

Report of the Director for People and Neighbourhoods

Early Help Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **“Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family’s resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not an individual service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners working together and taking collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area.”**

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

- 1.2 The Early Help Strategy sets out Stockport’s collective approach in delivering effective early help to all children, young people and families by focusing on 5 priority areas:
- Families
 - Communities
 - Workforce and Organisational Development
 - Leadership
 - Data and Systems
- 1.3 This strategy aligns with national guidance and statutory guidance, namely
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
 - Supporting Families Programme 2022-2025
 - Early Help Systems Guide March 2022

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The Early Help Strategy 2024-2027 is a refreshed version of our previous strategy launched in 2021.
- 2.2 The Strategy contributes to the delivery of the Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 which identifies seven Big Ambitions. The Early Help Strategy is the core delivery vehicle for Ambition 5 but also works towards the other 6 Ambitions. The Strategy is also a core element of the Stockport’s Neighbourhood and Prevention Programme with particular focus on ensuring residents receive the right help, at the right time and reducing need for crisis intervention.
- 2.3 The process for refreshing the Strategy has involved a systematic approach to reviewing the original plan, consulting key stakeholders, evaluating outcomes, consideration of latest literature and research and local and national guidance.
- 2.4 The refreshed strategy builds on the foundations of the last three years. It has been updated and enhanced based on new insights and changing circumstances to ensure it remains effective and relevant. In particular findings from the Stockport early help

system guide self-evaluation (July 2024) which identified the following areas of focus for early help

- Embed our refreshed strategy, with a strong focus on early help being everyone's responsibility, early help being provided as soon as family needs begin to emerge and increasing our partner led early help assessments with an agreed set of performance measures
- Build sustainability for families and communities by ensuring that all families are aware of our universal offer and have knowledge of their family hub and community services.
- Develop robust measures to gather family feedback across our whole system.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Scrutiny Committee review and comment upon the Early Help Strategy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 The Early Help Strategy