

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 236-2015

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on Dundee's approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families following the analysis of the Dartington well-being survey. It includes an overview of current progress and planned approaches for the dissemination of survey information. The report sets out four key priority areas which will underpin an action plan to improve the well-being of children and young people in Dundee. It highlights the next steps in the process and identifies the need for an action plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Policy and Resources Committee:

- Note the findings emerging from the data gathered through the Dartington Well-being Surveys agreed by the Education Committee (440-2013) and carried out between September 2014 and March 2015;
- Note the improvement priorities for children and young people within Dundee;
- Instruct the Director of Education to prepare an 'Improving Outcomes for Children' Action Plan; and
- Request an annual update progress report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no additional resource implications within this report. Resource implications arising from the implementation of the action plan will be included in future Committee Reports.

4. BACKGROUND

The 'Improving Outcomes for Children' project was established by the Education Committee on 28th October 2013 (440-2013, the survey timeline was subsequently extended at committee (AN135-2014) and the social surveys carried out in August and September 2014.

The Improving Outcomes project is a partnership between Dundee City Council, the Social Research Unit at Dartington (SRU) and the Scottish Government. The project aims to support Dundee and its partners to work together and strengthen the strategic commissioning of children's services. The project does this by:

- Collecting robust data about children's outcomes as well as the risk and protective factors prevailing in their families, schools and communities;
- Collating comprehensive information about the availability and use of local resources for children, young people and their families and
- Supporting strategic planning activity which more effectively matches need with service provision and achieves maximum return on investments in children's outcomes.

The project is coordinated by the Integrated Children's Services (ICS) Joint Management Group of the Dundee Partnership in collaboration with the SRU at Dartington.

PROJECT APPROACH

In Dundee we aim to significantly improve outcomes for all children, young people and their families in the city. This is fundamental in delivering the vision of Dundee's Integrated Children's Services Joint Management Group: *"In Dundee we will develop and deliver services that will work together more closely; will plan together, will develop strategies and funding together, and will work in a way that appears seamless to children, young people, families and communities"*.

The vision will be delivered by improving the planning and delivery of services across Integrated Children's Services to enhance the safe and healthy development of all children and young people across Dundee, whilst also further developing the effectiveness of services for those children who require additional support.

The project provides an understanding of how well children and young people in Dundee are progressing in respect of health and well-being outcomes. The information is used to target future activities, including the potential introduction of evidence-based programmes and practices. The aim is to prevent or reduce the issues that could have a negative impact on children and young people.

Dundee's 'Improving Outcomes' approach also demonstrates the commitment of the Council and its Community Planning partners to take forward the national prevention agenda and delivery of the Statement of Ambition for Community Planning. It further consolidates collaborative working across local public services.

'Improving Outcomes' is delivered through a structured approach that includes:

- gathering and analysing comprehensive data that provides increased understanding of the needs of children and young people in Dundee
- identifying and implementing interventions that have been proven to improve children's outcomes within the whole and targeted population;
- mapping how existing public service funds are spent on children and developing options for the targeting of increased future investment in early intervention and prevention activity; and
- facilitating the development of community engagement structures that effectively support children, young people and their families within their community.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The information from the well-being surveys is also being used to inform the review of Dundee's Integrated Children's Services Plan and School Improvement Plans. The work involves a number of actions and at this point we have accomplished the following:

- Delivery of well-being surveys in schools and among parents of younger children;
- Analysis of the survey data and development of a profile of how well children and young people are doing in respect of the identified developmental outcomes;
- Draft Mapping of resources across children's services in Dundee;
- Delivery of a series of Development and Strategy Days that provided an opportunity for senior executives and managers to consider some of the key principles that will inform future strategic planning to deliver improvements for children and young people in relation to the priority developmental outcome areas and
- Analysis of the survey data at ward level.

REPORTING ON THE WELL-BEING SURVEYS

To develop a profile of how children and young people are progressing, two well-being surveys were completed in August and September 2014. The first was a survey of 7,632

children and young people aged 9 to 16, the second, 601 carefully sampled parents of children 0 to 8.

The survey data provides a range of informative reports and a clear insight into how well children and young people in Dundee are doing.

The data identifies areas of strength and suggests the following four areas for development;

- Early social and emotional development (0-5 years)
- Engagement with school (9-16 years)
- Early initiation of substance use (12-14 years)
- Health and Well-being

As a result of the findings, an extensive programme is planned during June and July 2015 to provide information on the data and school and cluster reports and to discuss and gather feedback from staff and parents across the city. This will include;

- A local press release
- A blog on the DCC Website
- A newsletter for parents;
- Meetings with Head Teachers;
- Meetings with Parent Council representatives;
- Meetings with staff from NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Children and Families Services and Communities
- Feedback to partnership groups and Councillors

AGREEING PRIORITIES

To inform proposals for a set of priorities a number of Strategy Days were held in August 2014 and January 2015. Events were attended by representatives of strategic partner organisations and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss the survey. The financial mapping of expenditure on services for children and young people delivered by Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and the Third Sector was also considered.

The engagement events resulted in the agreement that four areas of well-being were key priorities for improvement.

