

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY
SHADOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021

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| Report Title | Northamptonshire Children's Trust Business Plan |
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Northamptonshire Children's Trust Business Plan

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek member approval for the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Business Plan (attached at Appendix A) from North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority as required as part of our responsibilities under the Children's Trust Service Delivery Contract.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The plan provides an overview of the responsibilities, vision and priorities.
- 2.2 The plan has been developed in consultation with children and young people, partners, council colleagues, lead members and the Department for Education.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Executive Committee:
- a) Approves the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Business Plan.
- 3.2 *Reason for Recommendation –*
- *To accord with the requirements of the service delivery contract*

4. Report Background

- 4.1 In May 2019 the Secretary of State announced that two new unitary authorities would be formed in Northamptonshire and Children's Services would become a

new single legal entity (Northamptonshire Children's Trust) wholly owned by the County Council, to deliver services across Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire County Council will retain statutory responsibility for children's services and ownership of Northamptonshire Children's Trust until vesting day on 1st April 2021. After vesting day this will transfer to North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.

- 4.2 Northamptonshire's Children's Trust has the strategic and operational responsibility for the delivery of Social Care and Early Help Services, including the Youth Offending Service.
- 4.3 The Northamptonshire Children's Trust business plan covers the period April 2021 to March 2022
- 4.4 Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Children's Trust agreed a service delivery contract for delivery of services and operations of Northamptonshire Children's Trust. As a result, Northamptonshire Children's Trust went 'live' on 1 November 2020 underpinned by a 17-month contract sum with a 5 year contract, associated schedules and a support services agreement.
- 4.5 Within the service delivery contract Northamptonshire Children's Trust are required to produce a business plan for 2021/2022 for consideration by elected members. The Articles of Association for Northamptonshire Children's Trust require that the business plan contains the following items;
 - Introduction
 - Strategic framework
 - Priorities and objectives
 - Working with partners
 - Financial strategy and plans
 - Profit and loss account
 - Cash flow statement
 - Revenue budget and working capital requirements
- 4.6 The trust logo and commitment was designed by children and young people and the business plan is inspired by them.
- 4.7 Northamptonshire Children's Trust is on an improvement journey and the plan includes the priorities of that improvement journey which are;
 - **Effective leadership** – Improvement will be driven by a stable senior leadership team that provides strategic leadership and direction, clarity of the vision for the service and sets clear priorities and expectations.
 - **Recruit and retain an awesome workforce** – Staff are our most valuable resource. We need to recruit, develop and retain committed, skilful and child-centred staff and provide them with the environment in which good practice will flourish.
 - **Strong, relationship-based practice** – Ensuring our practice model is child-centred at its heart and evidenced through all that we do.

- **Insightful quality assurance and learning** – We know ourselves and our practice well through rigorous quality assurance.
- **Healthy partnerships** – We will work strategically with our partners to share responsibility for driving our improvement plan, and all our staff will pursue effective multi-agency practice.
- **Robust and effective resource management** – We will be an effective, high performing trust with high standards of resource management. Critically resource management and budget control are essential to the effective operation of the trust

4.8 The next step will be for Northamptonshire Children’s Trust to produce a 3 year business plan for consideration on 15 September 2021 with a view to a final version being approved before 30 November 2021. This plan will be the same as the attached plan but with appropriate relevant information, such as finances, updated.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 The plan has been developed for Northamptonshire County Council, North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council as delivery of the plan is across the whole of Northamptonshire.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 This council has agreed a contract sum for delivery of services through Northamptonshire Children’s Trust

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The plan is a requirement of the Children’s Trust service delivery contract.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The plan ensures mitigation of safeguarding risks.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 A draft of the plan was consulted on with children and young people, Northamptonshire Children’s Trust workforce, partners, council colleagues, lead members and the Department for Education.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

6.5.1 This report has not been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.6 Environmental Impact

6.6.1 There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 The plan aims to ensure the safeguarding of Children and Young People in the community.

6.8 Equalities

6.8.1 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. Further equality analysis to support this report is not required.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.