with a high level plan for the Integrated Children's Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to;
 - 2.1.1 Note both the high level mobilisation plan and the success and achievements as delivered by Success for All; and
 - 2.1.2 Approve the Integrated Children's Strategy.

3 Background

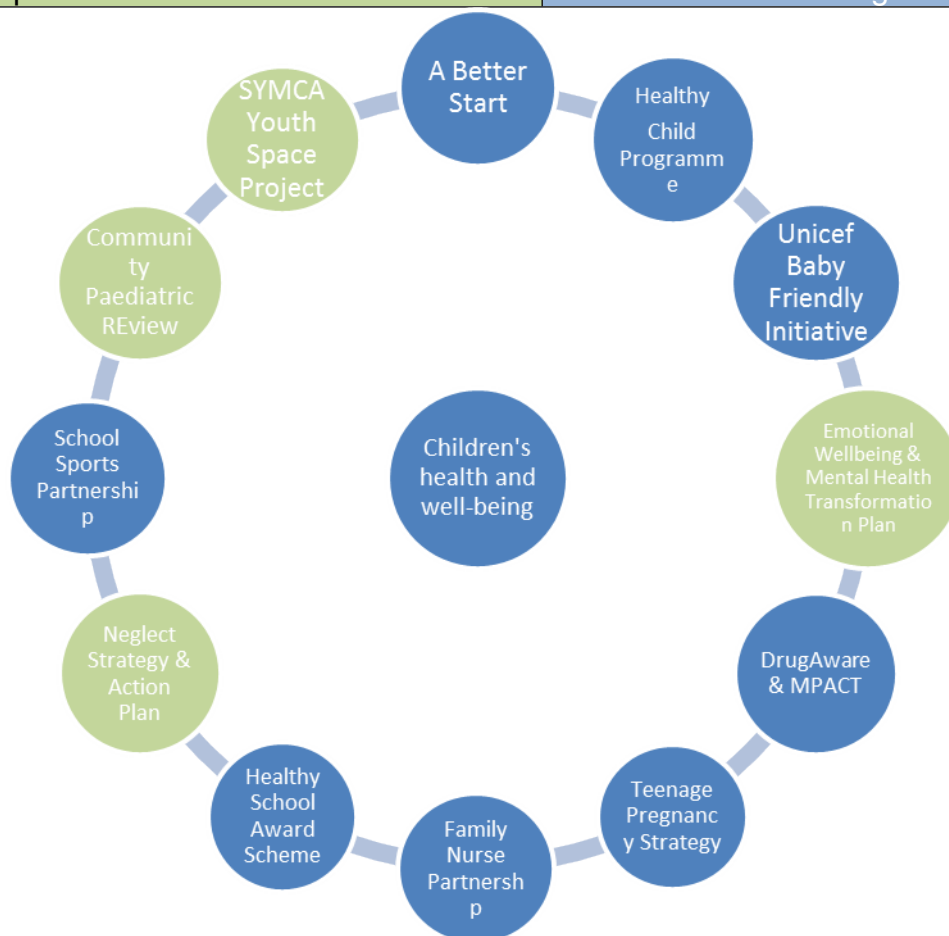
Successes and achievements

Improving Children's health and wellbeing – Where are we now?

Key:

New priorities for 2016/2017

Continuation of existing work streams



3.1 Key partnership action during 2016/17 has included:

- 3.1.1 the developmental work in preparation for the Community Paediatric Review as part of the Integrated Children's Strategy;
- 3.1.2 the Emotional Health and Mental Wellbeing Contract has been fully embedded and the partnership has strong oversight of the performance management and issue resolution of the implementation of the contract;
- 3.1.3 following the inspection of Children's Services in May 2016 the Neglect Strategy has been subsumed into a wider improvement project. The Children's Service Improvement Plan sits alongside the developing key elements of the strategy for integration of children's services, with the Early Help phase 2 and the restructuring of social work fieldwork teams key strands on the approach to neglect;
- 3.1.4 the Better Start Southend programme has undergone a review of all of its activity and its governance structure to make sure the programme is focused on the core outcomes set out by its funding partners. The review has enabled us to see very clearly those areas where we have been successful in delivery and where we need to make changes;
- 3.1.5 the Teenage Pregnancy strategy 2015–2018 has been reviewed and a new action plan has been established to ensure continued progress, these actions will ensure that Teenage Pregnancy is Everyone's Business and there is continual momentum in the work to reduce teenage pregnancy in Southend Borough Council. Targeted interventions for vulnerable young people and young parents are being

