



## **Endorsing ‘Brighter Futures’ – A Vision for Children, Young People and their Families in Basingstoke and Deane**

**Cllr Simon Bound, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety**

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix 1:</b>	<b>Brighter Futures – A vision for Children, Young People and their Families in Basingstoke and Deane</b>

**Papers relied on:** **Report to Cabinet April 2017 ‘Strategic Approach to Children, Young People and Families’**  
<https://democracy.basingstoke.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1834>

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### **Foreword - Cllr Simon Bound, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety**

Supporting children, young people and their families to thrive is a key ambition of my Portfolio. However this is not something the council can achieve alone. That is why I am delighted that Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership (BASP) has recently adopted Brighter Futures – A Vision for Children, Young People and their Families in Basingstoke and Deane. The vision and priorities align to BASP’s wider draft Horizon 2050 vision for the borough, which includes aspirations for the creation of opportunities for children, young people and their families, and improving attainment, achievement and wellbeing.

I am clear that the purpose of this vision document is to provide a framework for collaboration between partners, setting out shared priorities around which key organisations can unite. By adopting the vision, the partners within BASP have committed to work together, adding value to the core services they already provide. It also gives focus for wider involvement by community, voluntary and faith organisations, schools, colleges and businesses. By having shared priorities, we know that organisations, including the council, will focus activity in the areas where we all want to make a difference. Additionally, the council is well placed to influence, broker and facilitate these outcomes and relationships.

I ask Cabinet to endorse Brighter Futures, and the council’s contribution to it, so that partners of BASP and other organisations within the borough can move to the next step of producing a Partnership Plan – which will set out what we can do together to support the borough’s children, young people and their families now and in to the future.

### **Recommendation to Cabinet:**

- Endorse the Brighter Futures vision and commit to work in partnership with other organisations on actions that will contribute to delivery of the vision.
- Note the engagement that has taken place through Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership, and the feedback received through that process, to inform development of the final Brighter Futures vision document.
- Note that the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership adopted the Brighter Futures vision at its meeting on 6 December 2018.
- Note that actions and key indicators will be collated in a Partnership Plan, with progress being monitored by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and reported to the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership Board.

### **Background, corporate objectives and priorities**

The council on behalf of the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership has been facilitating the development of a vision document, which identifies key priorities. 'Brighter Futures' which will guide collaborative working under the umbrella of BASP. This vision contributes to the delivery of the [Council Plan](#) 2016-20 priorities of preparing for controlled and sustainable growth, improving residents' quality of life and supporting those who need it. In particular it will support achieving a work-ready workforce by linking employers and education providers, supporting a borough that all feel safe in, promoting strong communities and supporting wellbeing initiatives that improve life chances.

The vision also aligns with a number of other council and partnership strategies and plans, including the draft Horizon 2050 vision, the Shared Plan for Health and Wellbeing, the Community Investment Framework, Local Plan and Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

## Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
ASB	Antisocial Behaviour
CYP&F	Children, young people and their families
BASP	Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership
CEP	Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee
BDBC	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
HCC	Hampshire County Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group

## Main considerations

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 'Brighter Futures' (Appendix 1) sets the direction of travel for partnership work with local children, young people and their families (CYP&F). It has been developed with and adopted by BASP and aligns to the draft ['Horizon 2050 vision'](#) for the borough.
- 1.2 The vision, and partnership plan that will accompany it, will be owned by BASP and monitored by the CYP&F Partnership, which reports into BASP as well as the Hampshire Children's Trust at a county level. It focuses on what the council and partners will aim to achieve through work in community-based settings to complement statutory services.
- 1.3 This report seeks Cabinet's endorsement of 'Brighter Futures' and a commitment to work in partnership with other organisations on actions that will contribute to delivery of the vision. Specific actions and key indicators will be collated in a Partnership Plan, these will be monitored by the CYP&F Partnership and progress being reported to the BASP Board.

### 2 The Proposal

- 2.1 'Brighter Futures' focusses on adding value to statutory services to help address the increasing demand for support for CYP&F. Statutory children's services remain the responsibility of Hampshire County Council (HCC) through its legal frameworks, whereas this vision focusses on the issues within local communities that BASP partners can influence and help to change for the better. Brighter Futures takes a holistic approach, considering the needs of the whole family, when seeking to enable and support local children and young people to thrive. It builds on the work undertaken over the past year and promotes the importance of working in partnership.
- 2.2 It is widely acknowledged that Basingstoke and Deane is a good place to live, study and work, however, there are still a number of challenges for children, young people and their families. It is hoped that by focussing efforts and resources on the priorities identified in Brighter Futures, organisations within

BASP and wider partners can help to improve the opportunities that will allow them to thrive.

2.3 The vision and priorities have been moulded from the input of a wide range of stakeholders informed by professional and personal experiences.

2.4 The vision is:

**‘To create brighter futures for children, young people and their families in Basingstoke and Deane, so that they are safe, happy and well; getting great opportunities to learn, making the most of their talents and have positive aspirations for their future.’**

2.5 There are 8 priority outcomes for partnership working:

- encouraging physically healthy lives;
- promoting good mental health and wellbeing;
- reducing youth related violence and antisocial behaviour;
- fostering inclusive communities;
- improving access to advice and support services;
- ensuring opportunities for additional learning and education;
- preparing for employment and nurturing potential; and
- supporting those with additional and complex needs.

