

Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

Report title	A shared vision/plan for all children and young people in Gloucestershire
Item for decision or information?	Information and Decision
Sponsor	Chris Spencer, Director of Children's Services Dame Janet Trotter, Child Friendly Gloucestershire
Author	Andy Dempsey, Director of Partnerships and Strategy Dame Janet Trotter, Child Friendly Gloucestershire
Organisation	Gloucestershire County Council Children's Services
Key Issues:	
1.0	At its meeting on 21 July, the Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on the Child Friendly Gloucestershire (CFG) initiative. The report highlighted the impact of Covid on progress and sought confirmation of the continuing commitment of partners to the CFG initiative as part of the wider recovery plan for the county.
2.0	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board re-affirmed its commitment to the project and the priorities set out in the draft vision/plan (set out below). It also directed that work should continue over the summer period in order to identify areas of work where intervention and support will have a lasting impact and continue to engage key partners and stakeholders in order to build support and gain their insights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children and young people are safe from harm. • All children and young people are supported to choose healthy lifestyles. • All children and young people have access to safe affordable transport. • All children and young people do well at all stages of learning and are equipped with the skills for life in the 21st Century. • All children and young people are happy and able to have fun growing up. • All children and young people enjoy the economic and social benefits of growth. • All children and young people are able to contribute to making Gloucestershire a sustainable county.
3.0	Since the last meeting, conversations have been progressing between partners around the governance, delivery and support arrangements that will be essential in moving the project from outline agreement through to the mobilisation and delivery phases. This acknowledges the enduring impact of Covid on health, social care and education as they seek to reopen settings in a Covid secure manner and provide some normality for children and young people. Taking a pragmatic approach, and balancing this with the need to avoid losing momentum, it is proposed to make best use of the next 3 months to put the infrastructure and arrangements in place to enable rapid progress to be made as Covid related pressures ease. The purpose of this report is to update HWB on those discussions and seek support for next steps.
4.0	As previously reported, although there is no longer a statutory duty for localities to

have a Children and Young People's Plan, there is a continuing duty under Section 10, Children Act 2004, for the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) to co-ordinate the work of local partner agencies to secure the **wellbeing** of children and young people in their locality. This is distinct from the collective duties imposed by Section 11 to **safeguard** children and young people, for which revised arrangements for Gloucestershire were introduced in 2019.

5.0 The previous plan for all children and young people in the county, '**Gloucestershire – works well for families – Gloucestershire's Early Help and Young People's Plan 2015-18**' ended in 2018. The partnership group charged with oversight of its delivery has not met since that time. One of the strongest themes emerging through the consultation events was a concern about the narrow scope of the previous plan, which was heavily focused towards the pre-occupations of statutory agencies, particularly social care and early help. It was also felt that the partnership group overseeing its delivery lacked adequate faith, voluntary and commercial sector representation, perhaps reflecting the focus of the plan itself.

6.0 Since its commencement in 2018, the CFG initiative has drawn upon a much wider range of voluntary, faith and commercial sectors alongside senior statutory agency representatives. It is, therefore, proposed to build on this good work by seeking further statutory agency representation to build a truly cross sector group, who will provide the focal point for delivery of this strategy on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is essential that the representation of statutory agencies at this group is sufficiently senior given the scale and ambition of the CFG initiative and acknowledging the key functions of the group, include:

- To provide oversight and scrutiny of the impact of the wide range of existing plans and strategies contributing to the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and ensuring that these cohere in support of the Child Friendly county initiative.
- To develop specific actions and initiatives to deliver the priorities set out in the vision/plan.
- To develop the infrastructure and arrangements to have an ongoing and authentic dialogue with children and young people in the county to test the impact of our work.
- To develop a quality assurance and performance reporting framework to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board is provided with evidence of impact as the basis for future service development and delivery activity.
- To act as a focal point for the development of capacity across sectors to improve outcomes for children and young people in the county.

7.0 Trust, confidence and transparency emerged as key issues during the consultation process. Voluntary sector colleagues also highlighted that dialogue should not be unduly curtailed when an agency from that sector becomes a provider of commissioned or contracted services. Dame Janet Trotter has led the work to

establish a broad cross sector coalition in support of the CFG Initiative. The next stage is to formalise this by broadening its membership to encompass senior representatives from the statutory sector becoming in turn the Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group which, in effect, will be the children and young people's partnership for Gloucestershire. Building on the trust and confidence this has engendered to date, it is proposed that Dame Janet would chair the group with the Director of Children's Services, Chris Spencer, as deputy. An outline Terms of Reference and membership for the group is attached at Appendix 1.

8.0 Working under the Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group, there will be a need for a number of sub groups, and/or task and finish groups, which will be a further topic for discussion with partners and stakeholders. As part of the CFG initiative to date, there has been a community group, looking at activity and service provision for the pre 0-5 yrs. age group. This has been running alongside the Improving Early Outcomes for Children Group, which has been chaired by a public health consultant, Beth Bennett-Britten, and draws together relevant statutory officers and voluntary sector representatives. Having had initial discussions with both groups, it is proposed to merge these in order to avoid duplication and build on the progress to date. A similar approach will be followed whenever practicable to ensure that governance is proportionate and builds on existing arrangements whenever possible, keeping the focus on activity and impact for children and young people.

