



Report to Cabinet

Date:	10 May 2022
Title:	Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022 - 2025
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services
Contact officer:	Richard Nash, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	For Cabinet to note (a) the achievements since the 2019 strategy, (b) the priorities identified for 2022-2025 and (c) agree the Early Help Partnership Strategy be adopted.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this strategy is to present what we know about the need for early help, why it is important and what action will be taken to make progress and deliver our vision for children, young people and families in Buckinghamshire. It is jointly produced and owned by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and all its member organisations and sets out what we are already doing and plan to develop together in Buckinghamshire to ensure that children and their families get early help when they need it. This document will steer and enable the priorities detailed in this strategy to be delivered, while also reflecting the priorities set out by Children's Services.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The strategy details the achievements since the 2019 strategy including; Continuing delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and support for those in care to have their health needs met. The delivery of health advice clinics in secondary schools,

providing support on a range of topics and engaging parents of children under two in Walk the Talk activities to reduce isolation and provide support to new parents

- 2.2 Together with the voluntary and community sector we have delivered a comprehensive youth offer, including for those with SEND including programmes supporting employability, wellbeing, transition to adulthood and has included the National Citizen Service, DofE Award, and the Inspiration programme and worked with Heart of Bucks to provide financial support for families and Care Leavers who suffered hardship due to the pandemic.
- 2.3 Together with education partners we have engaged 565 families with parenting provision and supported 72% of families to achieve sustained positive outcomes following targeted support; we have provided school link workers to all schools within the county, helping to provide appropriate support to children and young people when they need it; expanded our Mental Health Support Teams, building on the success of an initial pilot enabling families to access multidisciplinary support in schools; delivered prevention programmes including activities for young people open to Youth Offending and increased our trainee and apprenticeship offer, enabling more young people to access employment.
- 2.4 Together with statutory services we have worked collaboratively in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to ensure children received the right support at the right time through allocating the appropriate level of intervention and escalating to Social Care as appropriate to needs; developed a pilot using Family Group Conferencing to support families experiencing parental conflict which was impacting on the child's mental health, and developed closer working and integration between statutory and non-statutory services to provide the right support to families.
- 2.5 The strategy outlines our 4 identified priorities for 2022-25, how we will deliver them, how we will measure outcomes and what will be achieved by so doing.

Priority 1: Strengthen multi-agency strategic governance and joint ownership of the Early Help Strategy

Priority 2: Further develop the Early Help offer to include a targeted response to the increased risk of long-term disadvantage for children, young people and families due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Priority 3: Work together to provide effective Early Help in line with our strategic objectives and Early Help Partnership Action Plan, that supports children, young people and families to easily access support.

Priority 4: Develop a common understanding of Early Help across the partnership and promote a cohesive Buckinghamshire offer.

3. Other options considered

3.1 N/A

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 N/A

5. Corporate implications

5.1 N/A

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 An extensive period of engagement has taken place to ensure that our Early Help Strategy (2022 - 2025) is co-designed. The engagement process allowed for a significant period of reflection; we wanted to fully understand where our previous Early Help Strategy (2019-2022) had taken us, what it had achieved and, most importantly, what life is like for those receiving support in Buckinghamshire in 2021. We also needed to understand the full extent of our collective resources and strengths. The principles that were developed for our first strategy remain relevant and will continue to drive our approach to Early Help over the next three years. This strategy builds upon and further develops the good work which resulted from the 2019-22 Early Help Partnership Strategy.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 An Early Help Partnership Action Plan owned by an Early Help Operational Sub-group will be developed to detail the activity required to meet the 4 partnership priorities. This Action Plan will include performance measures and success criteria so that the Children and Young People's Partnership Board can assess and challenge progress against this Strategy. The Plan will be a living document with appropriate governance, updated to reflect changing priorities.

8.2 In addition to the Partnership Action Plan, the Children & Young People's Partnership Board will receive reports and provide oversight of performance management information provided by all those who directly deliver early help. Utilising

approaches used in Supporting Families and across the partnership the sub-group will develop a 'Families Outcomes Performance Framework' to collate and report on:

- Identified need, enabling provision to be jointly planned.
- Where early help interventions have been successful in enabling families who have multiple and complex needs to sustainably improve their lives and step away from formal support. The Action Plan and the Framework underpin the implementation of this strategy and are intended to evidence sustained and significant progress against the priorities.

9. Background papers

9.1 Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022 - 2025

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [01296 382343] or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk]

