



## Report of the Chair of the Safeguarding Policy Development and Delivery Committee

Cabinet – 17 May 2018

### Joining Up Services Around Children

<b>Purpose:</b>	To report back to Cabinet on progress of the Committee in relation to the Council commitment to continue to develop services that join up around the child
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Corporate Plan; Council UNCRC scheme, Corporate Parenting Strategy
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Cabinet note the feedback from the Committee
<b>Report Author:</b>	Chris Sivers
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Cridland
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Catherine Window

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Policy Development and Delivery Committee (PDDC) when first established agreed a workplan for 2017/18. The workplan had a focus on some key areas agreed as policy commitments at the Council meeting on 27 July 2017. Amongst these was one relating to joining up services around children:

*We will ensure that children and young people are engaged and consulted on council policy and decision making to ensure their voices and opinions are heard. We will promote the United National Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to give children a voice.*

1.2 Since that time, the PDDC has explored a number of areas and services that support this ambition and are considering ways of further developing the policy agenda.

## **2. The Work of the Committee in 2017/18**

2.1 The Committee invited speakers and held discussions on a series of items, in order to further develop their understanding of what work is already being delivered and where potential gaps and challenges might be.

2.2 At meetings during 2017/18, the Committee has discussed:

- Corporate Parenting Board
- Family Support Continuum and Commissioning Review
- CYP Strategic Partnership Board
- Big Conversation and Super Survey
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child / Rights Respecting Schools Award
- How schools work with and prioritise children who are being looked after.

2.3 In their discussions, Committee members talked about what a strong joined up system around the child might look like. These were the areas they commented on:

- We focus our efforts on outcomes for the child
- We agree with other organisations an overall strategy and actions for children and young people
- We have embedded children's rights in our moral purpose and service delivery
- We provide information for families that is easy to access with a single point of contact
- We are ambitious in terms of outcomes for children and support their achievement
- Support for children and families is seamless, whoever provides that support
- For children who are potentially unable to achieve their potential, we provide proportionate support at the right time
- We understand the needs of children and families and particularly those who have additional needs
- We ensure that children and young people are involved in our developing services and we act on their views and opinions – we have an open and honest conversation with children and young people if we cannot do it
- We prioritise safeguarding and work to keep children safe
- We have a consistent and cross-cutting performance framework across a range of services.

2.4 For the Council, the primary way we have developed activity to do this is through the Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy for our work

with other public and voluntary sector agencies and the development of our continuum of support through the Family Support Commissioning Review and implementation arrangements.

### **3. UNCRC and Engaging Young People**

- 3.1 An annual progress report on the progress of the implementation of the Children's Rights Scheme in relation to embedding the UNCRC is produced annually and has been discussed at Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and full Council through November and December 2017, as per the Council's Children's Rights scheme.
- 3.2 The report outlines progress in relation to the objectives in the Children's Rights Scheme which are:
- Making such arrangements as is considered suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them, as required in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
  - Developing knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC through training for all staff and decision makers within the City and County of Swansea, including other statutory and key voluntary partners.
  - Promotion and awareness raising of the UNCRC.
  - Ensuring appropriate and robust mechanisms are in place to receive feedback and complaints in relation to the UNCRC.
  - Ensuring compliance, accountability and impact of the UNCRC due regard duty that is evidenced based.

### **Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)**

- 3.3 The work with schools to meet the original target of all schools in Swansea being on their journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School by 2017 has been very successful.

Reach of RRSA process 2013 – 2017:

- Approximately 48,358 children and young people
- Approximately 2052 teaching staff
- Approximately 1324 non-teaching staff

Achievements of the RRSA process 2013-2017 (@August 2017):

- Not Engaged / No Contact – 0 schools
- Engaged and Trained – 9 schools
- Record of Commitment/Action Plan – 11 schools
- Level 1 – 51 schools
- Level 2 – 25 schools

### **Engagement of children and young people**

- 3.4 We have a number of mechanisms for engaging with children and young people (CYP) – and the main ones are listed below:

- Big Conversation (1 Every half term)
- Pupil Voice Forum (1 Every half term)
- Participation in Early Years Settings – Family Information Services/Flying Start
- 123 Forum – LAC 7-11 (School Holidays)
- Shout Out Forum – LAC 11-18 (Fortnightly)
- Consultation & Engagement Events
- CYP Super Survey (Bi-annually)
- Total of 5577 C&YP engaged (annually)

