

	<u>Agenda Item: 13</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	28 November 2023
TITLE:	CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2023-2028 BIRMINGHAM'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN
Organisation	Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership
Presenting Officer	Colin Michel, Interim Director of Strategy and Partnerships

Report Type:	Information
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1. Purpose:
<p>1.1. This report summarises progress that Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership has made in its second quarter of work, on a strategic programme to deliver the ambition and outcomes of Birmingham's Children and Young People's Plan ('the Plan').</p> <p>1.2. The present report offers an update on governance and collective actions that form the core of the Plan, highlighting progress, and forward plans. The next quarterly report will focus on enabler workstreams, and the cross-cutting action currently being undertaken on cost-of-living/tackling poverty.</p>

2. Implications (tick all that apply):		
Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	y
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	y
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	y
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	y
	Getting the Best Start in Life	Y
	Living, Working and Learning Well	y
	Ageing and Dying Well	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Note progress made by Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership, and the updates to governance arrangements set out in section 4 below.

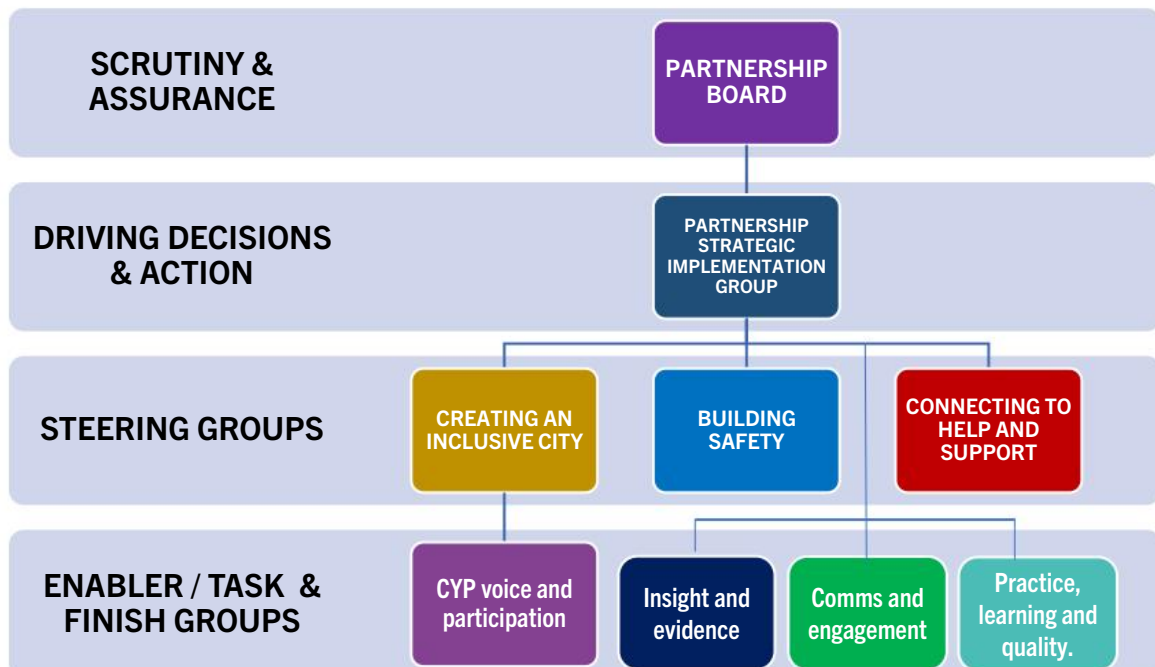
4. BACKGROUND

Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership and our five-year plan

- 4.1. Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership (‘the Partnership’) includes Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Police Force, and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council. In June 2023, the Partnership published its five-year plan, called *Change for Children and Young People 2023-2028*, endorsed by Health and Wellbeing Board on 18 July 2023.
- 4.2. In June 2023, UNICEF UK officially invited Birmingham to join the Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative, signing an MOU and contract for support, following which delivery has now begun during the second quarter of 2023.

Update on governance arrangements – overview.

