

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 20 January 2020

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Local Committee with an update on the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Council Plan vision is to be a council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources. Outcomes include “people in Cumbria are healthy and safe” with “children, young people and the most vulnerable will be protected from harm” and be given the support they need to achieve their ambitions. Supporting outcomes such as locally responsive services will be in place to meet the different needs of different communities across Cumbria. The approach and work of the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Working Group contributes to the vision and outcomes.

2.2 The 0-19 funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within their areas to support positive outcomes, targeted and mainstream, designed to improve outcomes for children and young people and families to reduce inequalities. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.

2.3 Guidance agreed by Cabinet states that in allocating these funds Councillors should satisfy themselves that projects address at least one of the following:

- Provide access to play, recreational activities leisure or outdoor activities.**
- Provide access to care or educational activities.**
- Provide access to safe and enjoyable places for children and young people to go.**
- Provide access to holiday, weekend or out of school activities.**

- *Enable children and young people's involvement and participation eg forum, youth council, engagement, empowerment, decision-making.*
- *Support children and young people to take part in volunteering or community action.*

2.4 *The Barrow Area Plan sets out the three targeted priorities for the area, which are around Health and Well-Being, Early Help, and Economic Development, and details how the Council is delivering its services in support of them.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *Members note the work of the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Group at Appendix A.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 At the November Local Committee members agreed to the new approach for the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Group and the refreshing of the membership.

4.2 The meeting held on 4th December was a presentation delivered by Jonathan Taylor, Senior Manager for Children's Services Barrow & South Lakeland and highlighted areas of work responsible by Children's Services. The presentation was a follow up to the workshops previously undertaken and the key issues that had been identified by partners.

4.3 The main themes that the presentation highlighted and the Working Group were asked how they could assist centred around:

- Demand Management
- Front Door
- Babies
- Adolescents
- Step-downs

4.4 Case studies were presented by Sergeant Andy Travis from Barrow Police. The case studies highlighted early intervention and how working differently in partnership could achieve positive results to give young people the best opportunities.

4.5 The main themes highlighted by Children's Services and the Case Studies correlated with the issues that partners were addressing on a regular basis and going forward the Working Group would focus on key areas.

- Teenagers/adolescents – linking into anti-social behaviour in the town centre and lack of youth provision. This would form part of the Our Town Our Future project providing diversionary activities and working with Primary Schools.
- Children not attending School and processes around exclusions and difficulties returning to mainstream education. Home schooling project being undertaken.

- Local Safeguarding Hub in relation to identifying earlier intervention opportunities and addressing referrals.
- Communication and information sharing between both statutory and third-sector and how this could be further developed in order to address the key areas.

4.6 Membership will now be reviewed to ensure the right partners sit round the table to focus on the key areas.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The report is for noting.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the recommendation to note this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report which is for noting.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The Supporting Children & Strengthening Families new approach focusing on key thematic areas provides opportunities to work in a different way to address some challenging issues faced by young people and families.

Dawn Roberts
Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services

2nd January 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Supporting Children & Strengthening Families Notes – 4 December 2019

Electoral Divisions: Barrow Borough

Executive Decision

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------

Key Decision

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
--------------------------	----

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
--------------------------	--------------------------	-----

Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
--------------------------	----

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
--	--	-----

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
--	----

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
--	--	-----

Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
--	--	-----

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

18th November 2019

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

REPORT AUTHOR

Contact: Alison Meadows, Alison.Meadows@cumbria.gov.uk