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**DRAFT CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY 2023-2026**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with background information to facilitate a pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Children's Services Strategy 2023-26, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration by Cabinet on the 19 January 2023.

**Structure of Papers**

2. The following Appendices are attached to this cover report:

**Appendix A** – draft Children's Services Strategy 2023-2026. There are also a number of supporting documents, as follows:

**Appendix B** – Workforce Strategy

**Appendix C** – Accommodation Strategy

**Appendix D** – Commissioning Strategy

**Appendix E** – Record of Staff Consultation

**Appendix F** – Demand Analysis

**Background**

3. The draft Children's Services Strategy 2023-26 (attached at **Appendix A**) is a refreshed Strategy covering all areas of the Services' work, highlighting areas of progress to date, as well as areas where further work needs to be progressed. The draft Strategy outlines three areas of focus, namely:

- Place
- People
- Practice

4. The Strategy sets out a vision for the Service, which is:

***Children in Cardiff are provided with the right support, from the right person at the right time, in the right place and at the lowest safe level of intervention, enabling them to remain with their family where it is safe for them to do so and achieve their full potential***

***#KeepingFamiliesTogether***

5. The Strategy document sets out the following:

- A Services Map (including a Child's Journey)
- Details of the three areas of Focus (as highlighted in paragraph 3 above)
- The Welsh Government Context
- Strategies and Plans linked to the Children's Services Strategy, including the Workforce, Accommodation and Commissioning Strategies attached as **Appendices B, C and D** respectively
- Monitoring and Accountability of the Strategy
- Key themes from Engagement Exercises, information arising from the Record of Staff Engagement attached as **Appendix E**
- The experience of children and young people – what they would like to see for future services

The Strategy is also informed by the Demand Analysis attached at **Appendix F**.

## **Way Forward**

6. Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's) will be in attendance and may wish to make a statement. Following any opening statement provided by the Cabinet Member, the Committee will then have the opportunity to ask the Cabinet Members and officers questions on the draft Strategy and supporting documents.

## **Legal Implications**

7. The Scrutiny Committees are empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstance.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the contents of the draft Strategy, supporting documents and information provided at the meeting and report any comments, observations and recommendations to the Cabinet prior to its consideration of the draft Strategy; and
- ii. Consider the way forward for the future scrutiny of the issues highlighted in the draft Strategy for inclusion within the Committee's work programme.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**9 January 2023**