

# Westmorland and Furness Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Ambition for Every Child - a Strategy and Plan for Westmorland and Furness
<b>Meeting:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	22 April 2024
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<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Sue Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>PUBLIC, PART EXEMPT OR FULLY EXEMPT</b>	Public
<b>List of Appendices</b>	Ambition for Every Child - draft document

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The draft document attached as Appendix 1 provides a framework for the work taking place to deliver and improve services for children, young people and their families over the next five years. It is the first overarching document setting out the strategic intentions and priorities since becoming a new council in April 2023; it will be updated every eighteen months to reflect progress and new work taking place.

## 2. Recommendation

For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that the Board:

- 2.1 consider the draft document and provide comment on the content.

## 3. Developing a strategy and plan to improve services for children and young people

- 3.1 Whilst there is no longer a formal requirement on statutory partners to produce a Children and Young People's Plan, many have continued to develop a strategy and/or plan setting out their priorities and explaining how they will work to achieve change.
- 3.2 The document sets out the principles and approach to our work to achieve a shared ambition for the local area.
- 3.3 It also includes our strategic priorities for the next five years under four main themes of:
- Improving the life chances of children and young people
  - Caring for and keeping children and young people safe
  - Ensuring access to services and provision

- Working in partnership to manage our collective resources effectively
- 3.4 The actions for the next eighteen months are included and will ensure progress towards the achievement of these priorities. The progress on these actions will be monitored regularly and impact assessed using statutory and local measures.
- 3.5 A description of the partnership governance arrangements is provided in Appendix 2 to support the diagrammatic depiction in the document.

#### **4. Link to Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to improve the quality of services, a person's experience of the system and to reduce inequalities. Ambition for Every Child is focused on improving the outcomes that affect the life chances of children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable.
- 4.2 There is also a focus on action to improve the quality of and access to services and on the experiences of children and their families and learning from this experience to improve services further.

#### **5. Consultation Outcomes**

- 5.1 The draft document is being shared for consideration and comment; a roll out plan is in place to ensure every opportunity is taken to share the document prior to implementation and capture the feedback received.
- 5.2 Children and young people have already shared their views, and these are included in the document.

#### **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 The alternative is to produce the statutory plans for children's services alongside separate organisation/service plans, without an overarching document which provides the framework to secure a coherent approach in collaboration with partners.

#### **7. Financial Implications and risk**

#### **8. Legal and Governance Implications**

8.1

#### **9. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 9.1 Actions to improve services for those children and young people who may be cared for, care experienced and/or have special educational needs or a disability are included in this document.

**10. Background Information and Sources (used in preparation of this Report)**

10.1 The Westmorland and Furness Council Plan