1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report gives the Mayor and Cabinet the opportunity to comment on the new Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-18, outlining how it has been developed, key changes from the previous plan and highlights from its content.

2. Recommendations

That the Mayor:

2.1 notes and comments on the Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-18 and agrees that it be submitted to full Council for approval.

2.2 delegates authority to the Executive Director for Children and Young People to make amendments to the Plan in the light of further comments and data received, prior to it being placed before full Council.

3. Background

3.1 The Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) sets out the high-level aims of the partnership of agencies working for children and young people in Lewisham. This is the fifth plan which has been developed by the Lewisham Children’s Partnership. Whilst the local authority has responsibility for the CYPP, it has been developed with the full involvement of all partners on the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board.

3.2 Although the production of the plan is no longer a statutory requirement, it continues to provide a useful vehicle to reconfirm our strategic ambitions and how we will work together to ensure we achieve our vision to improve the lives and life chances of children and young people in Lewisham.

4. Policy context
4.1 The 2015-18 Children and Young People’s Plan underpins Shaping Our Future – Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020. The CYPP sets out how partnership agencies working with children, young people and their families will support the delivery of the borough’s priorities for the wider community which are set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Ambitious and achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
- Safer – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse.
- Empowered and responsible - where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.
- Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment.
- Healthy, active and enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.
- Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.

5. The development of the CYPP 2015-18

5.1 The plan has been developed in collaboration with all key partners including health, schools, the police and the voluntary and community sector. Our regular engagement with children and young people, particularly through our youth led commissioning groups through our HeadStart Project, have generated insights which have been used to shape this plan. This engagement process has continued throughout the development of the Plan and therefore has shaped the CYPP at every stage of its progression. The engagement and consultation was further enhanced on 3rd July 2015 with a multi-agency stakeholder conference, attended by over 50 professionals from across partnerships, providing the opportunity to discuss and to ensure the Plan reflected collective ambition and commitment to work together and deliver seamless, effective services for our children and young people.

5.2 In addition to this engagement, the Children and Young People’s Plan has been developed through the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board, Joint Commissioning Group and the Children’s and Young People’s Select Committee. Members of each of these groups have seen and commented on earlier versions of the plan and were invited to attend our stakeholder conference in July.

6. Content of the new CYPP

6.1 The CYPP sets out the vision, values and culture which will underpin our approach to working with children and young people across the partnership. The document also critically sets out our priority outcome areas, our action plans and joint commissioning intentions linked to these and how we will go about monitoring the impact of our work.
6.2 For 2015-18 updates the plan significantly. The new priority outcomes, whilst similar in many ways to the previous plan, have enabled us to focus more closely on the particular local circumstances and the priorities articulated by the partnership.

6.3 In particular, the 2015-18 plan has an increased focus on mental health and emotional resilience in young people which, as an area of increasing focus for local agencies, has enormous potential to improve the health and life chances of children across all our priority areas.

6.4 The 2015-18 plan identifies the following key priorities:

- **Building child and family resilience:**
  - BR1: Optimising the outcomes of pregnancy and the first 1001 days, including reducing toxic stress for children and securing attachment
  - BR2: Preventing poor outcomes and escalation of need, including for children in families at risk of crisis through early intervention
  - BR3: Promoting healthy relationships throughout childhood and adolescence
  - BR4: Mitigating the negative impact of insecure or unsuitable housing for children, young people and families
  - BR5: Providing stable and consistent support for our Looked After Children

- **Be healthy and active:**
  - HA1: Improving our rate of immunisations
  - HA2: Ensuring our children and young people are a healthy weight
  - HA3: Improving mental and emotional wellbeing
  - HA4: Improving sexual health
  - HA5: Reducing the prevalence and impact of alcohol, smoking and substance misuse
  - HA6: Encouraging access to and usage of culture, sport, leisure and play activities
  - HA7: Ensuring our Looked After Children are healthy

- **Raise achievement and attainment:**
  - AA1: Ensuring there are sufficient school places for every Lewisham child
  - AA2: Ensuring all our children are ready to participate fully in school
  - AA3: Improving and maintaining attendance and engagement in school at all key stages, including at transition points
  - AA4: Raising participation in education and training, reducing the number of young people who are NEET at 16-19
  - AA5: Raising achievement and progress for all our children at key stages 1-4 and closing the gaps between under-achieving groups at primary and secondary school
  - AA6: Raising achievement and progress for all our children and closing the gaps between under-achieving groups at KS5 and post 16 so that all young
people are well prepared for adulthood and able to access the best education and employment opportunities for them

- AA7: Raising achievement and attainment for our Looked After Children at all key stages and Post 16

- Stay safe:
  - SS1: Identifying and protect children and young people at risk of harm and ensure they feel safe, especially from:
    - SS1a: Domestic violence and abuse
    - SS1b: Child sexual exploitation
    - SS1c: Serious youth violence
    - SS1d: Child abuse and neglect
    - SS1e: Deliberate and accidental injury
  - SS2: Reducing anti-social behaviour and youth offending.
  - SS3: Ensuring that our Looked After Children are safe

6.5 Under each of the priority areas, a set of key performance indicators has been developed which will be used by the partnership to track the impact we are having against our key outcome areas. Each indicator has a specific oversight group with responsibility for tracking performance. Collectively the management of performance against the plan is the responsibility of the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board.

7. Key pressures

7.1 The Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-18 is being developed at a time where there is increased pressure on services and expenditure from a rapidly growing population as well as public sector austerity. This has added implications on services for Lewisham’s children and young people and increases the need to ensure services are targeted appropriately and with a clear focus on outcomes.

8. Access and availability of the plan

8.1 We will endeavour to ensure the plan is fully accessible to all through a range of mediums. In addition to traditional methods of published documents and online version, the plan will have its own web page on the Council website, which will be interactive, more user friendly and provide options and choice in which area of the plan the reader would like to focus on. It is also envisaged that the Review Process which happens annually will also benefit from this new online format.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The new CYPP 2015-18 will continue to focus on priorities we had in the previous plan which require attention and further improvements, there are exceptions to these which reflect the changes in our demographics and the current financial climate.

10. Financial implications
10.1 There are no financial implications to consider as part of this report. The actions proposed in the plan would be funded from the planned revenue budget for the Children and Young People’s Directorate.

11. Legal implications

11.1 There is no longer a legal requirement for a local authority to prepare a Children and Young People’s Plan such a requirement having been removed by the Children’s Trust Board (Children and Young People’s Plan) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2010 which took effect on the 31st October 2010.

12. Equalities implications

Equalities Analysis Assessment has been completed and is attached (appendix 2).

Background Documents

• Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-18 (appendix 1)
• Equality Analysis Assessment (appendix 2)

If there are any queries arising from this report, please contact:

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