The four priorities areas are:

1. Early Social and Emotional Development (0-5 years)

Research indicates that there are a number of related risk factors including: poverty, parental mental health, parental substance misuse, poor family management and low involvement in early years learning. This key developmental outcome is closely linked to language development, which has been identified as a priority from the 27-30 month review carried out by Health Visitors. Both these factors combined influence the school readiness of children affected. In Dundee we aim to prioritise early detection of these issues and then work with families to prevent these from developing into difficulties that require clinical interventions.

2. Engagement with school & learning (9-16 years):

Levels of low school engagement highlight the need to look more closely at the possible reasons underpinning these views. The importance of children gaining the best educational outcomes they can do is recognised as key to improving life chances in respect of employment, economic independence and health in later life. Good school engagement in the latter years of Primary School can also improve the development of aspirations that can act as a protective factor during adolescence that can reduce a series of other risks, such as poor emotional well-being or risky sexual behaviour.

3. Early initiation of substance use (12-16 years):

Research indicates that the early initiation of substance use by children and young people increases the risk of alcohol, drug, social and health related problems in later life. There is also a close correlation between substance misuse and higher risk taking behaviour in

relation to anti-social behaviour, offending and risky sexual behaviour which can lead to a higher level of dependence on public services in the long term. Therefore by focusing on improving outcomes in the levels of alcohol and drugs use by young people in Dundee we aim to also improve developmental outcomes in a range of other areas.

4. Health and Well-being:

The importance of promoting positive attitudes to health and well-being for our children and young people cannot be overstated. A key area for continued action relates specifically to a reduction in obesity levels for young children. This will extend and develop the range of partnership strategies currently in use. Data for measuring obesity is obtained by Health each year and Dundee has above average obesity levels when children are measured in their first year at school. Additionally the 27-30 months review has found that more than average numbers of children are already at risk of being overweight or obese before they are three years old. Obesity is closely linked to nutrition, lack of exercise and frequently lack of family activity, i.e. families not taking their children to parks for example or to more structured physical activities. Research has shown that taking part in activities is important for both the physical and emotional well being of children.

DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

An action plan identifying short and long-term activities, including workforce development priorities, will be established to support improvement.

This will include the selection of relevant programmes that have been proven to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people in each of the agreed priority areas. We will also consider the financial implications arising out of the implementation of the proposals.

The action plan will be developed by the Integrated Children's Services Joint Management Group. This group has representation from Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland and the Voluntary Sector and will take forward the role of planning, governance and implementation of the action plan, including the portfolio of programmes.

NEXT STEPS

The process is now moving forward and we are working towards:

- Wider dissemination of the collated survey information;
- Securing agreement with key stakeholders for a set of priorities to improve the well-being of children and young people in Dundee;
- Reviewing programmes that address the priorities and deliver the shared vision of Dundee's Integrated Children's Services Partnership to inform the development of an action plan;
- Developing and sharing an action plan identifying short- and long-term activity that guide how communities and public sector organisations improve practice, deliver evidence-based programmes, increase their focus on prevention and collaborate to finance and sustain change;
- Development of financial planning to underpin delivery of an action plan; and
- Identifying service providers to offer the agreed programmes to children and families.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

6. CONSULTATIONS

There have been two significant strategy events where senior staff from across the Integrated Children's Services partnership have contributed to the development of this work. The Director of Education, Director of Housing, Director of City Development, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Leisure and Communities and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

Part 1: Description/Consultation

Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of Assessment:	22.05.15	Committee Report Number: 236-2015
Title of document being assessed:	Committee Report on Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People	
1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed (If yes please check box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed? (If yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.	The report provides information on Dundee's approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families following the analysis of the Social Research Unit at Dartington's well-being survey	
3. What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?	To improve the well-being of children and young people in Dundee and identify the need for an Action Plan to achieve this	
4. Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.	Summary of analysis from the Social Research Unit at Dartington's survey of children and young people's well-being in Dundee.	
5. Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.	No although consultation and community engagement is planned at a future date(s) and is outlined in the main report	
6. Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment. (e.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc)	David Martin, Chief Executive Michael Wood, Director of Education Bert Sandeman, Integrated Children's Services Manager.	
7. Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy? (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)	A Community Engagement programme will be undertaken following the information being shared with the public.	

Part 2: Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Race, Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 3: Impacts/Monitoring

<p>1. Have any positive impacts been identified?</p> <p>(We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	<p>The Improving Children and Young People's Outcomes Project is designed to have a positive impact for all children, young people and their families in Dundee City.</p>
<p>2. Have any negative impacts been identified?</p> <p>(Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>3. What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts?</p> <p>(e.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. See Good Practice on DCC equalities web page)</p>	<p>Negative impacts are not anticipated but a full community engagement programme will accompany the Improving Outcomes plan</p>
<p>4. Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome?</p> <p>(If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the project will reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome.</p>
<p>5. Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended?</p> <p>(If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required. Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>6. How will the policy be monitored?</p> <p>(How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.)</p>	<p>Annual Progress Reports will be provided to the appropriate Committee(s)</p>

Part 4: Contact Information

Name of Department or Partnership	Integrated Children's Services
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Type of Document	
Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Manager Responsible	Author Responsible
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Signature of author of the policy:	<i>Bert Sandeman</i>	Date: 22.05.15
Signature of Director/Head of Service:		Date: 22.05.15
Name of Director/Head of Service:	Michael Wood	
Date of Next Policy Review:	21.05.16	