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Item No: 16

Meeting Date: Wednesday 25th November 2020

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: Mike Burns, Assistant Chief Officer Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer (Interim)

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Integrated Children's Services Plan 2020 - 2023

Purpose of Report:

To share the process and timescales for developing the next iteration of the Children's Services Plan, and to seek approval of the draft statement sent to Scottish Government.

Background/Engagement:

Due to the impact of the pandemic, The Scottish Government presented two options to local authorities regarding publication of the Children's Services Plan (CSP). The options were to proceed with publication of the CSP this year, or to delay publication to allow the learning from the pandemic to be fully integrated, with publication by 31st March 2021.

The CSP Steering Group recommended that the learning from the Community Planning Partnership's pandemic response should be incorporated, and this decision was supported by the GIRFEC Lead Officers' Group and the Children's Services Executive Group.

The current Children's Services Plan will continue to drive joint working and provision of children's services until the new version is completed, and published in March 2021.

Recommendations:

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) note the decision taken to defer completion of the Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 until March 2021;
- b) note the timetable of activity in relation to producing the final version of the Children's Services Plan; and

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	c) note the draft statement which was submitted to Scottish Government on 30 September 2020 (appended).
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Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

The [Strategic Plan](#) states that;

“[f]or Children’s Services our strategy aims not only to secure better outcomes and more positive destinations for children and young people but to enable Children’s Services to operate more efficiently and effectively across the City”
(page 62)

The learning across the system from the range of approaches to supporting children, young people and their families throughout the pandemic is critical to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of our Partnership in responding to existing and emerging need. For example, feedback from across the Partnership suggests that there has been a significant focus on anti-poverty work during the period of the pandemic, including addressing food and fuel poverty, and supporting digital inclusion.

A critical next step is therefore to ensure equality for all children, young people and families through a coordinated approach in a shift towards a single system.

Poverty was a key area to emerge from the consultation with children, young people and other key stakeholders carried out to support the development of the 2020 – 2023 CSP. Ensuring an anti-poverty focus within the CSP also aligns with the aim of the Children’s Services Transformation Programme **“to ensure that where possible children and young people are helped to stay at home, in their neighbourhoods and in their local schools”**
(page 62)

Another key priority from both the consultation with young people, and the learning to emerge from the pandemic response relates to mental health. The next iteration of the plan will therefore consider how to strengthen the Partnership approach to identifying and addressing mental health issues, and to explore methods of engagement in the context of changes to service delivery models, and increased use of digital platforms.

Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome:	The Children’s Services Plan is designed to address all nine of the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.
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Personnel:	Staff were consulted as part of the engagement exercise carried out to support the development of the next iteration of the Plan, which is important as staff across the Community Planning Partnership are required to work within the parameters of the Children’s Services Plan in order to deliver best possible outcomes for children and families.
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Carers:	Carers will benefit from the delivery of improved, integrated local services, which take into account the learning from the period of the pandemic.
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Provider Organisations:	Provider Organisations are represented in the CSP Steering Group, and are actively contributing to the development of the Plan, and the refinement of the priorities to take account of local organisations' experience and learning over the course of the pandemic.
Equalities:	As with the current Integrated Children's Services Plan (2017 – 2020), the strategic priorities are based on the diverse needs of children and families in Glasgow, with a commitment to reducing inequalities and improving health outcomes for children and young people, as well as ensuring equality of access to the full range of supports and services provided by the HSCP and partner agencies.
Fairer Scotland Compliance:	The Plan is being developed to take account of the additional impact of poverty over the course of the pandemic and equality of access to support.
Financial:	The development of the next iteration of the Plan will not have direct financial implications, though further development of services and the workforce may have indirect financial implications over the period of the Plan.
Legal:	None
Economic Impact:	It is anticipated that there will be positive economic impact as a result of more integrated and streamlined support, which will reduce duplication, and increase capacity and equality of access, and achieve positive outcomes for children, young people and families.
Sustainability:	Through increased alignment and reduced duplication, it is hoped that the Plan will help to support provider sustainability across the children's services sector.
Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	Developing the next iteration of the Plan will not involve direct procurement of services, and instead will provide a framework for the delivery and integration of services to promote better outcomes for children, young people and families.
Risk Implications:	None
Implications for Glasgow City Council:	The Plan is beneficial to the Council as it creates a shared set of priorities across all partner agencies, aligning the aims of different supports and services, in

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	order to maximise the impact of support for the benefit of children, young people and families.
Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	The Plan is beneficial to the NHS as it creates a shared set of priorities across all partner agencies, aligning the aims of different supports and services, in order to maximise the impact of support and complement the range of specialist NHS provisions available to children, young people and families.

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	
Direction to:	
1. No Direction Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Glasgow City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update the IJB on proposed process and timescales for developing the next version of the Children's Services Plan 2020 – 2023. Also to seek approval of a draft statement which has been submitted to Scottish Government to advise them of the timetabling of activity up until its publication in March 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1 Glasgow City Community Planning Partnership is responsible for devising and executing the Integrated Children's Services Plan (CSP) on a 3-year cycle, as required by Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The partnership delegated this responsibility to the Children's Services' Executive Group (CSEG), which is jointly chaired by the Executive Director for Education Services and the Assistant Chief Officer Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer (Interim), Glasgow City HSCP.

The Children's Services Plan Steering Group was formed to prepare the next CSP for the period from 2020 to 2023. The group is chaired by the Head of Children's Services Planning for the HSCP and comprises a wide range of partner agencies. Incorporating all leading statutory agencies and four third sector agencies nominated by the Glasgow Third Sector Citywide Forum; therefore meeting the duty imposed by Section 10 of the 2014 Act. The cross-section of agencies' participation is intended to provide an integrated plan, reflective of the breadth and depth of children's service provision and partnership working in Glasgow.