accessed through single front door process of Early Help, Family Support & YOS Service. Improved awareness of risk taking behaviour and sexual health matters for Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) leads in schools has been rolled out including parents and foster carers; and for all professionals working with young people so that children and young people get the education, knowledge and skills they need to experience positive relationship and sexual health;

- 3.1.6 Ofsted inspection; following the children’s Ofsted inspection a Children’s Improvement Board has been created to ensure that the issues raised by Ofsted are being addressed. The detail has been the subject of a separate cabinet report.

Keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm – where are we now?



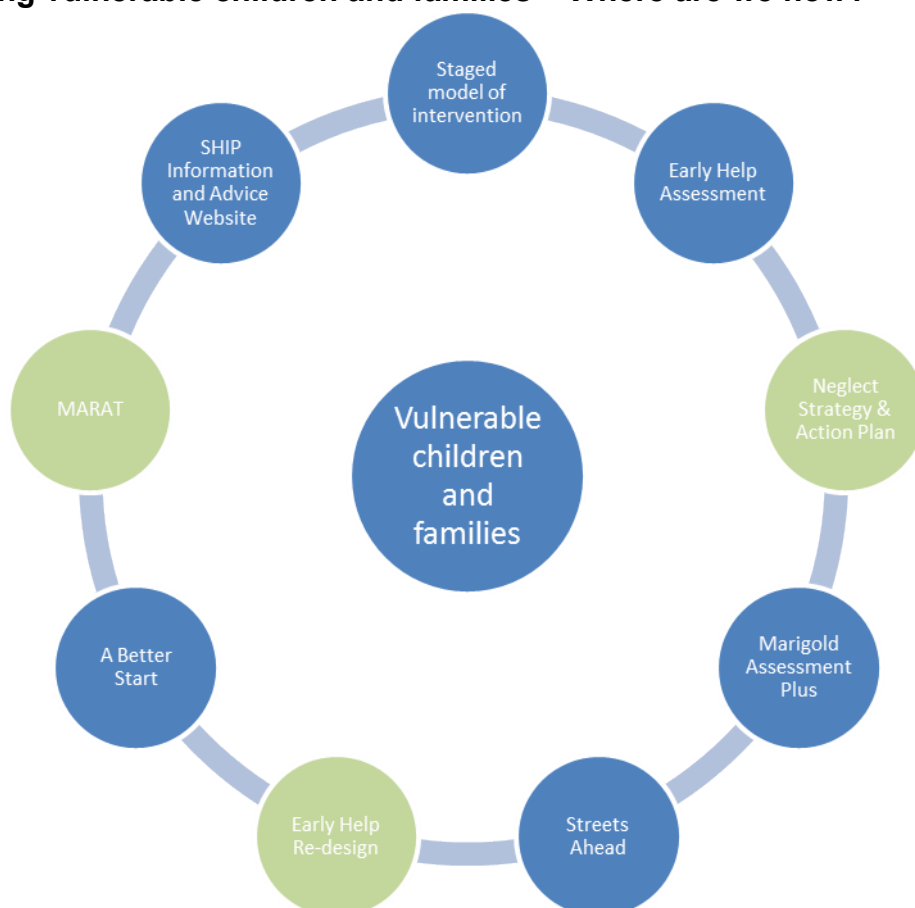
3.2 Key partnership action during 2016/17 has included:

