

## Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

<b>Report title</b>	Update on Child Friendly Gloucestershire - Children's Wellbeing Coalition.
<b>Item for decision or information?</b>	For information
<b>Sponsor</b>	Janet Trotter: Chair CFG Children's Wellbeing Coalition Andy Dempsey: Lead Officer CFG
<b>Author</b>	Janet Trotter
<b>Organisation</b>	Gloucestershire Child Friendly Coalition (CFG)

### **Key Issues:**

The Child Friendly Gloucestershire Initiative has drawn together a diverse, cross-sector collation of partners with a shared commitment towards promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in Gloucestershire.

The Children's Wellbeing Coalition is the strategic group that will drive the agenda forward being in turn accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, acknowledging the latter's focus on wellbeing of the whole population. It is, in effect, a reconstituted Children's Partnership for the county, albeit with a broader range of partners than previously, working collectively to ensure our children and young people have the best start in life and are able to thrive and grow up safe, happy and healthy. It operates alongside Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) with its focus on the efficacy of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across the county.

Covid has been a major factor impacting on progress, however the Wellbeing Coalition has now been established and met virtually on four occasions (2 pre-meetings and 2 formal). Coalition members include statutory, voluntary, charitable, faith and business partners, together with 3 external members. It has also begun to progress the three initial workstreams previously agreed.

Establishing the identity and purpose of the Children's Wellbeing Coalition has been particularly challenging within the constraints imposed by Covid and the related inability to engage key partners and stakeholders directly. This will be increasingly significant over time if we are to achieve the aim of the Wellbeing Coalition in becoming the strategic focal point for the development services and activity that impact on the wellbeing and children and young people and achieve a greater synergy of purpose and impact. With that in mind, the attached brochure (Appendix 1) has been developed as a key piece of material to assist in forging a shared understanding of role and purpose. It outlines:

- the current membership of the Coalition
- the key promises made to young people as a result of consultation
- issues related to engagement with young people (to be consulted upon)
- three major pieces of work on which the Coalition will work initially (pre 0-5 years: mental health: transition to work)

The Brochure attached at Appendix 1 remains in draft and the views of the Coalition are sought on any final amendments or changes that might be needed prior to its adoption as a key piece of promotional material. In time it will also be supported by an action

plan and data dashboard to provide the Coalition with an insight into progress against key priorities.

The Chair of Gloucestershire's Children's Wellbeing Coalition was recently invited to speak to the House of Lords Public Services Committee who are currently exploring how local agencies are collaborating to meet the needs of vulnerable families and children in the Covid/post Covid world. It was evident from those discussions that having a coherent, joined up local strategy is a critical success factor, a point further emphasised in recent work carried out by the LGA and The Case for Change: the independent review of children's social care.

**Recommendations to the Board:**

The Coalition is invited:

- i) to endorse the Coalition's current direction of travel
- ii) provide comments on the draft Brochure and give delegation to the Coalition Chair to make any final changes prior to its adoption.

**Financial/Resource Implications:**

There are no direct financial or resource implications at this stage however there will be a need for support resources to enable the Coalition, and any sub groups which may be established, to function effectively as we progress. An update report on this will be brought to a future coalition meeting.