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| COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW |
| Meeting date: 18 November 2019 |
| From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services |

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S WORKING GROUP –
2 OCTOBER 2019**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Local Committee with an update on the Children and Young People’s Working Group.

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 Children & Young People’s 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 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.*

2.5 *Local Committee is mindful of equality issues and duly considers that its actions and decisions do not result in inequality of service provision or exclusion from participation. The work of Local Committee directly supports the Council's wider equalities agenda.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *Members note the work of the Barrow Children & Young People's Working Group at Appendix A.*

3.2 *Members approve the new approach of the Children & Young People's Working Group as outlined in the report.*

3.3 *Members approve the re-naming of the Children & Young People's Working Group to 'Supporting Children and Strengthening Families'.*

3.4 *Members approve the Terms of Reference at Appendix B.*

3.5 *Members agree that the Children & Young People's Working Group refreshes the membership.*

3.6 *Members agree to approve £8,250 to Walney Community Trust for Universal Services provision from Universal Services Funding Budget.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Children & Young People's Working Group has been undertaking a review and looking at a new approach for its operations. This is to enable the Working Group to work in a more strategic, co-ordinated way with Children's Services and partners. By prioritising key issues in the local area and working as a partnership to address those issues it should assist the way partners can work on the ground directly with children, young people and families.

4.2 In December there will be a presentation by Children's Services updating on the current picture, challenges and priorities in the Barrow Borough area for Children's Services. This may be around numbers of Children Looked After, Children Missing, Child Sexual Exploitation, County Lines etc. As a Working Group it is proposed that the group is to focus on one of the priorities/themes at future meetings and as partners work together to address the particular priority/theme. This is to ensure a joined-up approach to the main concerns locally, how partners can be more proactive, share information, look at prevention and reduce demand.

- 4.3 In order to address the key priority/theme the Working Group will need to make sure it has the right key partners/organisations' individuals around the table. There will be a core membership of the Children & Young People's Working Group (Terms of Reference attached) however there needs to be flexibility for the group to bring in additional expertise/specialist support dependant on the priority/theme being addressed. This is also in line with the operation of the Highways Sub-Group and its Terms of Reference.
- 4.4 At the October meeting a workshop session was held with the Working Group to identify the key issues/challenges which organisations representing Children & Young People's Working Group faced when dealing with children, young people and families in the Barrow Borough area.
- 4.5 The organisations that participated or fed information through ahead of the workshop session were Dropzone, Furness Education Consortium, Barrow Police, Voluntary Sector including Action for Children, SAFA, Walney Community Trust, Barrow Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Integrated Care Communities.
- 4.6 There were four key questions asked of the organisations and the key comments/outcomes detailed.
- What are the re-occurring issues/themes that you frequently deal with?
Issues around numbers of children in care, children missing, county lines, knife crime and gang culture.
 - What do you feel works well that you do now with children, young people and families?
Positive role models, partnership working, activities in communities
 - What do you feel doesn't work well?
Links for Police and Children's Services and Public Health input.
 - What needs to change to make it work or work better?
Children, young people and families' multi-disciplinary team to be set up. Community policing. Plan, avoid duplication and fill gaps where needed. Need for a youth. Groups to support families therefore need representative from Adult Social Care to represent adults.
- 4.7 The re-naming of the Working Group from Children & Young People's Working Group to Supporting Children and Strengthening Families enables a whole-family approach by all partners to address the key issues.
- 4.8 The refreshing of the membership by having a core membership and the flexibility to bring on board additional representation from key partners whether public/voluntary sector with a keen interest and expertise in addressing the key issues enables a more holistic approach.
- 4.9 The new approach of the Children & Young People's Working Group enables funding to be strategically allocated to those priorities/themes where there is most need and to look to support gaps identified.
- 4.10 Walney Community Trust based at Spring Mount is a centre running lots of different groups within the building from youth groups to toddler groups, elderly contact groups, special interest groups and community meals.
- 4.11 The Trust runs a SNOW group (Saturday night on Walney) from 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm and has been piloting this project for the last 12 months. It meets each Saturday night and provides a place for people to socialise, chat over a

cup of coffee and have a hot meal. They provide age appropriate activities and these can vary from film night, baking, games night, pool, xbox, bingo, open-mic night, arts and crafts nights, clothes give and take nights. These are run by 3 workers each evening with 15-70 people depending on the night, averaging 30-40 a night. The group has a variety of people who attend weekly ranging from single people, families, young people, older men and women, single parents, ex-offenders, recovering addicts, leaving care young people and foster carers with their families.

- 4.12 The pilot has evidenced over the last 12 months that people attending the group are struggling and feel isolated, in need of support and a cooked hot meal and somewhere to socialise and engage with other people. It is an informal session and people can sit and chat with other people attending but also use it as a platform to identify anyone who may need some targeted help and can be signposted to other activities in the Centre or other support groups/practical help elsewhere. The session is now well-established and the organisation is seeking funding to support people for the longer-term and provide activities as appropriate. The group is also able to access items that people may need and pass on food from collections they make at Greggs, Aldi and the Co-op.
- 4.13 The main cohort of people that the Centre seeks to help is people in poverty and deprivation to access a free evening and help them connect with services and other people to support their health and wellbeing, reducing isolation. They aim to support struggling families, single parents and young people to keep them from offending or re-offending to help with mental health difficulties by way of active support. They provide opportunities for volunteers and employ staff from the local area, give encouragement to gain experience for future employment. Examples have been an opportunity for an ex-offender helping cooking in the kitchen alongside a recovered (10 years) alcoholic. A girl in her 20s who has never had a job due to mental health difficulties and a single mum of 5 who has fled a domestic violence situation. They also direct people to life skills, money management, parenting, dependancy and mental health courses.
- 4.14 The project meets the Council Plan to ensure people in Cumbria are healthy and safe and that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members may choose to approve, vary or reject the recommendations 3.2 to 3.5 outlined in the report although without approval of the new approach and refreshing the membership the Working Group is hindered to progressing strategically.
- 5.2 Members may choose to approve, vary or reject the recommendation 3.6 in respect of proposed financial commitments of the grant award.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed terms of reference Supporting Children and Strengthening Families Working Group are consistent with the Constitution with regard to resource allocation. Working Groups may make recommendations to Local Committee for the allocation of funding but it is for Local Committee to agree allocation of funding within its overall delegated budget (recommendation 3.4).
- 6.2 There is currently £45,841 uncommitted in the Local Committee discretionary budget allocated to 0-19 Services, if Local Committee decide to agree a grant of £8,250 to the Walney Community Trust from the 0-19 Services allocation, there would be £37,591 remaining for future commitment (recommendation 3.6).

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Constitution states that Local Committees may establish working groups or sub-groups to progress key areas of work between meetings of the local committee. Working groups and sub-groups do not have decision making powers.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report provides an opportunity for members to refresh, re-name and drive forward a new strategic approach for the Children & Young People's Working Group.

Dawn Roberts
Executive Director – Corporate, Customer & Community Services

28 October 2019

APPENDICES

- Appendix A** – **Children & Young People's Working Group Notes 2nd October 2019**
- Appendix B** – **Terms of Reference – Supporting Children & Strengthening Families**

Electoral Divisions: Barrow Borough

Executive Decision

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| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Key Decision

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

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| | No |
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

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

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| | No |
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

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| | | N/A |
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

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| | | N/A |
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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