

23 July 2021		ITEM: 8
Health & Wellbeing Board		
Children's Partnership update: The Brighter Future's Strategy – Developing Well in Thurrock 2021 -2026		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No	
Report of: Teresa Salami- Oru, Assistant Director for Public Health		
Accountable Head of Service: Shiela Murphy, Corporate Director for Children's Services		
Accountable Director: Shelia Murphy, Corporate Director for Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This paper provides an update on progress made in developing the Brighter Future's Children & Young People's strategy. The Brighter Futures Children's Partnership represents the highest place level strategic partnership board for children and young people and is overseeing the development of the Brighter Futures Strategy.

Over the last two years the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership Board has undergone a journey of considerable significance, characterised by change and transformation, demonstrated by a desire to refresh its vision and gain clarity on the roadmap for delivery over the next five years. A refresh process therefore commenced in October 2020 led by the Assistant Director for Public Health, supported by a task and finish group chaired by the Executive Corporate Director for Children's Services. A process of need identification, narrative explanation and priority synthesis was adopted. Need was understood through the analysis of high level epidemiological data, stakeholder views and young people's voices.

A five year strategy has now been drafted and is currently going through an agreed governance process. The Brighter Futures Partnership Board agreed the strategy in principal in June 2021. A public consultation is also being held on the strategy for an eight week period. Consultation commenced 22nd June 2021. It is anticipated the

strategy will be published by September 2021 and feed into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1** For the Board to approve the Brighter Futures Strategy in principle and delegate authority to the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership Board for strategy approval and endorsement.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Over the last two years the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership Board has undergone a journey of considerable significance, characterised by change and transformation. The partnership has experienced change by agreeing to do things differently and experienced transformation, by accepting a new way of being. The former has required a shift in behaviours and the latter a shift in values. The partnership has now agreed to,

- Subscribe to a shared vision, with a view to driving strategic decision making and planning
- Create a new future, which strives to achieve the best outcomes for our children and young people
- Be driven by evidence
- Embrace meaningful co-productive methods that puts the voice of the child and young person at the centre of service design and delivery

2.2. To ensure all partners fully subscribed to the above agreed actions, a "re-casting" the vision workshop was held with stakeholders in April 2019. Outcomes from the workshop included stakeholder agreement to recast the Brighter Futures Vision through the development of a refreshed strategy. Strategy development commenced in October 2020, four key strategic priorities have now been agreed:

1. All children are able to achieve their potential – focusing on education and skills
2. Children are able to access the services they need to stay healthy, focusing on prevention and early intervention focusing on maternity, 0-5 and 5-19
3. All children can live safely in their communities, focusing on preventing serious youth violence and gang membership
4. Children and their families experience good emotional health and wellbeing focusing on strengthening protective factors and reducing risk

factors that impact on children and young people’s mental health and commissioning of services that support/treat children and young people and their families with mental ill health.

Figure 1:

Brighter Futures Strategy 2021- 2026

Corporate Priority	PEOPLE	PEOPLE	PEOPLE	PROSPERITY
Brighter Futures Strategic Priority	95% of children are engaged in school/other activities	95% children are able to access the services they need and be healthy, focusing on prevention and early intervention	95% of children are safe in their communities – with a focus on Youth Justice	95% children and young people experience good emotional health and wellbeing
Priority Lead	Assistant Director for Education & Skills	Assistant Director for Public Health	Assistant Director for Children’s Social Care	Director for CYP Mid & South Essex
Ambitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support young people to gain qualifications, skills, and experience to progress into sustained employment Improve educational attainment for all disadvantaged children and young people All children are able to access education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children start school ready to learn All children achieve a healthy weight. All children are protected from illness and disease All children receive the care they need in the right place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop surveillance to identify the most at risk children and families and intervene early with tailored intervention packages Deliver targeted and tailored primary prevention for populations with greater need Intervene early with tailored secondary prevention to reduce the harms of exposure to violence and violence risk behaviours Provide tertiary prevention for perpetrators and victims of violence to reduce further harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen our whole school approach, with a view to ensuring all children are thriving and have access to the support they need Identify and implement solutions which recognise needs early and improve access to targeted and specialist interventions Tackle the social inequalities that put young people at a disadvantage to achieving good mental health.

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2.3 The Brighter Futures Partnership and Corporate Director for Children’s Services have decided a phased approach to the strategy’s completion to enable robust consultation and user voice capture. The strategy is now being taken through agreed governance routes. Proposed governance itinerary,

- The Brighter Futures Board – June 2021 (approved in principal)
- The Youth Cabinet – July 2021 (approved)
- Health & Well Being Board July 2021– (approval in principal sought)
- The Thurrock Integrated Care Partnership- August 2021 (noting)
- Thurrock CCG Board - September 2021 (approval)
- The Thurrock Clinical Professional Forum (TBC) (noting)
- The Growing Well Board – October 2021 for noting/information

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The Brighter Futures Partnership Board wish to publish the strategy in September 2021 as agreement has already been received by the wider stakeholder community. Additionally this timeline aligns more closely with the completion of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Given this commitment the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the strategy in principle

(please see appendix 1) and delegate authority to the Brighter Futures Children's Partnership for final approval of the strategy.

The Board will be kept apprised of progress against the ambitions within the strategy bi annually. The Annual Brighter Futures Outcomes Framework report will also be brought to the Board for consideration and note.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Publication for the Brighter Futures strategy is planned for September 2021. In order to achieve this deadline the Board is asked to delegate authority for approval to the Brighter Futures Partnership and approve the strategy in principal.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

The consultation process with the public is ongoing throughout July through the Council Consultation portal. This will come to an end in August 2021

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Brighter Futures strategy feeds into the Health and Wellbeing strategy and is aligned to the TICP strategy and local needs assessments. Figure 1 demonstrates the alignment with corporate priorities.
- 6.2 Co-production is one of the seven principles underpinning the Brighter Futures strategy, workshops were therefore conducted with young people aged between 11 and 18 (n=29). Semi structured interviews were also held with 12 young people. Findings from these activities have served to shape the strategy and assure partners that strategic priorities are aligned to what young people deem as important.

7. Implications

7.1 Finance.

Implications verified by: David May, Strategic Lead Finance
dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

Finance approved contained within existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Courage Emovon, Principal Lawyer / Manager
Contracts / Legal Services
CEmovon@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no direct legal implications, however legal services will be on hand to advice on any implications arising from this report. It is noted that the Council have a statutory obligation for the protection and wellbeing of Children in its area of jurisdiction.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Rebecca Lee, Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities
ree@thurrock.gov.uk

Inequalities is one of the seven underpinning principles of the Brighter Futures Strategy. It is noted that if inequalities are not tackled at an early age, it is unlikely that the inequalities gap will be narrowed as children get older. A full community equality impact assessment (CEIA) will be completed to ensure the final strategy mitigates the risk of inequalities including those that may be identified through the consultative process. This will ensure the strategy itself and implementation supports delivery of the council's equality objectives while maintaining compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

8. Background papers used in preparing the report

9. Appendices to the report

- Brighter Futures Strategy - Developing Well Thurrock 2021 -2026

Report Author:

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