

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2022-2027
DATE OF DECISION:	14 MARCH 2022 (CABINET) 23 MARCH 2022 (COUNCIL)
JOINT REPORT OF:	COUNCILLORS J BAILLIE AND P BAILLIE CABINET MEMBERS FOR EDUCATION AND FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None
BRIEF SUMMARY
<p>This paper outlines the design, consultation and completion of a new Children and Young People's Strategy (and supporting action plans) to run from 2022 – 2027. The purpose of this paper is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek the approval of Cabinet for the Children and Young People's Strategy to be adopted (supporting action plans are included as appendices for information only and not for Cabinet decision, except for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan which requires Council approval) • Recommend for Council to approve and adopt the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. <p>Southampton's Children and Young People's Strategy expired in 2020, and the Children and Learning Service have worked with the Policy and Strategy Team to develop a new strategy. The Children and Young People's Strategy 2022-2027 aims to provide a strategic direction for Southampton to improve the outcomes for children and young people across the city. The strategy has been co-produced with input from over 300 children across schools and youth projects and from parents, the service, Special Educational Needs and Early Help forums.</p>

The strategy will aim to have a positive impact on all children, young people and their families who live, work, and visit Southampton. Data shows that Southampton as a city remains high for levels of deprivation and poverty, and has challenges with community safety, but the strategy will look to review the statistics and work in a collective way to overcome issues the city faces. In order to achieve this, the strategy will focus on:

- Early intervention, prevention, and inclusion
- Relationship based work
- Locality Working
- A skilled and stable workforce

Children & Learning have also used this opportunity to create eight action plans which sit alongside this strategy as well as the service improvement plan. These plans are attached as appendices for information, and are as follows:

- Early Years
- Prevention and Early Help
- Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing
- Participation
- Education
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Corporate Parenting
- Youth Justice

As the Youth Justice Strategic Plan is part of the Council’s Policy Framework, this item is on the Forward Plan to be considered and adopted by Council.

All local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out local youth offending partnerships’ responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:

- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
- How the Youth Offending Service or equivalent will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out.

RECOMMENDATIONS (CABINET):

	(i)	To adopt the Children and Young People’s Strategy; and
	(ii)	To recommend that Council approve the Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS (COUNCIL):

	(i)	To adopt the Youth Justice Strategic Plan.
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REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To ensure that the City has a coherent and strategic approach to supporting Children and Young People over the next five years.
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2.	To ensure that the Council has a clear strategy in place to meet statutory obligations for providing services for children and young people in the City.
3.	To ensure that the Council has met its statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of Youth Justice Services. The priorities within the plan reflect key performance indicators which need to be addressed locally, and also reflect themes set out in the Children and Young People's Strategy and Safe City strategy.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
4.	An alternative option is to not develop and approve a strategy for children and young people. This is not recommended as it is important for the Council to provide a clear and accessible statement of intent about how it will work with partners to improve outcomes for children and young people in the city.
5.	Failure to endorse the Youth Justice Strategic Plan could result in removal of Youth Justice Grant which would have significant financial and reputational impact upon the Local Authority.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
6.	Extensive stakeholders, partners, young people and other interested groups were consulted by the Council during the design and co-production of this Children and Young People's Strategy. The Children and Young People's Strategy has also had Executive Director and Executive Management Board oversight throughout development and drafting phases for this final document. In addition, a range of working groups and one to one discussions with key internal staff, elected representatives and external partners were conducted. Presentations at various stages of strategy development were undertaken to inform and update external partners on progress and to invite feedback.
7.	The Council undertook public consultation of the draft strategy (the individual action plans were not included as part of this consultation). This consultation took place between 20th September 2021 and 12th December 2021. The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback, however respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals.
8.	The aim of this consultation was to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the draft strategy clearly to residents and stakeholders • Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have • Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives in a different way.
9.	In total, the Council received 333 responses during this consultation process (268 to the young person's questionnaire, 63 to the main consultation questions, and a further 2 letters in response to the consultation). Responses were carefully examined, and all feedback has been used to inform revisions and updates to the final strategy version. A full analysis of the public engagement exercise feedback is included in the members room documents.
10.	In production of the Youth Justice Plan, the Council engaged both internally and externally with partners and other stakeholders. The plan was reviewed and endorsed by the Southampton Youth Offending Service Management

	Board, signed off by the Executive Director for Children and Wellbeing, and has been approved by the Youth Justice Board.
11.	The Youth Justice Plan was not subject to a separate public consultation – there is significant crossover in some strategic themes within both the Children and Young People’s Strategy and the Safe City Strategy, which were both separately undergoing full review at the same time and were each subject to a full 12 week public consultation during the last quarter of 2021.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
12.	This strategy aims to co-ordinate action that is already being delivered by the Council and its partners. There are no additional resource requirements arising from approving the strategy, as this is already accounted for in existing budgets. Any additional activity identified as part of action plans will be considered for feasibility within normal yearly budgeting activity.
13.	The principal vehicle for achieving the service’s strategic aspirations is the Destination 22 programme. The programme’s outcomes framework aligns with the strategic objectives.
14.	Funding for Youth Justice in Southampton comes from a number of different streams; Local Authority, Health, Police and Crime Commissioner, National Probation Service, Youth Justice Board and individual bespoke grant arrangements.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
15.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
16.	The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is a Policy Framework Plan and a legal requirement under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
17.	<p>A new Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board will provide oversight and governance of the Children and Young People’s Strategy. Elements of the strategy will be supported in other strategic forums such as the Southampton SEND Partnership Forum, Youth Justice Management Board, Safe City Partnership and Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.</p> <p>The consultation and design of the proposed strategies and plans has been undertaken having regard to the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010, in particular s.149 the Public Sector Equality Duty ‘PSED’. All actions delivered under strategies and associated Action Plans will be implemented having regard to this duty. The Youth Justice Plan has been developed having regard to s.17 Crime & Disorder Act and the need to reduce or eliminate crime & disorder in the local area in addition to the specific statutory requirement to adopt a Plan for the local area.</p>

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
18.	Southampton City Council will have yearly reviews of the Children and Young People's Strategy and will monitor a range of indicators that will be available on the Southampton Data Observatory. This data and other analysis will be used to monitor progress and inform the ongoing development of actions to achieve the strategic objectives.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
19.	This paper seeks Cabinet approval of the Children and Young People's Strategy 2022-2027. Supporting action plans for the strategy are included as appendices to this report for information only (action plans have been determined under delegated powers). The strategy and all actions plans are also on the Forward Plan for Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) on 10 th March 2022.
20.	The Youth Justice Strategic Plan, part of the Council's Policy Framework, is required to follow a different governance process and will therefore be considered separately by Scrutiny and Full Council. This plan has not been subject to a separate public consultation (as set out earlier in this paper).

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
	None.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	Children and Young People's Strategy 2022 – 27
2.	Youth Justice Strategic Plan
3.	Early Years Action Plan
4.	Prevention and Early Help Action Plan
5.	Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing Action Plan
6.	Participation Action Plan
7.	Education Action Plan
8.	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Action Plan
9.	Corporate Parenting Action Plan
10.	CYP Strategy ESIA
11.	Youth Justice ESIA

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
Data Protection Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)