9.0 At the last meeting, the HWB asked that consideration be given to those areas of activity that would benefit from focus over the short term. Conversations with partners and stakeholders have identified 3 areas, two of which are age specific and the other cross cutting. These are:

- Pre-birth to 5 years activity
- Transition to employment and Further Education
- Children and Young People's mental health

These priorities have emerged due to a variety of factors. All partners recognised the whole lifetime impact of the best start in life and the need for improvement in outcomes. The impact of Covid was also a factor and similarly upon the transition of young people to employment and further education. Mental health and well being has been consistently highlighted by young people and partners through the consultation and resonates with all age groups. The HWB are asked to support these areas as the basis for the first year of action planning, alongside the development of our governance and delivery arrangements.

10.0 In order to have an impact, the Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group will need some degree of 'back office' support, comprising of project management, administrative and data analytics capacity. The Director of Partnerships and Strategy will continue to act as lead officer to support the Coalition/Strategic Group. Work is ongoing to put in place the necessary capacity, through the use of existing resources whenever possible. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has indicated a willingness to provide some resource.

11.0 Ongoing engagement with children and young people will be an integral element within the project. Children's Services have recently recruited a number of young

people to work as 'youth representatives' and are developing the Future Me project as a digital platform for a whole population approach towards communication with children and young people across the county. The Director of Children's Services has agreed that this resource will be available to support the Child Friendly project, with discussions underway on how this will be achieved.

12.0 The ambition of a truly child friendly county for Gloucestershire will only be realised with strong cross sector support informed by an openness to challenge and commitment to change where it is shown to be necessary by evidence. The challenges presented by Covid will require a degree of pragmatism acknowledging the significant and enduring demands being placed on all agencies working with children and young people. Putting in place the necessary governance arrangements is an essential step in enabling swift and sustainable progress, as and when circumstances allow.

13.0 As a minimum, a revitalised Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group will begin to build an exhaustive picture of current activity, acknowledging that a good proportion is not currently subject to collective oversight, with all that implies for 'whole system' coherence and outcomes for children and young people. The significant and enduring impact of Covid speaks to the need for the meaningful engagement of children and young people in the economic, cultural and physical development of the county. The Child Friendly Initiative provides the opportunity to take a more expansive view than previously, with economic, environmental and employment concerns featuring prominently alongside the well established focus on health, social care and education. If we are to maximise opportunity and impact, future initiatives for young people must progress within the context of a shared and highly aspirational vision for all of our children and young people.

Recommendations to the Board:

- 1.0 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the report and agree:
- To establish the Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1 and,
 - Agree the 3 priority areas set out in paragraph 9.0 above as the basis for the year 1 action plan.

Financial/Resource Implications:

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

Andy Dempsey
Director of Partnerships and Strategy
9 September 2020

September 2020

Gloucestershire's Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group

Terms of Reference

Name of Partnership	Gloucestershire Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group
Type of partnership	Non-statutory – cross-sector
Vision	<p>Gloucestershire Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group vision:</p> <p>Realising the ambition set out in Vision 2050 and working to create a 'child friendly county'.</p> <p>In a 'child friendly county', all partners view children and young people as an asset to be valued and nurtured for the future, with a shared commitment towards ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children and young people are safe from harm. <p>This will involve concerted action to address the concerns about personal safety expressed by young people through the child friendly county and other recent consultation exercises. This encompasses safety, both actual and perceived, in the physical realm, including places to gather and socialise, and within the digital space. Some children also raised concerns about safety in the home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children and young people are supported to choose healthy lifestyles. <p>This will involve purposeful work to ensure we have an accessible health offer that addresses the physical, mental and emotional well being needs of children and young people across the county.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children and young people have access to safe affordable transport. This will involve working to develop the capability for children and young people to make safe journeys and travel around the county on an accessible, sustainable and affordable basis. • All children and young people do well at all stages of learning and are equipped with the skills for life in the 21st Century. This will involve purposeful cross sector work to ensure we have a local education offer that is inclusive and restorative in its approach by actively addressing the barriers preventing all young people from engaging in and achieving through learning. This encompasses the skills and knowledge necessary for young people to engage in the dynamic and changing labour market of the 21st Century. • All children and young people are happy and able to have fun growing up Working to ensure there are a good range of accessible and affordable recreational and cultural activities for children and young people. • All children and young people enjoy the economic and social benefits of growth Collective work to promote the interests of, and provide opportunities for, the most vulnerable children and young people in the county. • All children and young people are able to contribute to making Gloucestershire a sustainable county Working to ensure that children and young people in the county are able to make a meaningful contribution towards tackling the climate crisis.
<p>Aims / objectives of the Partnership</p>	<p>To work towards Gloucestershire becoming a ‘child friendly county’, within which all partners view children and young people as an asset to be valued and nurtured for the future, as part of the 2050 Vision.</p>