- 4.3. Between July and October 2023, the governance framework to deliver the plan has been expanded in the spirit of joining up work across our Partnership. A summary diagram below shows the arrangements that have been approved by the Board in October 2023:



4.4. The focus topics of the Steering Groups are as follows:

Creating an inclusive city. Launched July 2023	Connecting to help and support. (Previously 'joining up the offer') due to start December 2023.	Strengthening safety with children, young people, families, and communities. (Previously 'building safety') due to start in 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver Inclusion Strategy - Develop Inclusion Charter - Focus on additional needs across settings, from 0-25 - Anti-racism, tackling poverty and inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refresh Early Help Strategy - Develop Parenting Strategy - Supporting Families, Family Hubs, Start for Life and Healthy Child Programmes Board approved on 27 October.	Joining up Birmingham's approach to early intervention and prevention for a range of harms and risk factors: impacts of domestic abuse, preventing exploitation, etc. Activity via task and finish work to date. Focus session at cross-partnership system leader event on 13 October 2023, secured agreement for this work.
<p><i>Interdependent work themes monitored by Partnership Strategic Implementation Group & Board:</i> UNICEF Child Friendly City; tackling together poverty and inequality; strategic commissioning; insight & evidence; voice & participation; integrated working; practice, professional development & workforce.</p>		

Update on governance and delivery arrangements: creating an inclusive city

4.5. In July 2023, the steering group for the collective action on 'Creating an Inclusive City' was set up to:

- a) Maintain oversight of delivery of our SEND and Inclusion Strategies 2023-2028, driving strategic programmes of work, and contributing to our overarching ambition to make Birmingham a great place to grow up, improving outcomes for all our babies, children, and young people,
- b) Seek to use data analysis, insight, lived experience and evaluation to understand the issues, interconnections and relationships that affect babies, children, young people, and families across the city, and prevention them from connection to meaningful opportunities and thriving,
- c) Forge collaborative working across the partnership, providing challenge, quality assurance, and problem solving in relation to collective action plans and enabler workstreams, including the UNICEF Child Friendly City Action Plan, and with a sharp focus on the implementation of the Inclusion Strategy,
- d) Maintain overview of system-wide priorities, such as anti-racism, tackling poverty and inequalities faced by babies, children, young people and families, and act to identify and reduce gaps, and build on strengths across the partnership,

- e) Ensure the strategic programme of work for the SEND and Inclusion Strategies meets the development requirements across sectors in the local system, and enables production of support, provision and resources aligned with local and national evidence and best practice, and
 - f) Oversee the development of multi-agency frameworks, such as partnership-wide approach to implementing relationship-based and inclusive practice.
- 4.6. This steering group has secured good representation from partners, including our education system, with five leaders representing early years, primary, secondary, and special phases of education.
- 4.7. In addition, an education system leaders' strategic advisory group has been set up in October 2023 to engage a wider range of our early years, mainstream special and post-16 education leaders in the design of an Inclusion Charter for Birmingham. This group will meet six times per year, in alternate months to the Inclusive City Steering Group to secure collaborative delivery of the ambitions and actions of Birmingham's Inclusion Strategy.
- 4.8. The Partnership will bring detail of the progress driven by these arrangements in our annual written report to the Health and Wellbeing Board (due by June 2023) with emphasis how this work contributes to its agenda and priorities.
- Update on governance and delivery arrangements: connected youth and families.***
- 4.9. The Connected Youth & Families Steering Group will replace current arrangements within our early help system. The Group will work in the spirit of genuine partnership, where no one agency has primacy, but in which all agencies are committed to working toward strategic aims, which are aligned with our partnership ambition:
- a) Connect our children, young people, and families to help and support they trust in local places, through the life-course from 0-24, and reduce the numbers referred to statutory supports or interventions.
 - b) Break down barriers of poverty and inequality faced by Birmingham's children, young people, families, and communities, and 'narrow the gap' so our children and young people are thriving.
- 4.10. The Steering Group is key to our success in achieving these two strategic aims for 'joining up the offer' set out in our Plan. The Steering Group will oversee a joined-up arrangements, which will set out a wide range of initiatives that provide help and support with children, young people, and families, many of which are services that already exist across Birmingham. Our commitment to collective leadership and to joining up the offer will enhance the impact of help and support, because our approach links together offers and resources, into **one coherent whole**.
- 4.11. The following over-arching strategic objectives will underpin our multi-agency work and lay the foundations for refresh of our strategic programme for the early help system. The success of Connected Youth and Families will be measured against the establishment and effectiveness of the following features:
- a) Maintaining oversight and driving implementation of the programmes for Supporting Families, Family Hubs, Start for Life and maintaining strong

