

**REPORT TO:** Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**PORTFOLIO:** Children, Education and Social Care Health & Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Everyone Early Help Strategy 2018-2021

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the new Everyone Early Help Strategy that combines children, adults and public health.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

**i) The content of the strategy is discussed and comments invited.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Services to support children, families and vulnerable adults are facing unprecedented challenges. It is obvious that Early Help and Prevention services should make up the cornerstone of any delivery model. If low-level needs can be prevented (or delayed) from developing into more serious or acute needs then this is win-win. Effective, early help and prevention can not only increase independence, improve outcomes and the quality of life for individuals, but also provide a financial return to the Local Authority in the form of cost avoidance and a reduction in the use of more expensive, acute resources.

3.2 This transformation in thinking is about undertaking a whole system review of the approach to Early Help and Prevention, with a focus on increasing the resilience of communities and their potential to help themselves, supported by a planned prioritisation of resources, integration, collaboration, and understanding the benefits that Early Help can have on a wide range of longer term outcomes for everyone involved.

**Halton's Approach**

3.3 There is a long standing and strong commitment to early help and prevention across all agencies and strategic partners in Halton.

Within Halton during 2016/2017 the council restructured to combine the adult and children directorate to create a People's directorate. Both of the existing directorates had in place a prevention/ early intervention strategies but it was agreed to the creation of a new joint Early Help strategy that would sit across the new People Directorate.

3.4 In response to the range of national and local policy developments, this new strategy for Early Help represents a refresh of our approach and reflects our desire for an integrated approach to Early Help across children,' adults and older people's services and public health as part of a whole Council approach.

3.5 Halton's definition of "early help and prevention" across children's and adults' services and public health can be described as:

***"Supporting communities to prevent and reduce need at the earliest stage whilst taking targeted action as soon as possible to tackle emerging situations, where there is a risk of a person developing problems. Early intervention may occur at any point in a person's life".***

3.6 Within the strategy there are five key aims

- 1) More children and young people will lead healthy, safe lives and will be given the opportunity to access education and develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential;
- 2) More adults will have the support they need to live their lives as healthily, successfully, independently and safely as possible, with good timely access to health, mental health and social care services;
- 3) Everyone will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions and experiences to ensure that services meet their individual needs;
- 4) The best possible services will be provided within the resources we have, giving excellent value for the public.
- 5) Our workforce will continue to thrive and work effectively to support each other and the community they serve, ensuring that we have a confident, competent, happy workforce.

3.7 Contained within the strategy there are 3 priorities that we are wanting all agencies to work towards to help further embedded early help principles.

- 1) The right early help, in the right place at the right time.
- 2) Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working
- 3) Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience, to enable people and communities to do more for themselves.

- 3.8 This strategy is ensuring that we are all responsible for Early Help. The idea is to build upon people's strengths at an early stage, so they are enabled with the support of family and friends to recognise when help is required. By tackling the root causes of a problem as early as possible, people are able to maintain their independence and general wellbeing longer and where necessary can self-refer to an appropriate person or service.
- 3.9 We will expect to see that more individuals and families are empowered and enabled to take control of their lives, and they are supported in their local communities avoiding the need for services intervention. When there is service intervention we will expect to see the positive impact in a timely way with families reporting sustained improvement in their circumstances.
- 3.10 Going forward we will focus on some key elements to assist with our early help offer these will be around improving information management and use of information technology, enhancing co-ordination and timing of service delivery, enhancing approaches to whole household and/or family support and building resilience and community capacity.
- 3.11 The development of a robust early help offer for children, young people, adults and families in Halton will prevent problems escalating and becoming entrenched and more complex. It will also lead to a reduction in the need for more costly, specialist and statutory services while preventing unnecessary trauma and emotional upheaval for families.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications identified.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None identified.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Early help strategy directly relates to improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The document also supports key elements within Halton's Safeguarding and Children and Young People's Plans.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no implications for Employment, Learning & Skills arising from this Report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Early Help Strategy supports the Council's strategic priority of Improving Health.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

There are no implications for Safer Halton arising from this Report.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no implications for Urban Renewal arising from this Report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.