People Scrutiny Committee, 3rd December 2019

Children's Services - Delivering the Corporate Priorities

In April 2019, the Local Authority corporate priorities were reviewed, revised and relaunched. To ensure that the golden thread of focus and ideas were embedded throughout all areas of Children's Services, the senior leadership team consulted with 60 management staff at a business planning event to reflect on the corporate ambitions and set the departmental priorities for 2019/20 to deliver on the themes.

The business planning event led to a revised **department vision** linked to the 'good quality of life for all our residents' corporate theme:

Children in Blackburn with Darwen will grow to have a happy, healthy life and experience success and overcome challenges. To achieve this we will work with our communities, with our partners and our children, young people and their families to ensure that children get the right help at the right time by building on their strengths and the strengths of their family.

Additionally, 10 department priorities for 2019/20 were agreed to provide teams with a clear understanding of the direction of travel in relation to practice improvement across the department and improved outcomes for our children and young people. To aid the cascading of key priorities to staff and to influence team plans, annual appraisals and regular supervisions, a plan on a page was created (Appendix A).

A Service Development and Practice Improvement 'live' plan (Appendix B) was also developed to set actions against the priorities, and a Service Development Practice Improvement Board has been established to monitor the progress of the plan.

The plan signposts to the other plans and strategies across the borough which also contribute to the delivery of the priorities and outlines 'what success looks like' and how performance is measured.

The Board meets on a monthly basis, is chaired by the Director of Children's Services, and all Heads of Service and Service Leads across the department attend to share RAG rated progress updates. In addition to this, the department's Local Government Association improvement representative attends the Board to provide external support and challenge. This offers rigour to the tracking and monitoring of the plan, ensures that the plan is a live document and provides an additional level of accountability.

Imran Akuji Head of Service – Adolescent Services

VISION FOR THE BOROUGH'S CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (aged 0-19 & 0-25 for those with SEND/Looked After)

Appendix A

Children in Blackburn with Darwen will grow to have a happy, healthy life and experience success and overcome challenges. To achieve this we will work with our communities, with our partners and our children, young people and their families to ensure that children get the right help at the right time by building on their strengths and the strengths of their family.

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8	People – A good quality of life for all our residents				Place – Community pride in a vibrant place to live and visit			Economy – A strong and inclusive economy with continued growth		Council –a stror and resilient council
2019-2023 Corporate Plan Priorities	Supporting y people and ra aspiration	aising suppo ns most v	orting the	Reducing health inequalities and mproving health outcomes	Connect Communi		ment econo	ng, growing S my to enable al mobility	upporting our town centres and businesses	Transparent ar effective organisation
2		1	•						↑	
3 Health & Wellbeing Board Priorities (Start Well)	Emotional Health and Wellbeing				Adverse Childhood Experiences			Poverty & Neglect		
		1	•							
Overarching Department Priorities	Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare Maximise opportunities to work with all partners to opportunities and resources to ensure the best value for prevent escalation of need and risk. Maximise opportunities to work with all partners to opportunities and resources to ensure the best value for money and outcomes for children, young people and the families and carers.									ne best value for
Department Strategic	1.Ensure that all children get the right help at the right time, including effective early intervention and prevention to ensure outcomes are met.	2.Ensure that all children in need of help and protection receive a bespoke consistent service which safeguards and protects them.	3. Ensure we achieve permanence for all children without necessary delay, doing everything possible to prevent them coming into our care, and for those that need to, we keep	4.To be ambitious corporate parents for our cared for children & care leavers, so that they achieve their potential in every aspect of their care, wellbeing, learning & future independence.	5. Involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services, using their views to inform everything we do and feed back on actions taken and the impact that their views have	6.Working in partnership to ensure that our settings, schools and other educational & training establishments provide excellent education for all our children in order that they fulfil their potential.	7.Children and young people who have special education needs & disabilities to receive the support they need to ensure that their full potential & ambitions are met & their families receive the support they need.	health and commissioners to integrate service delivery, systems and processes.	opportunities for staff to flourish and	10. Promote and support a learning culture that is optransparent and welcome to exter benchmarking and challenge.