- 3.2.1 Young Carers Strategy - Professional referrers are now asked to send an Early Help Family Support Assessment (EHFSA) to the Single Front Door which ensures all young people are considered as either Primary or Secondary Young Carers and receive appropriate assessment and support. All referrals are responded to within 48 working hours, and home visits and/or visits to the young person at school are undertaken within 5 working days;
- 3.2.2 Social Care and Early Help are now located alongside each other in Civic 2 with EWMHS (for half a day every day) allowing for effective communication and case discussion. This ensures that children and families are given help as soon as needs present themselves, regardless

of age, to prevent those needs from escalating and requiring more intensive help and support later on. Furthermore the new Children Centre's Service intends to co-locate their front door from January. A suite of 'one minute guides' to all the teams within the Service has been produced;

- 3.2.3 Domestic Abuse – MARAT is now fully operational; Prince Charming Theatre play delivered in Secondary Schools; commissioning of services. Perpetrator intervention programme being delivered;
- 3.2.4 The CSE Action Plan is a clear commitment to protect and support children and young people and identify and inhibit the behaviours of Perpetrators by developing and implementing a wide range of activities that supports families and local communities. Although a specific programme, the CSE Action Plan is integrated into the Children's Services plan and is intrinsically linked to Children and Young People Missing from Home, Care and Education. In the past year, great progress has been made in addressing the core components identified in the Action Plan which reflects the commitment and dedication of the frontline staff as well as senior management to tackle CSE and ensure that vulnerable children and young people living and visiting Southend, are protected from the predatory behaviour of perpetrators;

Supporting vulnerable children and families – Where are we now?



3.3 Key partnership action during 2016/17 has included:

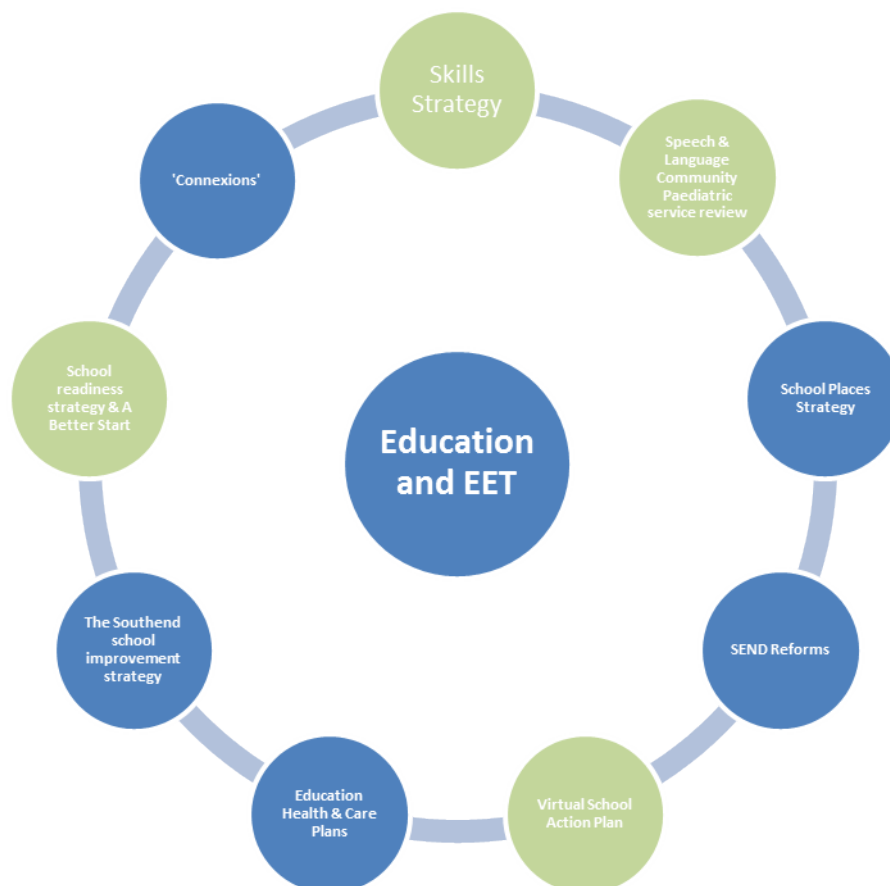
- 3.3.1 The Marigold Assessment Plus Service has changed the structure of contact services, bringing all of the facilitated contact services for looked after children in-house with staff employed by Southend Borough Council instead of using private contractors. In doing so, the service aims to

increase the quality and consistency of contact services and build on the already existing integration of family assessments and contact services, reducing time scales for children spending time in local authority care.