- alignment with strategic commissioning and delivery programmes for 0-19/Healthy Child Programme, and Children and Young People’s Mental Health Transformation.
- b) Ensuring that voice, participation and coproduction with parents, carers, families, babies, children, young people, and young adults are integral to everything we decide, design, commission and deliver across our Partnership.
 - c) Recording, sharing, and utilising data, develop insight, lived experience and evaluation to understand the issues, interconnections and relationships that affect babies, children, young people, and families, that are preventing them from connection to help, support, meaningful opportunities and thriving.
 - d) Establishing mechanisms for measuring achievement against agreed prevention and early intervention outcomes with an integrated framework, and monitoring impact.
 - e) Developing effective systems to recognise, understand and record the strengths, needs and challenges faced for babies, children, and young people, identify vulnerable families, and coordinate offers of information, help, support, and opportunities.
 - f) Forging collaborative working across the partnership, providing challenge, quality assurance, and problem solving in relation to collective action plans, and with a sharp focus on sustainability of our offers, [...] Supporting Families, Family Hubs and 0-19 Healthy Child Programmes,
 - g) Undertaking review and analysis of existing ways of working to strengthen and improve local arrangements for improving outcomes, recording the difference we make, multi-agency planning and risk management of prevention and early intervention.
 - h) Overseeing the development of multi-agency frameworks, such as partnership-wide approach to implementing relationship-based practice, and the development of ‘community around the family...’ model, with multi-disciplinary locality-based offers.
 - i) Maintaining overview of system-wide priorities, such as anti-racism, tackling poverty and inequalities faced by babies, children, young people and families, and act to identify and reduce gaps, and build on strengths in the help and support offer across the partnership,
 - j) Ensuring the strategic programme of work for ‘joining up the offer’ meets the development requirements across the education sector for implementation of the SEND and Inclusion Strategies 2023-2028, and enables production of support, provision and resources aligned with local and national evidence and best practice.

Update on governance and delivery arrangements: strengthening safety

- 4.12. In April 2023, the Board recommended a review of the governance arrangements and work programmes of Birmingham’s Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, and West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership.
- 4.13. A system leader workshop was delivered on 13 October, presented by Sue Harrison and Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, with expert input from researchers [Dez Holmes](#) and [Luke Billingham](#). The workshop, entitled ‘Strengthening safety with young people, families, and communities,’ invited leaders to explore the implications of:
- a) Understanding violence from a social harm perspective,
 - b) Valuing adolescent identities and lived experience in the contexts of place, virtual spaces, peer groups, families, and communities,
 - c) Upholding children and young people’s rights, strengthening voice, participation, and influence of young people across our whole system, to
 - d) Designing a service system that sustains enduring relationships with young people to strengthen safety, prevent harms, and tackle structural inequalities.
- 4.14. A summary of the recommendations of the workshop are as follows:
- a) Create arrangements for joint planning and delivery between Birmingham’s Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, and West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership. Create a joint business plan across these domains to strengthen prevention and early intervention across Birmingham.
 - b) Take forward a programme of work under the ‘strengthening safety’ theme with focus on structural inequalities, social harm, child and adolescent development, and adolescent safeguarding.
 - c) Take forward the cross-cutting theme of work on collective leadership development and relationships-based practice with young people, families, and communities, which incorporates learning on trauma-informed and inclusive approaches and can support multi-disciplinary learning, development and improving practice.

5. ENABLER WORKSTREAMS

- 5.1. The partnership enabler workstreams have been designed in the programme to support effective coordination and collaboration.
- 5.2. During the last quarter, development work has been undertaken for an insight dashboard for inclusion, not least as the local area anticipates inspection of SEND services within the next year. Further work is also being undertaken with partners on the development of an integrated outcomes framework for babies, children, and young people. A full update on this work with links to insight products and summary of outcomes framework will be shared in the next quarterly report.
- 5.3. As we begin the Child Friendly City initiative, UNICEF UK have begun discovery work on the wide range of voice and participation activity being delivered across

the children and young people’s service system in Birmingham. We have also aligned this ‘stocktake’ activity with voice, participation and data analysis programme that is underway as part of our whole-place involvement in the Children and Young People’s Health Equity Collaborative (see previous report for information appendix 1). A full update on this work with UNICEF UK will be offered in the next quarterly report to this Board.

6. Compliance Issues

6.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

6.2. The Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board will publish an annual accountability report, including a ‘you said, we did’ chapter prepared for and with children and young people. This annual report will be provided each year, throughout the duration of the plan to 2028, and from 2024, following approval by UNICEF UK Committee and Council Cabinet, this will also incorporate our report on the Child Friendly City action plan. We anticipate that the report will be available one year from our first report to HWB on this programme, by July 2024.

6.3. The Partnership will continue to provide progress updates and exception reporting to HWB on a quarterly basis.

Appendices

1. **Previous report to Health and Wellbeing Board 18 July 2023**
2. [Change for Children and Young People 2023-2028](#)

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

- Colin Michel, Interim Director Strategy and Partnerships, Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership