

<b>Report to:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Wednesday 11 September 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Early Help Strategy progress update		
<b>Report of:</b>	Tanya Wilcock, Head of Communities	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	N	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	N/A		

### Summary:

The paper is to update the Board on the progress made towards the establishment of a Sefton Early Help Strategy. The paper also asks the board to note the final version of the strategy prior to sign off from the Early Help Strategic Partnership Group. This paper follows a previous paper to the Health and Wellbeing board on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### Recommendation(s):

(1) The board is asked to note the final draft strategy that will be presented to the Early Help Strategic Partnership Group for sign off on 24 September 2019.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure the board is fully informed of the progress towards finalising the Early Help Strategy.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None identified.

### What will it cost and how will it be financed?

#### (A) Revenue Costs

None identified.

#### (B) Capital Costs

None identified.

**Implications of the Proposals:** To develop our approach to early intervention and prevention and support to parent, carers and young people.

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None identified.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> There are no legal implications
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

<b>Protect the most vulnerable:</b> Through the intervention by the Council and its partners at the most critical moment when young people and parents/carers require our support to prevent further reliance on public sector in the future. The delivery of services which are based on the needs of the most vulnerable in society.
<b>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</b> It is essential that we develop and strengthen approaches to support young people and families.
<b>Commission, broker and provide core services:</b> A range of services are provided to support young people and families.
<b>Place – leadership and influencer:</b> Leadership is essential and identifying locations to support families in communities is a key part of our core purpose.
<b>Drivers of change and reform:</b> The strategy acknowledges that agencies will be addressing their own distinct needs and meeting a range of key performance indicators against a variety of policy drivers and aims to provide an umbrella framework of key principles that can be applied across all agendas.
<b>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</b> N/A
<b>Greater income for social investment:</b> N/A
<b>Cleaner Greener</b> N/A

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5764/19) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4888/19) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

There will be facilitated sessions across the Borough and communications across various media channels.

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## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Terms of reference for the Early Help Partnership Group.

Appendix 2: Latest draft of the Early Help Strategy.

Appendix 3: Latest draft of the Early Help Strategy on a page.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Following the publication in July 2018, of revised statutory guidance; “Working Together to Safeguard Children: guidance to inter-agency working’ to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” and the clear identified increasing need in Sefton, the Council looked to establish an Early Help Strategy. On the 13th March 2019, the Board received a paper to present an initial draft of the Early Help Strategy and outline the next steps in producing a final version.
- 1.2 Subsequent to the Board partners met on 20 March 2019 to discuss the composition of the new Early Help Strategy. The initial draft version was presented to the group, chaired by Dwayne Johnson. The outcome of this meeting was that the strategy needed further work in the form of a more detailed narrative and an accompanying action plan. Partners provided feedback and based on this the strategy was updated.
- 1.3 The Early Help Partnership Group has now been established and held their first meeting on 3 July 2019 chaired by Tanya Wilcock, Head of Communities, Sefton Council. Tanya will continue as Chair. At this meeting, the terms of reference for the group were agreed. A copy of the terms of reference can be found in appendix one. The partnership group also agreed changes to the Early Help Strategy and changes to the strategy on a page at this meeting. A final draft Early Help Strategy has now been completed with an accompanying ‘Strategy on a page’. These can be viewed at appendix two and three.
- 1.4 The final version of the strategy is due to be signed off by the Early Help Partnership Group at their next meeting, on the 24th September 2019.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Early help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family early on when a problem emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child’s life from pre-birth through to adulthood and applies to any problem or need that the family cannot deal with or meet on their own.
- 2.2 We have long established the essential need for agencies to work together to meet our communities needs and deliver a strategic approach that ensures right help, right person, right time.

- 2.3 The Strategy aims to ensure Sefton is a good place for Children and Young People to live and grow up, receive immunisations, have access to a wide range of physical activity opportunities and enjoy overall improving health.

The JSNA (which can be viewed here [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-\(jsna\).aspx](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-(jsna).aspx)) highlights areas we need to improve on as Obesity rates, Alcohol related Hospital admissions in under 18's, the rising birth rate with non British mothers (statistically requiring greater support), the higher smoking rates in pregnancy and lower than average breast feeding rates. The number of looked after children in Sefton is rising and was reported as 540 at the last count.

### 3. Update from Previous Report

- 3.1 In the previous report an extract from the strategy described the vision, principles and partnership commitments required to deliver our Early Help strategy as follows;

**Vision** - Our ambition is that all children, young people and families in Sefton will be safe, healthy and happy, and will aspire to be the best they can be. In Sefton we believe that every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. We believe that children should grow and achieve within their own families and communities, when it is in their best interests and it is safe for them to do so. By working together, we will develop flexible services which are responsive to children and families' needs.

**Principles** - The principles we will adopt will be based upon the following:

- A system wide approach, with joint, pooled resources and pathways operating across organisational boundaries
- An outcome focussed, system wide approach delivering long term sustainable solutions for individuals and families to secure resilience and independence
- A shift from acute provision to an increase in prevention and early help activity
- Evidence based services that are built around customer need
- Locality based delivery

**Partnership Commitments** - As a partnership, we will:

- Understand those families where children may be at risk of not reaching their full potential and share concerns
- Build a relationship with the family as early as possible, and work with them to create a family environment that provides children with the best life chances and prevent problems from arising or escalating
- Reduce the number of children and their families requiring support from specialist services.

These have not changed in the current version.

3.2 However the 'scope' of the strategy has been added to and reads:

“Effective early help requires a whole family approach and encompasses all stakeholders working with children and families. This includes Health, Police, Education, Children’s Social Care, Local Authority Early Help, Voluntary and Community organisations and the wider public.

The strategy acknowledges that agencies will be addressing their own distinct needs and meeting a range of key performance indicators against a variety of policy drivers and aims to provide an umbrella framework of key principles that can be applied across all agendas.

Engagement with the strategy by all sectors will require some cultural and operational changes but by doing so, and actively working together to deliver outcomes, we believe that we will positively change the relationship between the community and the public sector in ways which build and strengthen community resilience.

We are still at the beginning of this journey and the strategy is aspirational, but we are building on solid foundations established through the success of existing early intervention work.”

This extract is particularly pertinent as all the agencies listed will need to commit to the strategy for it to be successful. Each service should place as much importance on this strategy, and the accompanying action plan, as they would to their own internal strategies and policies. For real change to be achieved the vision and principles should become embedded within each organisation and their culture. This is challenging due to every agency having competing priorities, but the strategy cannot fully realise lasting improved outcomes without this commitment.

3.3 The Strategy will work alongside the Children and Young Peoples Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy will be effective immediately.

3.4 Once the Strategy is finalised there will be a Partnership Launch taking place in November 2019 . Date to be confirmed.

#### **4. Conclusion.**

The strategy has been through an extensive process of development and co-production. The Partnership Group are confident of the quality of the document and the positive impact it will help to bring about for our Children, Young People and Families.

## Appendix One – Terms of Reference



Early Help  
Partnership Group - T

## Appendix Two – Early Help Strategy



Sefton Early Help  
Strategy 2019-2025 v

## Appendix Three – Strategy on a Page



Sefton Early Help  
SOAP v0.8.docx