

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 23 March 2017

Subject: **DRAFT SPECIALIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISIONAL BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper Social Care, Health and Wellbeing DMT 18 January and 8 February 2017

Future Pathway of Paper Cabinet- April 2017

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report presents the Specialist Children's Services Divisional draft Business Plan for 2017/18 (Appendix 1 to this report). This sets out the high-level priorities for the coming financial year. The paper also describes the agreed Business Planning process for 2017/18.

Recommendations: The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the draft Directorate Business Plan 2017/18 for the Specialist Children's Services Division, prior to the final version to be approved by the Corporate Director and the Cabinet Member.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper presents the draft Specialist Children's Services Divisional Business Plan 2017/18, as well as the arrangements for developing and approval of Business Plans as agreed by the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee in December 2016. The draft Business Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The Business Plan is intended to provide a high-level summary of the Divisional priorities, along with a brief assessment of progress on the 2016/17 priorities. In addition, the Business Plan includes information about the Division's operating environment, along with finance and staff resourcing, key risks, organisational development priorities and key performance management information.
- 1.3 The Divisional Business Plan will be approved by the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director. Final approval by the Leader and Cabinet Members will be made following consideration by the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The priorities set out in the Specialist Children's Services draft Business Plan are intended to support the overall objectives of the County Council as set out in *'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015 -2020* and *'A Commissioning Framework for Kent County Council: Delivering better outcomes for Kent residents through improved commissioning'*.
- 2.2 The Divisional Business Plan identifies key priorities in respect of service delivery, transformation and integration to meet the current and future challenges. This is in the context of KCC's new operating framework, the *'Medium Term Financial Plan 2017 – 20 Managing Kent's money responsibly'* and *'Your life, your well-being a vision and strategy for adult social care 2016 - 2021'*.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The KCC Budget 2017/18 sets out the funding allocated to the Specialist Children's Services Division. A breakdown of the total allocation can be found in the approved budget.
- 3.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan which also influences the delivery of the business plan priorities provides further contextual information and financial implications for the medium term period.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR DIVISIONAL BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18

- 4.1 As in the previous three years, the intention is to iteratively improve the process again in 2017/18 to support KCC's move to become a strategic commissioning authority.
- 4.2 In response to the findings of the review the changes to the content of the Directorate Business Plans was agreed by the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee in late 2016. As a result the following requirements were agreed:
 - Each Business Plan will reflect on progress against last year's priorities, given the emphasis on a three year rolling plan. Business Plans will also set out the approach for ongoing monitoring and review of the plan
 - A new section will be added on the operating environment context which may have an impact on service delivery over the next three years, anticipating cost and demand management pressures, legislative or regulatory change and demographic change. This will provide context for priority setting
 - The list of internal and external services will remain, but be simplified
 - Each Directorate/Division will define the most appropriate 'significant' commissioning and service activity to include for the next three years (2017-2020), with flexibility to consider complexity, risk, strategic importance and profile. The commissioning

information will be simplified with an emphasis on the expected costs and key decision date (if required). More detailed commissioning and procurement information will continue to be available on the contracts register

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 KCC's statutory obligations as a council with children's social care responsibilities are defined in the relevant legislation such as the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Measures in the Business Plan will be taken forward in a way that is consistent with KCC duties under the Equality Act 2010 and KCC's Equality and Human Rights policy.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Following any final changes, including comments expressed by the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee, the final draft version of the Specialist Children's Services Divisional Business Plan for 2017/18 will be cleared by the Corporate Director and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health. All Directorate Business Plans and this Divisional Business Plan will be collectively agreed by the Leader and Cabinet. The approved Business Plans will be published on the County Council's website.
- 7.2 In support of their oversight role in an evolving strategic commissioning authority, the Business Planning process requires the Division to provide revised information to assist Members to better identify forthcoming issues they may wish to explore in more detail. Relevant Information about this is set out in sections G and H of the draft Business Plan.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Specialist Children's Services Divisional draft Business Plan 2017/18 provides high level summary information about the functions that are in the Division and its seven top-level priorities for 2017/18. The Business Plan sets out how the Directorate will be contributing to KCC's strategic operating framework objectives and outcomes that are described in KCC's '*Strategic Statement*' and the '*Commissioning Framework*'.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Recommendations: The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the draft Divisional Business Plan 2017/18 for the Specialist Children's Services Division, prior to the final version to be approved by the Corporate Director and the Cabinet Member.

10. Background Documents

None

11. Report author

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