

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>10 March 2025</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Establishing a Targeted Early Years and Prevention Task Group</b>
<b>WARD:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The Children's, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy and Scrutiny Development Panel is invited to establish a task and finish group to learn about the work taking place around targeted early help and prevention for children and young people.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Panel is asked to;**

- 2.1 Agree to establish a Task Group to consider targeted early help and prevention for children and young people;**
- 2.2 Endorse the provisional terms of reference, as detailed in para 3.8;**
- 2.3 Delegate authority to the Panel Chair and Vice Chair to finalise the task group membership;**
- 2.4 Request that the task group's findings and recommendations are reported back to the Panel for endorsement within six months of its first meeting.**

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 During the recent Task Group review looking at knife crime prevention, members recognised the importance and value of investment in early years and preventative services. Subsequently, the cabinet member for Children's Services

has also said that he is supportive of the proposal for a task group review of this area.

3.2 The task group will meet privately over Teams with findings reported publicly to the CAHW PDS Panel. The task group will consist of (approx.) five members, with all backbench councillors with an interest in the review area invited to participate. The task group is not required to be politically proportionate, and members will elect a task group chair at the first meeting.

3.3 The review will consist of three phases:

- **Phase 1** – scoping the review (the first meeting)
- **Phase 2** – evidence gathering (number of meetings determined following scoping)
- **Phase 3** – findings and recommendations (produce final report)

3.4 The supporting scrutiny officer will capture the information presented during the evidence gathering and draft the final report. However, the members of the task group will have ownership of the review and subsequent findings/recommendations.

3.5 When the finalised report has been considered and endorsed by the CAHW Panel, the recommendations will be sent to the cabinet member for response. The response from the cabinet member will then be reported back to the CAHW PDS Panel. Following executive approval of any recommendations, the Panel may wish to invite future updates to monitor delivery, as appropriate.

3.6 The following terms of reference are proposed for the review. These will be refined in the scoping meeting with the support of the council's lead officers:

- a) To consider the council's current model for targeted early help and prevention services for children and young people
- b) To assess how the council interacts and collaborates on this agenda with partners such as health.
- c) To evaluate the council's current performance, considering both services directly delivered by the council and commissioned activities.
- d) To review examples of national best practice in this area.
- e) To consider opportunities based on the evidence for the council to improve its future provision for targeted early help and prevention.
- f) To develop a final report identifying findings and recommendations and report to the CAHW PDS Panel within six months of the task group's first meeting.

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 During evidence gathering the task group will consider statutory considerations. These will be reflected in the final report, particularly in relation to any recommendations to emerge from the review.

## 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the review will be supported through existing resources.

## 6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

## 7 EQUALITIES

- 8 Targeted early help and prevention services play a crucial role in promoting equality within councils by addressing the needs of vulnerable children and families before issues escalate. This review will consider opportunities based on best practice to further improve the council offer for this area.

## 9 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 9.1 The task group review will consider, as appropriate, opportunities to contribute to the council's core policy of tackling the climate and ecological emergency, with the commitment to lead the UK in climate and nature action. Meetings will take place remotely over Teams to avoid the necessity of travel.

## 10 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 **Review at Panel** – attempting to undertake the review at Panel level was dismissed because of time constraints on already busy agendas.
- 10.2 **Inquiry day** – this approach was ruled out because of time constraints when considering the scope of the review.

## 11 CONSULTATION

Executive Director – Operations, Director of Public Health and Prevention,  
Assistant Director of Children and Young People.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Ceri Williams – Designated Scrutiny Officer 01225 396053</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	