

CABINET REPORT

Date Written	17 th August 2021
Report Author	Sarah Davies/Chris Hole
Service Area	Community Wellbeing
Committee Division	Portfolio
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	8 th September 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Draft Early Years Partnership Plan (2021-26)

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 To share with Cabinet the draft Early Years Partnership Plan (EYPP) that will inform the work of the service area going forward and to seek agreement on a planned Consultation. This will allow all interested organisations and internal departments to shape the future delivery of Early Years priorities moving forward.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The draft EYPP goes out to consultation and a final plan is brought back to Cabinet, be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 In 2019-20, the Early Years Partnership Planning Group started to develop the future priorities for the Early Years. This was placed on hold during the pandemic and work with partners recommenced in Spring 2021.

3.2 During the development of the Plan, the group has taken account of both local strategies and priorities as well as national policy direction. This has included the list below, alongside a range of other policy initiatives from Welsh Government (WG) or across the region.

- Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) Strategy
- Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Cymraeg 2050
- Building a Brighter Future: Early Years and Childcare Plan – WG

4.0 KEY ISSUES/ THEMES

- 4.1 The Plan has a focus on ensuring that services are focussed on improving outcomes for children and their families.
- 4.2 A theme through the Plan is early intervention and getting upstream of issues through an earlier identification of needs.
- 4.3 A focus on attachment and the importance of parent infant relationships in the ante natal period and first 1000 days on the long term outcomes for children through to adulthood.
- 4.4 A focus on collaboration and working in partnership to achieve the priorities.
- 4.5 Ensuring that the Early Years system is accessible and families receive the right service at the right time.
- 4.6 Importance of involving parents in their children's learning and development and getting transition right so that movement between services is seamless and supported.

5.0 THE WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 The draft vision, priorities and actions within the draft EYPP 2021-26 (Appendix A) have been developed in collaboration with the Early Years Partnership Planning Group. This draft Plan now requires a more extensive consultation to ensure wider stakeholders can influence the final Plan. It is important that there is ownership from a range of partners as it is only by working in collaboration with a range of partners will the delivery of the Plan be a success.
- 5.2 The full Consultation Plan is outlined in Appendix B. A key component of the first part of the Consultation is to gain the views of Senior Managers and Elected Members. A feedback form has been designed to obtain views which has been included in Appendix C.
- 5.3 Due to the nature of the work, some key actions are progressing such as the implementation of the ALNet (Wales) but other priorities will be implemented over a longer time scale. Annual Action Plans will be implemented that support the delivery of the EYPP and progress reported to Members on a regular basis.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report or the introduction of the Plan.

7.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	1 of 4	0 of 4	3 of 4	
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	6 of 10	0 of 10	4 of 10	
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	2 of 6	0 of 6	4 of 6	
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required	
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No	
	1 of 1		0 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral/Not Applicable
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
Summary				
The main positive impacts are:	The main positive impacts are that children and families are offered the support that they need in the early years with a focus on their health and wellbeing and reaching early developmental milestones with a particular emphasis on speech, language and communication.			

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL/
CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Raising Aspirations Raising Standards Strategy (RARS);		MTCBC website
Welsh Education Strategic Plan;		MTCBC website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		NO