

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES - EDUCATION, EARLY HELP & SOCIAL CARE, BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	30 MARCH 2021	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	ONE READING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP: EARLY HELP STRATEGY		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR LIZ TERRY	PORTFOLIO:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SERVICE:	BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN: EARLY HELP	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share the draft One Reading Children and Young People's (CYP) Partnership Early Help Strategy 2021-2023 and to provide an opportunity for comment prior to finalisation of the strategy.
- 1.2 The One Reading CYP Partnership was formed in 2019 with a vision for all sectors working together towards a shared goal of improving life quality for children, young people and families, underpinned by a shared accountability for early intervention and prevention. A key role for its Board is to oversee the implementation and review of the partnership early help strategy.
- 1.3 The vision set out in the strategy is for every child, young person and family to receive the right help, at the right time and at the right place. The aims are to:
 - Improve outcomes for children, young people and families
 - Reduce demand on high cost services
 - Build resilient communities and a thriving voluntary sector.
- 1.4 Local data and collective understanding of the current and emerging needs have informed our priority areas. These are:
 - Children under 5 years old
 - Young people - adolescent risk
 - Consistent approaches to emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- 1.5 The One Reading Partnership Consensus outlines a set of agreed principles and shared commitment to a trauma-informed approach underpinning the work of the partnership.
- 1.6 Established workstreams will deliver plans to improve outcomes for each priority areas with a cross-cutting focus on: trauma informed approach; co-production; data and knowledge; integrated working and workforce development.
- 1.7 Impact will be measured through agreed performance indicators linked to each priority area.
- 1.8 The strategy interlinks with strategies across Reading and wider geographical footprints and the Board will ensure that its plans align where needed.
- 1.2 *Appendix A:Principles -Definitions: Appendix B: Key Performance Indicators.*

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the One Reading Children and Young People’s Partnership Early Help Strategy be noted and endorsed.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The early help strategy sits within the context of the national HM Government Statutory Guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (July 2018) which sets out guidance for inter-agency working to safeguard to promote the welfare of children, including for children and families who would benefit from early help.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 4.1 This proposal will contribute to the key priority set out in the Council’s Corporate Plan 2018-21, of protecting and enhancing the lives of vulnerable adults and children and to ensure that every child is safe and can achieve their potential and aspirations.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to the decision.
- 5.3 In this regard you **must** consider whether the decision will or could have a differential impact on: racial groups; gender; people with disabilities; people of a particular sexual orientation; people due to their age; people due to their religious belief.