

## People Scrutiny Committee, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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