

From: **Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services**

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To: **Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

Subject: **Update on progress of Transformation of Children's Services, specifically 0-25 Programme supported by Newton Europe**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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**Summary:** Following Kent County Council's successful improvement journey and exit from Ofsted Improvement notice, children's services have committed to continuing to improve, and to become more efficient through an ambitious Transformation Programme.

This report accompanies a set of slides that will be presented to the Committee to provide an update on progress with the 0-25 programme and to provide Cabinet Committee with the opportunity to discuss progress and next steps.

**Recommendations:** Cabinet Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress of the 0-25 Programme, and the way that Kent County Council officers are working alongside Newton Europe to re-design services.
- Note that a further report will be presented to Committee in December 2014, at which potential key decisions are expected in relation to delivery changes and the way that they will be implemented.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 As part of our continuing improvement journey for children's services, and in line with "Facing the Challenge", the council is undertaking an ambitious transformation programme to improve outcomes for vulnerable children through improving efficiency.

1.2 Children's services are working in partnership with Newton Europe, the council's efficiency partner, to re-design the way that the service works. The programme is directly led by the council's relevant Corporate Directors

through the 0-25 Portfolio Board, and reports to the Transformation Advisory Group which is a member led body.

1.3 This presentation attached to this report provides an overview of the work undertaken so far, including a Diagnostic Assessment to identify priorities and the planning and commencement of Service Design Activity.

## **2. Policy Framework**

### **2.1 Facing the Challenge, Whole Council Transformation:**

There are a range of strategic developments and drivers that have informed this Transformation Programme including:

- Whole-council transformation (specifically with regard to integration of services around client groups or functions, single-council approach to projects, programmes and review, and embedding commissioning authority arrangements)

### **2.2 Framework for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (single inspection framework) and reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards:**

This framework outlines the expectations for the way that children's services should be delivered and the outcomes that they should achieve for vulnerable children, specifically including:

- A focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children looked after, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home
- The arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after and the experiences and progress of care leavers.
- The effectiveness of leadership, management and governance arrangements and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people
- The quality of professional practice locally

## **3. The 0-25 Unified Programme**

3.1 The 0-25 Unified Programme is set out in the presentation attached as Appendix A.

## **4. Financial & Legal Implications**

4.1 Today's update and recommendations do not have any specific legal or financial implications. However implementation of new service design will involve significant change which will be intended to deliver substantial savings.

4.2 It will be important within implementation proposals that all legal and regulatory implications are carefully considered, and this will form part of an

update in December's Cabinet Committee prior to any key decision on implementation.

## **5. Conclusions**

5.1 The 0-25 Transformation Programme is an ambitious programme aimed at improving the life chances of the most vulnerable children in Kent at the same time as reducing inefficiency and therefore costs.

5.2 The programme is being led by Kent County Council Corporate Directors with support from Newton Europe. A considerable number of Officers are involved in service design activities, ensuring both that the council is designing solutions and that there is a transfer of knowledge and skills that will help the council to be more effective in the future.

5.3 The Committee will receive a further update in December.

## **6. Recommendations**

Cabinet Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress of the 0-25 Programme, and the way that Kent County Council officers are working alongside Newton Europe to re-design services.
- Note that a further report will be presented to Committee in December 2014, at which potential key decisions are expected in relation to delivery changes and the way that they will be implemented.

## **7. Background Documents**

Appendix A - 0-25 Unified Programme

## **8. Contact details**

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