

# Birmingham City Council

## Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 4 January 2023



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**Subject:** **CHANGE for Children and Young People 2023-2028**  
**Birmingham's Children and Young People's Plan**

**Report of:** Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services

**Report author:** Colin Michel, Interim Strategy and Partnerships Lead

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update on our progress, and to note the timeline for the development and launch of our Children and Young People's plan, including commitment to the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities & Communities Initiative.
- 1.2 To seek commitment for our launch campaign: One Hundred Brilliant Days

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members note the attached report, agree any comments/recommendations and support the launch campaign in April 2023.

### **3 Any Finance Implications**

- 3.1 None.

### **4 Any Legal Implications**

- 4.1 Since 2011, local authorities and partners have not been legally required to produce a children and young people's plan. However, the board of Birmingham Children's Partnership have agreed to collaborate to produce and oversee a five-year plan to improve outcomes for all our children and young people.

### **5 Any Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 n/a

### **6 Appendices**

Appendix 1 – CHANGE for children and young people 2023-2028: Birmingham's Children and Young People's Plan

**CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2023-2028**

Birmingham's Children and Young People's Plan

**1. Our ambition, values, principles, and commitments**

- 1.1 There are 325,787<sup>1</sup> children and young people (0-19) and 93,243 young adults (20-24) living in our city. We want to make sure that every single one of them is thriving. The ambition for our Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028 ('our Plan') is for Birmingham to be a great place to grow up.
- 1.2 The purpose of our Plan is to set out how Birmingham Children's Partnership<sup>2</sup> will collaborate to improve outcomes for children and young people over the next five years. Birmingham Children's Partnership proposes to call our Plan: **CHANGE for children and young people 2023-2028**<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.3 The Partnership has set out its values of openness, integrity, boldness, collaboration, and learning. Our Plan will also be underpinned by the following principles:
  - Children and young people are at the heart of everything we do
  - We are ambitious for every child and young person in Birmingham
  - We are one partnership, with one set of priorities
- 1.4 Birmingham Children's Partnership has also committed to:
  - Provide bold, collective, system leadership
  - Create a collaborative and integrated system
  - Hold each other to account with support, oversight, and challenge
  - Base our offer to children and young people in the best available evidence
  - Know what difference we are making

**2. Outcomes and collective strategic actions**

- 2.1 During 2022, we have worked across the Council and with our partners to develop an outcomes framework: we want all of Birmingham's children and young people to be able to say: we are safe, connected, confident, included, healthy, happy, and respected.
- 2.2 These outcomes are further articulated as follows:
  - **Healthy** (as possible) and nurtured throughout our life course

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 census

<sup>2</sup> Birmingham Children's Trust, City Council, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Women's & Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham & Solihull NHS Integrated Care System, Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, and West Midlands Police

<sup>3</sup> Replaces 'Year of the Child' title to emphasis action and our five-year commitment

- **Safe** at home and in places outside of our families and schools
- **Connected** to meaningful opportunities and prepared for adulthood
- **Confident** to connect with help we can trust at the right time, and right place
- **Included** and confident to get the most from home, school, and community
- **Happy** and **respected**, our voices and lived experience matter

2.3 We are ambitious for every one of our children and young people, but we know that we must tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for our vulnerable groups. As we make use of data and the best available evidence, our Plan will focus on children and young people who are living in poverty, those with special education needs and disabilities, and target other groups facing outcome inequalities.

2.4 Although the statutory requirement to publish a Children and Young People's plan has been lifted, in Birmingham, we believe it is crucial that all partners collaborate on shared collective actions. Our partnership has agreed to work together to:

- **Build safety with children and young people** at home and outside of home
- **Integrate our offer in local places** so our children and young people can connect with help they trust, at the right time, in the right place
- **Create an inclusive city** where children and young people can connect with meaningful opportunities

2.5 We are also committed to **act together on poverty** faced by our children and young people as a cross-cutting theme through our collective strategic actions.

2.6 These collective actions are set out in the context of our Council Corporate Plan 2022-2026 and in alignment with the development of NHS Birmingham and Solihull's Integrated Care System Ten Year Masterplan. Our Plan is also being developed in line with the work of Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board. Our Plan will align with our strategies, transformation, and delivery plans for SEND, inclusion and Family Hubs.

### **3. Evidence, data, and research**

3.1 We have used evidence about the needs of our children and young people from the 2021 census release, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and from available, relevant partner data. We are committed to using best practice in programme design for our collective strategic actions, including applying evidence of what is working within our city, nationally and internationally.

3.2 We have received positive feedback on our recent expression of interest to UNICEF to join the Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative. This work building on the successful collaboration of more than 200 of our schools on the

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award programme. Funding for joining this initiative has kindly been provided by Justin Varney, Director of Public Health. This initiative will provide a robust framework, help us to take a research-led approach, and make a strong commitment to children and young people's rights.

- 3.3 We are on track to sign a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF early in 2023.

#### **4 Voice, codesign, engagement and communication strategy**

- 4.1 We are undertaking further work to keep the voices of children, young people, and families at the heart of our Plan. We are conducting an online survey and focus groups to gather further responses from children and young people. We have worked with engagement leads and with children and young people to shape the questions for the online survey.
- 4.2 We will undertake voice and codesign work during the next three months as we prepare to launch our plan. However, we intend to continue to involve children and young people in design and decision-making throughout the life of our plan. This will lead us to adapt and refine our Plan in each year of its delivery. Funding to carry out voice, codesign and engagement activity has been kindly provided for 2022/2023 by Richard Brooks, Director of Strategy, Equality and Partnerships.
- 4.3 Our draft plan was shared at an Extended Council Leadership Team meeting on 8 December, and there is strong corporate support from all directorates for the work of our Plan. From January to March 2023, we will continue to carry out engagement activities with colleagues within and beyond the children's services system.

#### **Launch campaign: ONE HUNDRED BRILLIANT DAYS**

- 4.4 We plan to launch our plan in April 2023 with a vibrant campaign called: One Hundred Brilliant Days. Our primary campaign goal will be to celebrate Birmingham's children and young people. The campaign will create opportunities to showcase the excellent work with and for children and young people across our all the services in our partnership. We will continue to work across the partnership to gather opportunities to spotlight partners services throughout the period from January to March 2023.
- 4.5 Our efforts to engage all partners – with particular focus on our education settings - will continue throughout the period from April to July 2023. We will monitor and evaluate communication and engagement activities throughout this launch period and aim to provide interim reports on its effectiveness on a quarterly basis.

## **Our key milestones**

### *By end of Dec*

- Scale up our communication strategy for our Plan and the One Hundred Brilliant Days campaign with support from all Council directorates and our partners
- Open online survey to seek voice of children and young people about our Plan

### *By end of Jan*

- Carry out further engagement for our Plan with our professional partners
- Work up partnership delivery programme for our collective strategic actions
- Complete data analysis and our draft indicator framework
- Approve draft text of plan at Birmingham Children's Partnership Board
- Complete draft memorandum of understanding with UNICEF

### *By end of Feb*

- Complete the online survey (open for six weeks), and co-design focus groups with children, young people, families
- Bring draft Plan and completed launch campaign timetable to CSLT
- Seek approval for draft text of our Plan at Birmingham Children's Partnership Board and at Council Leadership Team meeting
- Formally sign memorandum of understanding with UNICEF

### *By end of Mar*

- Approval of our draft plan at Council Cabinet (report deadline 10 Mar for meeting on 21 Mar) and at our partners' governance boards

### *By end of April*

- Launch our Plan on 17 April starting with One Hundred Brilliant Days campaign

### *By end of August*

- Evaluate launch campaign