

To: City Executive Board
Date: 11 July 2018
Report of: Head of Community Services
Title of Report: Children & Young Persons Strategy (2018-2022)

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To request that the City Executive Board approves the Children & Young Persons Strategy (2018-2022) which has been updated following consultation.
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Marie Tidball
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Active Communities
Policy Framework:	Oxford City Council's Corporate Plan
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
1. Adopt the Children & Young Persons Strategy	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Children & Young Person's Strategy
Appendix 2	Risk Register
Appendix 3	Initial Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 4	Summary of the consultation feedback

Introduction and background

1. Our vision is that every child and young person can fulfil their potential and become happy, safe, successful, healthy and active citizens. The strategy shows how we will use our resources and work with our partners to achieve this.
2. The draft Children & Young People's Strategy was approved for public consultation by the City Executive Board on the 13th February 2018. 38,253 people viewed our promotional videos on social media and we received 113 responses to the consultation, most of which were from representative organisations. The consultation generated some very useful feedback which has shaped and improved the strategy.
3. We have three principles that underpin our vision for the Children and Young People's Strategy which will guide our service development and delivery, these are:
 - a) Preventative-led provision
 - b) Equality, inclusion and engagement of young people
 - c) Facilitating effective partnership working.
4. To deliver these principles we will pilot a new way of working that builds on our strong partnerships. We will do this by implementing a framework called Ready by 21. This framework enables the structured collaboration of all the groups that support a young person's journey into adulthood such as schools, community groups, health providers, local authorities, families and young people themselves.
5. Using the Ready by 21 Framework we will share and scrutinise data about young people and work with our partners to gain a collective insight into the root causes of the societal problems facing young people and agree how we can work better together to have the greatest long-term impact.
6. We will trial this approach alongside a zoning methodology where we will focus on certain areas of the city – this will help our learning and enable local differences to be understood.
7. The strategy will influence the Council's policy framework to ensure all our services reflect the needs of young people.

The consultation process

8. A press release and posts on social media were used to launch the consultation. Throughout the eight week consultation the draft strategy was on the Council's website and available for comment through the on-line consultation page.
9. We were especially keen to get the views of young people so held focus groups at Saint Gregory the Great School, Parasol (a group who work with disabled young people), Wood Farm Youth Club and Wolvercote Young People's Club. These sessions provided valuable insights into what really matters for young people.
10. We also worked with young people to make a promotional video to help reach a wider audience and we obtained feedback direct from social media.

11. The strategy was also sent directly to the city's secondary head teachers, health professional, the County Council, members of the City's Youth Partnership Board and a range of community groups to encourage their feedback.
13. This feedback was recorded on a spreadsheet which we have updated to include our responses (appendix four).

Summary of consultation results

14. The consultation has shown a very strong level of support for the strategy, the common themes from the consultation were:

Respondents felt that the strategy is targeted at professionals and asked that we find a way to make it more useful for a wider audience.

We have worked with young people to create a short video that summarises the strategy. The video explains the three key principles of the strategy and the main actions will be taking to help to improve the lives of young people.

The need to work effectively in partnership

While respondents felt our focus and implementing a partnership framework was very positive, there was a lot of feedback to encourage a long-term commitment to the approach.

Further clarity on roles and responsibilities

We have updated the Ready by 21 framework (appendix three) in the strategy that shows how partners work with young people across the stages of the framework. We have also made our role clearer and updated the schools section.

An increased focus on people with disabilities

The second principle in the strategy focuses on Equality, Inclusion & Engagement of Young People. We have added a further action to strengthen our work to support people with disabilities and added a further table in the action plan that focusses on how we will meet the need of young people.

An increased focus on mental health

While the strategy does increase our focus on mental health, we have added a commitment to explore what more we can do and to see what quality assurance we can implement and an enhanced commitment around staff training.

Level of Risk

7. The risk register is shown in appendix two.

Environmental

8. There are minimal environmental impacts.

Equalities Impact

12. The Equalities Impact Assessment is shown in appendix three.

Financial Implications

10. The action plan shows the financial position for the strategy. The strategy will help support applications for external funding.

Legal Implications

11. There are minimal legal implications.

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Background Papers: none