3.3.2 The MARAT team had its official launch on the 1st November 2016.

3.3.3 SHIP is the Council's information advice and guidance website (www.southendinfopoint.org). It provides IAG on a range of issues for children, young people and families, including meeting our statutory requirements for Local Offer for children with special educational needs. Over the last six months the website has had 107,285 unique sessions in total, 73,415 for the children's side and 33,870 for the adult's side.

Improving children's educational attainment and future prospects – Where are we now?



3.4 Key partnership action during 2016/17 has included:

- 3.4.1 A group consisting of the Council and post sixteen providers within the town has previously been established to coordinate pathways between statutory school age, college and employers. This group have defined a small number of activities, one of which is the establishment of a Virtual Skills Academy. As it states, this is a virtual board, bringing together schools, sixth forms and colleges to ensure that there are sufficient training places and opportunities for students in the growth ideas identified, in particular to service the needs of the Better Queensway project and the Airport Business Park. Other initiatives of the strategy include ensuring joined up dialogue from any groups representing skills within and beyond Southend, and coordinating “careers” advice from the several groups who are existing or have emerged in this area of work.
- 3.4.2 Following on from the successful initiatives to ensure sufficient good primary school places for Southend residents, there are now sufficient places to meet needs across the Borough. However, pressure remains in one or two wards where demand exceeds the number of places available. Officers are working with members and schools to consider solutions in these areas.
- 3.4.3 The primary “bulge” will work its way through to the secondary sector around 2019-20. Officers are currently working with school leaders to consider solutions to this matter. In all we are seeking around ten additional forms of entry by 2022. Currently we are looking at options including expansion at particular schools following consultation, but at some stage may need to consider an additional free school or academy.
- 3.4.4 The Virtual School has focussed on delivering key actions within the Children’s Service Improvement Plan.
- 3.4.5 The formation of the Education Board in Southend, and the associated School Performance Sub Group are the start of the new and innovative process of redrafting a strategy to accommodate the world of academies and maintained schools. We will continue to work in partnership with schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure that the emerging strategy supports the achievement of the Councils priorities.
- 3.4.6 To ensure that young people succeed in the transition from statutory education to post 16 options such as employment, education or training, the connexions team consists of highly qualified Personal Advisers that work in a variety of ways to meet the needs of young people. The service also has a duty to ensure that they have knowledge of the destinations of young people up until their 19th birthday which is performance linked to the NEET Target (Not in Employment, education or training). Target set for NEET is 7% and Unknowns set at 10%.
- 3.4.7 The Connexions Service is currently trading the impartial Careers advice and guidance to 11 Southend schools including Seabrook College and St Nicholas School, Southend Adult Community College and 17 Essex Schools which equates to £228K income. The traded part of the service is also piloting a Primary school inspiration program to support pupils in Yr5 and Yr6, in raising their aspirations and looking into the world of work, 3 schools have been identified to Pilot this.

Integrated Children’s Strategy

- 3.5 During September 2016 the Success for All Children Group’s ‘Integrated Children’s Services’ workshop was held and was attended by commissioners

and provider organisations ranging from across the Southend health, social care and wellbeing system. These agencies included Police, Public Health, Southend Borough Council (SBC), Southend CCG, Southend University Hospital NHS Trust (SUHFT), South Essex NHS Partnership Trust (EPUT formerly SEPT), Southend Voluntary Sector and a number of other organisations.

- 3.6 The workshop facilitated a discussion around a number of key issues and helped partners to align their thinking and ambition. The key issues included; values and philosophy; the voice of the child and their family; ambition for integration; where to start; prevention; cohort stratification; education; adult services; access points and pathways; commissioning and data sharing; and how multi agency relationships could be improved.
- 3.7 The workshop agreed to create and agree a strategy and action plan for an integrated children's service across Southend and also a broad timeline for the development of the strategy.