### 3.5 Themes explored through the Big Conversations included:

- Mental health – 19.05.16
- Anti-bullying – 15.07.16
- Housing and homelessness – 30.09.16
- Support in transition to adulthood – 18.11.17
- Sustainable Swansea – 20.01.17
- Domestic abuse – 31.03.17
- Substance abuse – 20.05.17
- Feeling safe in school – 07.07.17
- A curriculum for life – 29.09.17
- Budget – 19.1.18
- Wellbeing (Primary Schools) – 7.2.18
- Extremism – 23.3.18

### 3.6 Outcomes from the Big Conversations have included:

- Swansea Council's Housing Service is working to develop a young people's advisory group for the service.
- As a result of the discussing the Council's budget, the proposal to increase school meals was modified to better meet the needs of children and families in Swansea.
- The Big Healthy Relationship Conversation raised questions about the curriculum and what could be included in PSHE lessons.

### 3.7 The Pupil Voice Forum conversations covered the following topics:

- What does the "Best education" look like
- School Meals Service Review
- Welsh in Education Strategic Policy
- Play provision in schools
- Introducing the New Chief Education Officer
- High 5 Awards
- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance Strategies
- Education Department priorities
- Safer Swansea Campaign
- Identity & Equality
- Wellbeing in Schools

### 3.8 Outcomes from the Pupil Voice Forum conversations include:

- A request to consider blanket policies for schools that showcase good practice and set some consistency to approach
- A request from pupils to consider more pro-active wellbeing/anti-bullying and mental health support in schools
- Exploration of sustainable, greener energy efficient alternatives
- Discussion and request to centralize a database for bullying reporting
- A request to move toward accessible language in all documents produced and brought to the Pupil Voice Forum.

### 3.9 Committee members were updated on the Supersurvey:

- An online, interactive, bilingual survey
- Aimed at Children and Young People aged 11-19
- Designed in partnership with schools & Viewpoint
- Carried out bi-annually in Secondary Schools
- Responses are anonymous
- Opportunity for pupils to leave contact details if they require help/support
- Data from the survey - informs and provides evidence for a range of partnership priorities
- All participating schools receive individual reports

### 3.10 This the 3<sup>rd</sup> Super Survey we have run. Over the Summer and Autumn terms of 2016 the views of **3,688** young people were gathered through the Survey.

*This is a 14% rise in survey participants in comparison to the 2014 Super Survey, which 3,225 young people took part in.*

- Thirteen secondary schools participated.  
Most of the data was collected through ten of them.  
A minority of data was gathered through other settings.

### 3.11 Committee members were pleased to hear the results and breadth of activity that was taking place to ensure that the voices of children and young people are being heard in developing Council policy.

## 4. Additional Activity to Support this Ambition

### 4.1 In addition to the work areas listed above, across the Council much additional activity to develop joined up working around children is being carried out, a sample of which is listed below:

- Activity to support young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Transformational activity to remodel Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)
- Safeguarding arrangements in schools
- Partnership working on reducing the numbers of young people offending and reoffending through the Youth Offending Service

- The Commissioning Review on the introduction of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Bill
- Identification of and support for young carers
- Swansea's Wellbeing Strategy
- Employability activities targeted at young people experiencing care
- Safeguarding and child protection arrangements
- The practise models and rights based approaches to coproducing support plans through the Signs of Safety and Signs of Wellbeing models
- Development of a cross-cutting performance framework for services working with children and young people, to gauge impacts and flows between services
- Development of a People Commissioning Hub.

These may potentially become areas for further development with the Committee, in the coming municipal year.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 On the whole, we are satisfied that the current policies being adopted by the Council, working with other agencies, achieve good outcomes for children and young people. Having invested significant effort in becoming more joined up for young people in recent years within our own services, increasing challenges in how we join up services with other organisations have emerged more strongly. For further step change in our focus on children, the Committee has considered how joined up the Council services are around children and young people and suggests that the Cabinet may wish to consider the pace and scale of change amongst wider partnerships and the city and county as a whole.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **8. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 8.1 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report, beyond the outline of engagement activity with young people in paragraphs 3.4 – 3.10.

**Background papers:** None.

**Appendices:** None