
Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery

Reasons for the Report

1. This purpose of this report is to share the recent Cabinet report entitled '*Recovery & Renewal: Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery*' of 20th May 2021, with the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. The report is attached at Appendix A. The report was submitted as part of a suite of reports that provided an overview of the Council's approach to recovery and renewal and outlined how the Council will seek to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the new operating environment as the city emerges from the current phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scope of Child Friendly Recovery report

2. The report provides the committee with the opportunity to consider the information shared with and the recommendations that were accepted by Cabinet in relation to a Child Friendly Recovery, including:
 - Shared responsibility
 - The Impact of Covid-19 on Children & Young People: Update Position
 - Short Term – A Graduated Response to Need
 - Universal Response – Short Term (9-12 months)
 - Targeted Response – Short Term (9–12 months)
 - Medium to Longer Term Response - Refresh of the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy

3. The specific areas identified in the Cabinet Report are:

A Child Friendly Recovery – a shared responsibility (*paragraphs 11 - 15*)

- Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy and its 5 key goals to provide the framework for delivery
- Positive messaging and communications, to champion children and young people
- Parity of engagement of children and young people in delivering city recovery and renewal plans

The Impact of Covid-19 on Children & Young People: Update Position

(*paragraphs 16 – 28*)

- Return to school by all pupils
- Impact of the pandemic on vulnerable children and young people; and children and young people with disabilities
- Data in relation to COVID cases
- Update on COVID testing and vaccinations
- HSE Inspections
- Demands on specialist services, including CAMHS

Short Term – A Graduated Response to Need (*paragraphs 29 – 31*)

- Council will work with school leaders to support children and young people to re-engage in the daily routine of attending school, with a sharp focus upon learner wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and happiness.

Universal Response – Short Term (9-12 months) (paragraphs 32 – 61)

- Health & Safety
- Re-engagement and wellbeing
 - A Citywide Children and Young People’s Festival – ‘Summer of Smiles’
 - Enhanced Youth Service Provision
 - A Children’s University
- Maintaining learning
- Pathways to Progression
 - School Leavers 2021
 - Cardiff Commitment – Work Experience
 - UK Kickstart Scheme
 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation Spaces

Targeted Response – Short Term (9–12 months) (paragraphs 62 – 92)

4. It is important for this Committee to note that the report recognises that whilst a universal response is crucial, that the disruption of the last year has had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable families. Structural inequalities have been further exposed and highlighted by the pandemic and children and young people facing vulnerabilities risk falling further behind and are likely to be most disadvantaged in terms of educational outcomes, health & wellbeing and future life chances.
5. Hence, a joined up targeted approach, to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people are able to access and benefit from support services is key. This is crucially important for our Looked After Children.

The themes of focus are:

- Safeguarding and Wellbeing
- Ambition, Opportunities and Progression
- Integrated Youth Support Services and Community Wellbeing

Medium to Longer Term Response - Refresh of the Child Friendly Cardiff Strategy (paragraphs 93 – 98)

6. The report outlines the need to refresh our commitments to becoming a 'Child Friendly City' by publishing a new post covid Child Friendly Strategy that makes clear how we will continue to work together to embed children's rights, in particular for our most vulnerable groups.

Financial Implications

7. The Financial implications are set out in paragraph 94 of the Recovery and Renewal CYP Cabinet report (Appendix A)

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATION

9. The Committee are recommended to note the Child Friendly Recovery report, and the recommendations that were accepted by Cabinet, and to make any observations or comments regarding action that should be driven forward and monitored to support the interests of Looked After Children.

MELANIE GODFREY
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