The strategy

- 3.8 Following the workshop a small working group drafted and developed the strategy on behalf of the Success for All Group. Underpinned by a set of principles which focused on better communication, an improved service experience, reducing duplication and defining clearer pathways the strategy was agreed by all system partners represented at Success for All during Q4 2016 / 17.

- 3.9 The system wide agreed vision for an integrated children's strategy is defined as follows;

... 'We have a collective passion for providing safe, effective and high quality services. We want to be more family centred in our approach, so every contact with us makes a positive difference. We want to make things to be less complex for families as a result of us providing seamless services that are productive and cost effective' ...

- 3.10 The agreed strategy (at Appendix A) identified eight areas of work that would support and help achieve the vision for an integrated children's service in Southend. The eight areas of work included;

- 3.10.1 The creation of a sustainable mix of integration across the partnership (to include the community paediatric service review, Children's social service redesign and Early Help Phase 1 & 2.

- 3.10.2 The development of a culture and capacity for change.

- 3.10.3 An integrated assessment process.

- 3.10.4 The introduction of the co-location of services and reduced waiting times.

- 3.10.5 Multi-disciplinary teams.

- 3.10.6 Improvement of communication between professionals.

- 3.10.7 Using innovative customer contact technology.

- 3.10.8 Improving information sharing, signposting and synergy between services.

Mobilisation of the integrated children's strategy

- 3.11 In May 2017 it was reported to Success for All that the planning to deliver the integrated children's strategy was developing and that a number of key risks had been identified. Success for All were asked to note the contents of the paper (see Appendix B) and also approved the recommendations which would support and mitigate the risks.
- 3.12 The recommendations focused on initiating a delivery group with the responsibility for the management and implementation of the integration strategy; and assurance to Success for All that all the transformation activity is aligned and opportunities are identified and developed. Specifically, the delivery group are tasked with;
- 3.12.1 Developing a programme plan;
 - 3.12.2 Identifying any additional resource that might be required to deliver the strategy;
 - 3.12.3 A process through which integration opportunities could be realised and additional influencing factors could be rationalised. This would ensure that programmes such as A Better Start (ABS) and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) would be accounted for and included in the mobilisation of the Integrated Children's service strategy.
 - 3.12.4 As the transformation of adult social care develops it is important that any changes to children's services are aligned. The existing close working relationships will be used to ensure this is the case.
- 3.13 It was also agreed by Success for All that each partner would take the presented paper (Appendix B) to their respective governance board for info and noting.
- 3.14 A draft Action Plan, yet to be completed, is attached to Appendix A

4 Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 With the development of an integrated children's strategy it is important that the Council formerly approves the strategy to ensure senior support and sponsorship.

5 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities
Safe, Clean, Healthy, Prosperous, Excellent. The integrated children's strategy provides a clear indication of the future direction for children's services in Southend.
- 5.2 Financial Implications
There are currently no financial implications attributed towards the development of the integrated children's strategy.
- 5.3 Legal Implications
There are currently no legal implications attributed towards the development of the integrated children's strategy.

- 5.4 **People Implications**
There are potential implications for staff and residents and these will be taken into account throughout the development and implementation of the strategy.
- 5.5 **Property Implications**
There are currently no property implications attributed towards the development of the integrated children's strategy.
- 5.6 **Consultation**
There is no need to consult externally on these proposals.
- 5.7 **Equalities and Diversity Implications**
This will be considered throughout the mobilisation of the strategy.
- 5.8 **Risk Assessment**
This will be considered throughout the mobilisation of the strategy.
- 5.9 **Value for Money**
This will be considered throughout the mobilisation of the strategy.
- 5.10 **Community Safety Implications**
This will be considered throughout the mobilisation of the strategy.
- 5.11 **Environmental Impact**
This will be considered throughout the mobilisation of the strategy.

6. Appendices

Appendix A – Integrated Children's Strategy

Appendix B – Success for All Update report on integrating services for Children in Southend