

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	30 August 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
Reporting Officer:	Ali Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services
Subject:	TAMESIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2023/26
Report Summary/ Purpose of Report	The report outlines the establishment of the new Children and Young People's plan that will be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership (Tameside's multi-agency children and young people's partnership). The Plan sets out Tameside's approach across the partnership to working with and to support children and young people and their families. The Plan has been development and agreed by Tameside's Starting Well Partnership.
Recommendations:	That the contents of the report be noted and the Plan is endorsed.
Corporate Plan:	The Children and Young People's Plan will impact on the following corporate priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority One – The Very Best Start in Life - Priority Two - Aspiration and hope through learning - Priority Three – Resilient families and supportive networks - Priority Four - Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential - Priority Six – Nurturing our communities - Priority Seven – Longer and healthier lives with good mental health.
Policy Implications:	The Plan aligns with the Council's key policies in supporting families within our communities.
Financial Implications:	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	However strengthening our plan and improving outcomes for young people in the borough will benefit the council financially in the long term.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 brings together the relevant statutory responsibilities for the council's provision of services to families. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (the Act); the Council has a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of all children. - Section 11 of the Act provides that statutory bodies including councils must make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. - There is also a duty on schools outlines in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, issued under the Education Act 2002, which places a statutory responsibility on schools to

safeguard children.

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) also sets out the importance of inter-agency working to support children and families: *Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.*

Risk Management:

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 provides the framework by which partners and other stakeholders can identify their contribution to working with and supporting all children, young people and their families. The presence of clearly defined, shared priorities and approaches provides a clear focus for all partners.

Conclusion:

The Children and Young People's Plan 2023/26 sets out the Starting Well Partnership Board's vision and priorities for the next three years. It clearly sets out the shared objectives and provides focus for all stakeholders to assist in the planning of individual agency or collaborative working practices from conception through to preparing for adulthood. Delivery of the plan will be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting

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1 CONTEXT

1.1 The primary driver for this plan is Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 which brings together a variety of legal duties into one framework to enable partnerships to work collaboratively to support children, young people and their families. The primary legislation is:

- **Section 175 of the Education Act 2002** which places a duty on:
 - Local authorities in relation to their education functions; and
 - The governing bodies of maintained schools and the governing bodies of further education institutions (which include sixth-form colleges) in relation to their functions relating to the conduct of the school or the institutionto make arrangements for ensuring that such functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- **Children Act 1989**
This Act places a duty on local authorities to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need in their area.
- **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**
Section 38 requires local authorities, acting in cooperation with certain persons (including every Chief Police Officer or local policing body whose area lies within that of the local authority, clinical commissioning groups and providers of probation services) to such an extent as is appropriate for their area, to secure that youth justice services are available in their area, such services to include the provision of persons to act as appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children and young persons detained or questioned by police officers.
- **Housing Act 1996**
Section 213A requires housing authorities to refer to adult social care services persons with whom children normally reside or might reasonably be expected to reside, who they have reason to believe may be ineligible for assistance, or who may be homeless and may have become so intentionally or who may be threatened with homelessness intentionally, as long as the person consents. If homelessness persists, any child in the family could be in need. In such cases, if social services decide the child's needs would be best met by helping the family to obtain accommodation, they can ask the housing authority for reasonable advice and assistance in this, and the housing authority must give reasonable advice and assistance.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance applies to all organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children. Specifically, the guidance applies to all local authorities, health, and police.

- 1.2 More recently central government through the Department for Education have launched a consultation to further strengthen 'Working Together'. The proposals contained within the consultation place a stronger focus on earlier intervention and Family Help.
- 1.3 The Children and Young People's Plan is reflective and aligned to the current Working Together guidance but also takes cognisance of potential future changes to the guidance.
- 1.4 The Children and Young People's Plan has been developed in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families and to deliver on our corporate priorities to ensure children have the very best start in life, gain aspiration and hope through learning and to nurture resilient families and supportive networks to protect and grow our young people.

2 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1 To help design the framework and agree the priorities behind the strategy a number of sessions have been held with the statutory partners and other stakeholders. These sessions reviewed a variety of datasets and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The partnership also sought views from the voluntary, community and faith sector, using softer intelligence to reach conclusions about where the partnership's focus needs to be.
- 2.2 Through existing networks such as the Children in Care Council and the Youth Parliament, the voice of children and young people was sought, again to inform the development of priorities within the plan.
- 2.3 Key statutory and non-statutory partners have also gained insight from users of their services and ensured that priorities are aligned to those of their organisations to ensure a commitment to this Plan and to ensure resources are available to assist in its delivery.

3 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

- 3.1 All of the feedback from partners, and children and young people was analysed and considered in the formulation of this plan and the shared priorities. Following this analysis the members of the Starting Well Partnership considered the final draft plan at its meeting in July 2023 and endorsed it. Each of the priorities within the plan has an identified senior lead officer from either the Local Authority or a partner agency who are developing detailed plans for delivery.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Starting Well Partnership, will further develop and drive a delivery plan for the Children and Young People's Plan and the partnership will oversee full implementation. Additionally, a shorter, young person and family focussed guide to the Plan will be developed. The Children's Communications Officer will also develop a communications plan to ensure a wider distribution once it is endorsed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As set out at the front of the report.