### **3 Key issues for consideration**

3.1 ‘Brighter Futures’ is a shared vision, developed in collaboration, adopted by BASP and now presented for endorsement by Cabinet. The council is already coordinating activity under many of the priority outcomes through its Community Support, Healthy Communities, Economy and Culture and Housing teams. BASP and community partners are also coordinating joint working to further a range of activity under the different priorities.

3.2 The Partnership Plan will set out proposed actions for the period 2019-2024. Progress against such intentions will inevitably be influenced by the strategic direction, availability of resources and the presence of proactive leaders within the respective partnership organisations; nevertheless all are committed to achieving the best outcomes by working to shared goals.

3.3 Over the coming months, partners will be working to develop a range of actions against the agreed priorities, with desired outcomes and key measures, in order to produce a Partnership Plan that will be implemented from spring 2019.

### **4 Corporate implications**

Legal Implications

4.1 This council has no statutory duty to deliver services for CYP&F, but it is enabled, through powers under the Local Government Act 2000, to do anything that it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of its area.

- 4.2 BDBC has a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to promote wellbeing of children and young people through cooperation with partners. It also has powers to promote or improve the wellbeing of its area.

#### Financial implications

- 4.3 There are existing service budgets to support delivery of actions for which the council is the lead provider. Individual organisations will commit their own resources to support their contribution to this vision and will work together to seek grant funding where appropriate.

#### Risk management

- 4.4 A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the council's risk management process and has identified no significant (Red or Amber) residual risks that cannot be fully minimised by existing or planned controls or additional procedures.

#### Equalities implications

- 4.5 An equality impact assessment has been carried out to consider the implications for the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) and the impact on the protected characteristics groups. This concluded that the Brighter Futures vision would be positive for all groups, with particular benefits arising from actions to promote equality for CYP&F with complex and additional needs.

#### Consultation and communication

- 4.6 A series of engagement sessions were held to develop Brighter Futures. These began in early 2018 with the local CYP&F Partnership and Youth Network Forum. A workshop event hosted by BASP was held on 20 September and attended by 71 representatives from various organisations.
- 4.7 The draft vision document was also sent to key stakeholders in October and November 2018. During the consultation there has been input from the education, health, children's services, community safety, housing, business, and voluntary sectors, range of community groups, members and residents.
- 4.8 This engagement resulted in very positive feedback about the commitment being given by all partners to the wellbeing of CYP&F. These included:

- *“Great to see this is not limited to specific groups as it currently is in cases”*
- *“I think it’s a good vision”*
- *“The wording is perfect, however creating a community and environment where the feelings of being safe, happy and well can manifest is challenging in certain districts.”*
- *“As for opportunities to learn, making the most of their talents and having positive aspirations, there are sections of our community who will not, have not or are not ready to take part in this vision. Unlocking the potential of some of these families will be our biggest challenge.”*

4.9 This feedback has helped shaped the draft vision and priority outcomes, and there is evidence that a wide range of stakeholders are actively working together to explore actions to support these outcomes.

#### Feedback from Community Environment and Partnerships Committee

4.10 Members of CEP considered the draft documentation at its meeting on 14 November 2018. It was clear that the committee cared passionately about the wellbeing of CYP&F and recognised that good work was already taking place, but they wanted the ambition to be more challenging and measurable. They did not feel that the vision provided the clarity of purpose and a set of targets that would enable tangible differences to be made to the lives of CYP&F. It was explained at the meeting that this was a partnership vision and at a high level and that the Partnership Plan was the delivery mechanism that sat underneath it which would contain the measurable indicators and targets. The CYPF Partnership as part of BASP were responsible for its production and delivery. The comments of CEP Committee would be fed back into this planning process to influence its direction of travel.

4.11 These comments were discussed between officers, the Portfolio Holder and the Chair of BASP and, in response, a number of amendments were made to the draft document. An important enhancement by BASP to the vision was to ensure that increased emphasis was placed on the need to raise attainment and aspirations of young people. The Chair of BASP committed to working in partnership with a local network of Head Teachers to engage them in how the partnership could assist in ensuring bright futures for children by improving aspirations and attainment. However, the intention of Brighter Futures is to provide consensus and motivation for partnership working, and it is the Partnership Plan that will be more detailed and specific, setting out the operational activity, measures and the added value it brings. The Plan will not and cannot commit the council or any other organisation to replacing services or providing resources where these have been previously withdrawn. It is about making the most effective use of the resources, knowledge and skills that are available.

4.12 HR implications

4.13 Work to deliver the council’s input to Brighter Futures will be carried out within existing staff resources from teams in different service areas. No additional HR implications have been identified.

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Brighter Futures promotes a community based partnership framework to support and enable CYP&F in the borough to thrive now and into the future. The constructive feedback received during the consultation has shaped the final document. Brighter Futures was adopted by the BASP Board on 6 December 2018.
- 5.2 Cabinet is now requested to endorse the Brighter Futures vision and to commit to work in partnership with other organisations on actions that will contribute to delivery of the vision.
- 5.3 Cabinet is also asked to note that actions and key indicators will be collated in a Partnership Plan, with progress monitored by CYP&F Partnership and reported to the BASP Board.

Date: For Cabinet January 2019

<b>Lead officer</b>	Head of Borough Development and Implementation
<b>Report authors</b>	Ed Ives-Wara, CYPF Team Leader, Jane Rawlins-Mateus, Policy Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	20/12/2018
<b>Status</b>	Open
<b>Confidentiality</b>	It is considered that information contained within this report (and appendices) do not contain exempt information under the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and therefore can be made public.