

Cabinet 31 July 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Debbie Jones – Corporate Director, Children and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024	

Lead Member	Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People
Originating Officer(s)	Tricia Boahene – Senior Strategy and Policy Manager (Children and Culture)
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	10 th April 2019
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Priority 1: People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities; Outcome 2: Children and young people are protected so they get the best start in life and can realise their potential

Executive Summary

The Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024 sets out the Children and Families Partnership Board’s strategic direction for children, young people and families in Tower Hamlets over the next five years.

It was developed through discussion with professionals and the local community, from nursery school pupils up to those leaving the care system to understand where partners in the local area need to do better. It has been informed by data which highlights which children are doing well and who would benefit from targeted support. Using the collective insight gleaned, the Partnership came together to identify the strategic actions which need to happen so that local children and families are supported to live the best lives possible.

The Children and Families Plan 2016-2019 expired in April 2019; and will be superseded by the Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024 which is on course to be formally signed-off by the Children and Families Partnership Board at the end of July.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the contents of the draft Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024, which are reflective of changes which were made during the consultation phase that took place in May 2019.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This is a noting report.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council could choose not to endorse the Children and Families Strategy; however as one of the largest partners on the Children and Families Partnership Board this would undermine the work and direction agreed by the Partnership for the next five years.
- 2.2 The strategy provides a framework for delivering on joint priorities for aspirations, healthy families and safety and security for children and families in the borough. Without this strategy it would be difficult to map a clear, coherent direction towards important outcomes for children, young people and families in Tower Hamlets.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The development of the Children and Families Strategy is critical in setting out the direction of travel for the Children and Families Partnership over the next five years. The Strategy also outlines how the Children and Families Partnership will deliver on the Children's element of the Tower Hamlets Plan, our overarching Partnership Strategy which already has the endorsement of the Council and Cabinet.
- 3.2 The document sets out what we have learnt from evidence and engagement and articulates this into three succinct priority areas:
- 3.3 ***Priority one: Aspiration to action***
- 3.4 ***Priority two: Healthy families***
- 3.5 ***Priority three: Safe and secure***
- 3.6 Each priority has a clear focus on which outcomes the Children and Families Partnership will deliver on, provides some detail about what the activities to

address the outcomes will be and how we will monitor our progress and success.

- 3.7 The Strategy has been developed by the Children and Families Partnership through partnership meetings and ad-hoc task and finish sub-groups of the main partnership board. It has also been informed by engagement from the Tower Hamlets Plan, the Children and Young People's Summit in November 2018, engagement on the Learning and Achievement Strategy for 14-25 Year Olds and dedicated engagement with children and young people from the ages of 2-18.
- 3.8 In May, the draft Strategy was put out to consultation, the consultation was cascaded through a number of channels, including:
 - 3.9 Children and Families Partnership
 - 3.10 Health and Wellbeing Board
 - 3.11 Born Well Growing Well
 - 3.12 Community Safety Partnership
 - 3.13 Growth and Economic Development Board
 - 3.14 Partnership Executive Group
 - 3.15 Local Safeguarding Children Board
 - 3.16 Head teachers' bulletin
 - 3.17 Parent and Carer Council
 - 3.18 Youth Council
- 3.19 Despite the circulation, the responses were generally positive, but rate was low with only 14 responses received. However, given the amounts of engagement which informed the initial drafting and redrafting of the Strategy, the Children and Families Partnership remain confident that this final draft is reflective and representative of the needs and wishes of the local community. More detail outlining the extensive amount of engagement done can be found on pages 7-9 of the Strategy document and within the appendices.
- 3.20 The Strategy is an umbrella document, designed to provide a coherent framework for local partnership activity in relation to children, young people and families. As such, is it careful to acknowledge that while all partnership work within the Borough is not necessarily owned by the Children and Families Partnership, it is the interest and responsibility of the Board to oversee work which will deliver on the important priorities which it has chosen to focus on. Some of this work will be delivered under the Tower Hamlets Together structures, the Growth and Economic Development Board or the

Community Safety Partnership; but as the overarching board with the responsibility for children and young people, the Children and Families Partnership Board will pull all of these elements together under the children and Families Strategy.

- 3.1 The Strategy is due to be signed-off by the Children and Families Partnership Board in July 2019.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An evidence base was developed to inform the development of the strategy and includes data and insight about the protected characteristic groups wherever possible. Where gaps have been identified this has also informed outcomes and actions within the strategy. An Equality Assurance Checklist has also been completed and found that no further action was required at this stage.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 There are no further specific statutory implications.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The strategy provides a framework for delivering on joint priorities for aspirations, healthy families and safety and security for children and families in the borough. There are no known financial implications relating to the strategy detailed in this report.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The development of the strategy is consistent with the Council's duty to co-operate with safeguarding partners to promote the welfare of children in its area.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024: Appendices

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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