

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Integrated Children's Trust update**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- reiterate the role and remit of the Integrated Children's Trust
- to articulate the progress made against the Children's Commissioning Strategy 2020/24 shine a light areas of focus
- to clarify the progress to date to refresh the Children's Commissioning Strategy in the context of the Place Partnership and the underpinning Health and Care Integration Plan

2.1 The Integrated Children's Trust (ICT) was established in January 2020, as the singular vehicle for developing our integrated approach and commissioning intent in relation to health, social care and education for children, young people and families. The scope of our commissioning intent is broad and refers to internal and external provision, commissioning, recommissioning and decommissioning as well as service review and redesign.

2.2 The ICT has a key role in the oversight, line of sight and development of all services for children, young people and families including those commissioned and or directly provided. This reflects the breadth of the children's system, including participation, prevention and protection and reinforces the importance of schools, colleges, other agencies and communities as part of our integration agenda.

2.3 The ICT terms of reference was refreshed in May 2022 to re-articulate the governance, membership, role and remit of the partnership which is set in the context of the associated strategic framework including the Health and Care Integration Plan and the Children's Commissioning Strategy. The ICT is accountable to the North Lincolnshire Place Partnership (sub committee of the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board) and has a relationship with the Integrated Adults Partnership and the North Lincolnshire Population Health Management and Prevention Collaborative, which are also accountable to the Place Partnership. The ICT also has regard to and a line of sight on the work an impact of other key children/person centric and place based boards and partnerships to consider the widest of issues to inform our commissioning intent, including but not exhaustive, the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.4 Following a period of consultation, engagement and needs analysis, the Children's Commissioning Strategy 2020/24 was endorsed in September 2020 via partnership and democratic governance arrangements. The strategy articulates our One Family Approach to create a system that works for all children, young people and families to contribute to our ambition for children to remain in their families, in their schools and in their communities. The strategy identifies five initial 'shine a light' areas of focus for partnership action, as follows:

- One Family Approach
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Early Years
- SEND Support
- Children's Challenge

2.5 Through identified leads and partnership delivery groups, the ICT has had oversight of activity, impact and outcomes pertaining the 'shine a light' areas of focus, which has been demonstrated through routine reporting into quarterly meetings. At the meeting in April 2022, as part of our commitment for a mid-term review, a composite progress review was presented to the ICT, examples of headline progress, impact and outcomes include:

#### One Family Approach

- The One Family Approach (OFA) is now even further embedded as the framework for integrated leadership and commissioning across the partnership in North Lincolnshire
- The OFA practice model is increasingly understood across our partnership working, with evidence being seen in scrutiny and assurance activity under the auspices of the Children's MARS Board
- Progress is being made towards achieving the ambitions of the Supporting Families programme, and North Lincolnshire is more data-mature, with more partnership data being shared in order to identify families that have been helped to make and sustain changes
- The Partnership Integrated Triage (PIT STOP) is now well embedded as an example of OFA in action and the partnership is coming together to respond quickly at lowest point to children and families who may need early help
- The 0-2 pathway and Multi Agency Pre-birth Liaison and Consultation (MAPLAC) forum are further examples of the OFA in action, resulting in additional support to households with vulnerable babies and a more joined-up approach to identifying families needing extra help
- Following consultation with schools, settings, early help professionals, children and families, early help forms and associated guidance have been refreshed and there have been improvements in the functionality and reporting capacity of the early help assessment system

#### Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

- The digital offer to access emotional wellbeing and mental health support has been further developed i.e. through enhancements in RDASH's online offer including e-clinic and self-referrals
- Commissioned With Me In Mind Mental Health Support Teams in schools and working with young people to raise awareness

- Identified opportunities for senior leaders and managers to be trained in relation to trauma informed practice and wider workforce development pending
- Enhanced support regarding specialist eating disorders in place to respond to demand

### Early Years

- Joint health, care and education briefings to introduce the revised Communication Counts offer
- The new Communication Counts triage and monitoring service and partnership working is having a direct impact on children and families including step down from specialist services
- A new series of early intervention groups 'family play' have been added to the menu of targeted groups which have received positive feedback
- Early years cluster groups established to bring together schools, academies and early years settings to provide opportunities for focussed discussions and support across the sector
- Agreed a definition of 'school readiness' which provides a common understanding, enabling parents and families to work together towards supporting their child to be school ready
- Ready for school partnership event(s) held with 'top tips' developed for families to support children's transition to school
- Ongoing focus on continuous professional development across early years professionals

### SEND Support

- Supported additional resourced provision in school settings, which is positively impacting on suspension figures
- Worked collaboratively with head teachers and principals to review delivery approaches in relation to alternative learning provision for young people at key stages 3 and 4 to support quality inclusion
- Expanded the number of post 16/19 supported internships so that more young people with SEND can access learning and training opportunities in the workplace
- Targeted support for young people with SEND from year 9 onwards with a focus on preparation for adulthood

### Children's Challenge

- Progress made against the challenges identified in the Children's Challenge with examples of positive impact on children, young people and families
- Ongoing commitment to engagement with children, young people and families at all levels through a range of mechanisms including planning processes, groups, networks and forums like the Children in Care Council, Positive Steps Working Group and the Children and Young People's Partnership
- Developed part time, casual Supported Families in Partnership Assistant posts for people with lived experiences of services to work with others to help listen, learn, review and adapt systems, process, support and services

- Held bespoke consultation activity with children, young people and families i.e. in relation to the family and community offer, positive activities, education and emotional well-being, and key headlines have been shared with key partnerships and governance arrangements, and with children, young people and families themselves

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Work is underway on a mid-term refresh of the Children’s Challenge 2020/24 to better reflect current need, views and experiences, which will help to inform future commissioning intents.
- 3.2 In addition, work is underway on a mid-term refresh of the Children’s Commissioning Strategy 2020/24. This is taking into account the progress to date, and the outcomes of consultation and engagement activity with partners as well as children, young people and families, including the refresh of the Children’s Challenge. Emerging ‘shine a light’ areas of focus include:
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health
  - Best start in life
  - Adolescents and youth offer
  - Outcomes for children and young people with vulnerabilities
- 3.3 As part of this work, there is an amplified focus on aligning the Children’s Commissioning Strategy with the Place Partnership strategic intent and the associated Health and Care Integration Plan, which is in development. Conversations are ongoing to further develop the partnership action associated with the Children’s Commissioning Strategy ‘shine a light’ areas of focus and enablers; to ensure the children’s agenda is best represented in the integration plan; that it is reported into the Place Partnership; and that underpinning reporting through the ICT is aligned.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There is evidence of the strength of partnership working to respond to our Children’s Commissioning Strategy which is having a positive impact on the experiences of our children, young people and families.
- 4.2 There is an ongoing commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt and work is underway to refresh our Children’s Commissioning Strategy. There is a need to refresh our Children’s Commissioning Strategy in line with the development of the Health and Care Integration Plan. It is anticipated that this work will come to fruition in Q4 2022/23.

### 5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report. The ‘shine a light’ areas of focus identified in the Children’s Commissioning Strategy for oversight and line of sight will subsequently impact on resources and the integrated children’s offer.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The Children's Commissioning Strategy contributes to the priorities and outcomes articulated within the council plan.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to the original Children's Commissioning Strategy and will be revisited as required.

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 The outcomes of consultation and engagement have helped to shape and influence the content and refresh of the Children's Commissioning Strategy.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the ICT progress and developments to date and acknowledges the direction of travel regarding the refresh of the Children's Commissioning Strategy in the context of the Health and Care Integration Plan.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:** None