

From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's and Young People's Cabinet Committee - Date

Subject: Response to Social Care Review Consultation

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Not applicable

Future Pathway of report: The Government will publish their response to the consultation in September 2023 where KCC will need to return the item to indicate potential implications for KCC.

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

Josh McAllister published the Social Care Review in 2022 where the Government provided a proposed response for consultation in early 2023. The consultation will end before Cabinet Committee in May 2023. The consultation was separated into three parts identifying;

- a) A more holistic and systemic multiagency proposed way of working with families
- b) Workforce strategy to be incorporated nationally
- c) National dashboard of data performance to support quicker acquisition of data and improved analysis

KCC wished to provide a response to each of the consultations where staff were consulted via local meetings and findings escalated through the line management. The final drafts of the consultations were approved by the Leader of the Council on 17th April 2023.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet Committee is asked to note the contents of the consultation with a view to identifying a process for bringing any proposed changes to KCC's delivery of services as a result of the Social Care Review.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The three reports provide KCC's collated response to the social care review, referencing opinions and suggested ways forward against each of the key recommendations.
- 1.2 KCC identifies the proposals are positive and the proposed pilots will be likely to identify what will be needed to implement the strategies and which aspects of the strategies are likely to be successful. KCC notes aspects which it does not agree and indicates how KCC operates to provide positive alternative approaches.

2. Responses to the Social Care Review

2.1 Appendix A - A more holistic and systemic multiagency proposed way of working with families.

The current delivery of case holding social work and early help services lends itself very well to the proposed government model of a Family Help system which ensures that children do not require to get over a particular bar to receiving support and intervention at the right time from the right partitioner. We support the principles of this model of support.

KCC is and has already implemented many aspects of the government's proposals, for example greater use of family care, and the right offer for Care Leavers. As a local authority we are currently in the process of understanding what it may be able to amend within current practices whilst understanding which pilots KCC may be able to apply to participate. Any such proposals requiring County Council oversight will be presented to CYPE Cabinet committee to advise the lead member in her decision making.

Appendix B - Workforce strategy to be incorporated nationally.

The proposals within this consultation would not apply until September 2024. KCC's position is that the proposals do not go far enough and will not see any improvement in what the strategy aims to address for a significant number of years. KCC identifies there will likely be a number of unintended consequences which will have a negative impact on the recruitment and retention of Social Workers, citing the strategy needs to be brought forward to 2023.

Appendix C - National dashboard of data performance to support quicker acquisition of data and improved analysis

The intention is positive and KCC is willing to participate. The response to the consultation raises concerns there is already a national drive to acquire data but this has proven logistically challenging to collate and publish within a timescale to make the data relevant and supportive of real time analysis.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 At this time, the government's final response to the Social Care Review is not available and will not be until at least September 2023. It is not clear at this time whether the government's response will be via guidance or legislation. Either way, KCC will need respond to the required changes..

4. Legal implications

4.1 Once the government publishes their response to the Social Care Review in September 2023, KCC will be able to determine the need for legal advice and better understand legal implications.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 This will be completed once KCC's response to the Government is finalised.

6. Risk and Other Factors

Once the Government's response is published in September 2023, KCC will be able to assess the risks associated with the Government's response.

7. Governance

7.1 Changes to the governance structure will be identified when the Governments response is published.

9 Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet Committee is asked to note the contents of the consultation with a view to identifying a process for bringing any proposed changes to KCC's delivery of services as a result of the Social Care Review.

10. Contact details

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