

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DEBORAH GLASSBROOK

TO:	Adult Social Care, Children's Service and Education Committee		
DATE:	19 January 2022		
TITLE:	One Reading Early Help Strategy Update		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr Liz Terry	PORTFOLIO:	Children's Services
SERVICE:	Brighter Futures for Children	WARDS:	All
LEAD OFFICER:	Vicky Rhodes	TEL:	
JOB TITLE:	Director of Early Help and Prevention	E-MAIL:	vicky.rhodes@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the One Reading Children and Young People's (CYP) Partnership Early Help Strategy 2021-2023 and progress against the actions plans in the three priority areas of Under 5s, Adolescence and Consistent Approaches to Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health.
- 1.2 The Under 5s workstream will be the Reading delivery group for Priority 3 of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030. The action plan has been revised to incorporate needs identified in the strategy and a draft is being considered by stakeholders. The emerging impact of children born during the pandemic is a concern. Progress has been made in relation to the number of 2 years old accessing nursery provision and first-time parents accessing early help support. Speech, language and communication is a Reading priority to ensure children are ready for school and achieve early good levels of development.
- 1.3 A key focus of the adolescence workstream has been to establish the Young People and Extra Familial Harm Strategy. This included a data review and a series of multi-agency workshops to establish the key priorities. The draft strategy has been shared and signed off by key strategic groups. Actions plans and leads are being established.
- 1.4 The Consistent Approaches to Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health workstream has prioritised embedding trauma informed and restorative approaches across the workforce. A free online training package and workforce development network have been established to ensure consistent baseline of knowledge and understanding. The action plan has been aligned with key Berkshire West and Reading strategic groups and plans.
- 1.5 Wider updates include the announcement of a national Family Hub programme focused on early help, continuation of the Supporting Families programme and establishing Partnership Outreach Workers to support early help arrangements within the wider partnership and Hospital Early Help Worker in partnership with Royal Berkshire Hospital.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 For members of the ACE committee to receive the update on the One Reading CYP Partnership Early Help Strategy; progress made against priority areas; challenges and new opportunities.

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. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Not applicable as report is for update and no decision is required.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The purpose of this section is to ensure that proposals contained in reports support the Council's vision and Corporate Plan priorities:

Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

5.2 This Early Help Strategy will contribute to Council's Corporate Plan theme of Thriving Communities including tackling inequality, building relationships and strengthening the capacity and resilience of the voluntary and community sector and prioritises early help for children and families to reduce vulnerabilities.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as the purpose of the report is for update and no decision is required.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Local representatives and stakeholders are represented on the One Reading CYP Board and its associated workstreams. Local representatives were included in the consultation workshops to identify priorities and shape the Extra Familial Risk & Harm Strategy.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed as the purpose of the report is for update and no decision is required.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not applicable as no decision required.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Not applicable as no decision required.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Not applicable.