- 2.2 Given the operational challenges associated with the pandemic, and the associated learning in relation to the system response to meeting children, young people's and families' needs during this period, the Scottish Government provided an option to all Community Planning Partnerships to either publish the completed Children's Services Plan or provide a statement

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to outline their timetable and approach for revising the plan. These options were discussed at a national meeting attended by the Head of Planning for Children's Services, and then at the local CSP Steering Group, GIRFEC Lead Officers Group and CSEG, and the preferred option was to defer publication in order to take into account the learning from the pandemic.

- 2.3 This was on the grounds that the COVID-19 pandemic and interruption to service delivery has changed the context for children, young people and families. Anecdotal evidence and emerging research findings suggest that the pandemic may have exacerbated the impact of issues associated with poverty, isolation and mental health, and accentuated the attainment gap for some children due to the extended period of time out of school. As the repercussions of COVID-19 become more fully understood, it is likely that the social and economic landscape for children's services will change over the next three years, and it will therefore be important to review the CSP priorities and performance framework to take account of children, young people and families' current and emerging needs.
- 2.4 While the latest iteration of the CSP is being progressed, Glasgow will use its existing network of strategies and plans as the framework to provide services to children. The Glasgow Integrated City Children and Young People Service Plan 2017 – 2020, [Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017-22](#) and the [Integrated Joint Board Draft Strategic Plan](#) will therefore continue to drive joint working and provision of children's services until the new version is completed, and published in March 2021, as outlined in the timetable below:

Action	Responsible	Timeframe
Draft statement re CSP, and submit to Children's Services Executive Group and Lead Officers Group	Children's Services Planning Team	September 2020
Submit draft statement to SG	Children's Services Planning Team	September 2020
Incorporate findings relating to the experiences of children, young people, parents and carers, and a range of key stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collate feedback of statutory and third sector children's services agencies.• Aggregate findings of new and emerging COVID-19 research.	Children's Services Plan Steering Group Children's Services Planning Team	September 2020
Update priorities for the CSP	Children's Services Plan Steering Group	September 2020
Submit statement to IJB for approval	Assistant Chief Social Work Officer	November 2020

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Refine Performance Framework & Actions	Steering Group Partner Agencies	October 2020
Complete Draft to Share with GIRFEC Lead Officers Group for approval	Children's Services Planning Team	November 2020
Share draft with Locality Planning Groups for consultation and feedback	Children's Services Planning Team	December 2020
Share with GGC Committee for consultation and feedback	Children's Services Planning Team	January 2021
Seek CSEG Approval	Children's Services Executive Group	February 2021
Seek IJB Approval	IJB	March 2021
Publish CSP	Children's Services Executive Group	March 2021

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) note the decision taken to defer completion of the Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 until March 2021;
- b) note the timetable of activity in relation to producing the final version of the Children's Services Plan; and
- c) note the draft statement which was submitted to Scottish Government on 30 September 2020 (appended).

DRAFT Glasgow's Integrated Children's Services Plan 2020 – 2023

Glasgow City Community Planning Partnership is responsible for devising and executing the Integrated Children's Services Plan (CSP) on a 3-year cycle, as required by Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The partnership delegated this responsibility to the Children's Services' Executive Group (CSEG), which is jointly chaired by the Executive Director for Education Services and the Assistant Chief Officer Children's Services and Chief Social Work Officer (Interim), Glasgow City HSCP.

The Children's Services Plan Steering Group was formed to prepare the next CSP for the period from 2020 to 2023. The group is chaired by the Head of Children's Services Planning for the HSCP and comprises a wide range of partner agencies, incorporating all leading statutory agencies and four third sector agencies nominated by the Glasgow Third Sector Citywide Forum, meeting the duty imposed by Section 10 of the 2014 Act. The cross-section of agencies' participation is intended to provide an integrated plan, reflective of the breadth and depth of children's service provision and partnership working in Glasgow.

In an effort to produce a children's rights-respecting strategy for Glasgow, the partnership had extensively consulted with children and young people. The partnership has been working to develop the 2020 – 23 CSP in order to meet the priorities identified by children and young people. By evaluating children's services provision across the sector, and then consulting with children and young people about the issues of most concern to them, both the priorities for the CSP and the performance framework for evaluation have been coproduced by a range of stakeholders.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and interruption to service delivery changed the context for Glasgow's children, young people and families. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the pandemic may have exacerbated the impact of issues associated with poverty, isolation and mental health, and accentuated the attainment gap for some children due to the extended period of time out of school. As the repercussions of COVID-19 become more fully understood, it is likely that the social and economic landscape for children's services will change over the next three years, and it will therefore be important to review the CSP priorities and performance framework to take account of children, young people and families' current and emerging needs.

To continue to give children and young people their voice, it will be important to take account of children and young people's views in light of their experiences throughout the pandemic. These views, and the perspectives of statutory and third sector agency representatives, as well as emerging research and evidence on the impact of

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COVID-19, will be aggregated to inform the way in which children's services will respond and adapt to provide the best possible outcomes for children up to, and beyond, April 2023. Glasgow Community Planning Partnership is therefore seeking to extend the period of consultation and preparation of the Children's Services Plan to take account of the important developments over the period of the pandemic.

While the latest iteration of the CSP is being progressed, Glasgow will use its existing network of strategies and plans as the framework to provide services to children. The [Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017-22](#) and the [Integrated Joint Board Draft Strategic Plan](#) will therefore continue to drive joint working and provision of children's services until the new version is completed, and published in March 2021, as outlined below.

Timetable

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Publish CSP	Children's Services Executive Group	March 2021