<p>Is there specific legislation that the partnership is helping to deliver?</p>	<p>Section 10 of the Children Act (2004) imposes a duty on the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) and Lead Member for Children’s Services to co-ordinate the work of local partners to secure the health and wellbeing of children and young people.</p>
<p>Which organisation is the lead partner on the partnership?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council has the leading role for children’s services and for coordinating local multi agency working to secure the wellbeing of children and young people.</p> <p>The local authority is required to identify a Lead Member for Children’s Services (LCMS) and a Director of Children’s Services (DCS). Their respective roles and responsibilities are set out in statutory guidance (DfE: 2015).</p>
<p>Membership of the CFC/SG</p>	<p>The membership will be drawn from senior representatives from the faith, voluntary, commercial and statutory sectors, including :</p> <p>OPCC/Police GCC Children’s Services GCC Public Health CCG/Health Representatives Education and EY Providers Faith Sectors Representatives LEP/Commercial Sector Representatives Voluntary Sector Representatives Youth Representatives/Ambassadors Youth Justice</p>
<p>Meeting arrangements</p>	<p>The group will meet at least quarterly, at appropriate locations in partner venues. Minutes and papers will be available on the GCC website. Standing agenda items will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair’s report • Sub Group/T&F Group updates • Progress against the strategy and action plan • Feedback and views of young people
<p>Chairing arrangements</p>	<p>The Chair of Gloucestershire’s Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group will be Dame Janet Trotter. The Deputy Chair will be Chris Spencer, Director of Children’s</p>

	Services.
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Structures and Roles

Members will contribute their agency/sector experience and expertise through the following actions, both in meetings and when working on behalf of the Partnership: Members will work collectively:

- To provide oversight and scrutiny of the impact of the wide range of existing plans and strategies contributing to the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and ensuring that these cohere in support of the Child Friendly county initiative.
- To develop specific actions and initiatives to deliver the priorities set out in the vision/plan.
- To develop the infrastructure and arrangements to have an ongoing and authentic dialogue with children and young people in the county to test the impact of our work.
- To develop a quality assurance and performance reporting framework to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board is provided with evidence of impact as the basis for future service development and delivery activity.
- To act as a focal point for the development of capacity across sectors to improve outcomes for children and young people in the county.
- Participate fully through attendance, active participation, and by promotion of CF priorities in all relevant settings. When unable to do so, to send a suitable deputy with appropriate decision taking powers
- Participate in 'task and finish' groups, as required.
- Ensure appropriate representation and to represent the Child Friendly Coalition/Strategic Group within their own agency.
- Commit agency resources appropriately.
- Ensure priorities are reflected in own agency or thematic plans and strategies
- Be prepared for meetings by reading papers, attending briefings
- Ensure information is fed back to the representative agency or sector in conjunction with the 'Commissioning Team';
- Act as a contact point for and communicate the decisions of the board to members of their agency or sector
- Be committed to and actively promote equality of

	<p>opportunity and engagement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display consistency and honesty in achieving consensus, recognising that this is possible without everyone being present; • Respect the views of other members; • Respect confidential information; • Be prepared to learn from each other and from good practice elsewhere. • Identify and address local issues and needs with innovative solutions on the basis of evidence of what works and is affordable.
<p>Amendments to partnership governance</p>	<p>Arrangements will be subject to collective review on an annual basis, with approval for any change via the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>
<p>Business Planning and Performance</p>	<p>The success of the partnership will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in outcomes for children, young people and their families with a particular focus on the most vulnerable. • A comprehensive needs analysis and shared appreciation of activity and its impact. • Greater efficiency and impact from the use of resources. • Greater participation of children and young people in the development and delivery of activity.
<p>Decision-making processes</p>	<p>Statutory functions and responsibilities remain with relevant agencies.</p> <p>Decisions will be made on a consensus basis by show of hands unless the Chair feels that a formal vote is required. The Chair will have the casting vote, if required. Arbitration in the event of serious disagreement will be in accordance with the GCC protocol.</p>
<p>Risk Management Arrangements</p>	<p>A risk register will be kept and maintained.</p> <p>An 'exception' report to be considered on a regular basis so that risks are debated and provision agreed for them to be well managed.</p>

Income	
Information Sharing Do information sharing protocols exist?	Yes http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/article/104963/Information-Sharing
Data Quality Do Data Quality Protocols exist?	Yes http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/dataprotection
Equality and Diversity	These exist within partner agencies. CFC/SG adopts the GCC policy on equal opportunities and equal employment. GCC policy on Equal Opportunities and Employment at: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equalities Report recommendations prepared for the CFC/SG will describe the impact in terms of equality and diversity.
Code of conduct	Standard GCC code of conduct applies. http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/article/105641/Code-of-Corporate-Governance
Sustainability	The CFC/SG is committed to supporting the Gloucestershire sustainable community strategy http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=48508&p=0
Conflict Resolution	See above – decision making A standard conflict resolution procedure is available at : http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/feedback
Timescales; for review	Annually, unless policy or legislation prompts review.

Exit Strategy

This initiative is sponsored by the HWB who will determine how the initiative will progress and terminate, consulting with key partners as necessary.

The continuing duties placed on the DCS and LMCS will be a further consideration.

Appendix 2

Governance Framework



