

For general release

REPORT TO:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee 22 June 2021
SUBJECT:	Refreshed Draft Children's Continuous Improvement Plan 2021-2024
LEAD OFFICER:	Debbie Jones, Executive Director, Children, Families & Education
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Cllr Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

[Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022](#)

The plans and recommendations in this report focus on ensuring that all Croydon's children live a happy, healthy life, free from harm and that they have every opportunity to thrive and become fulfilled adults.

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This item has been identified as an item for Scrutiny
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	The Scrutiny Children and Young People Sub-Committee is asked to consider the draft Children's Continuous Improvement Plan 2021-24, which brings together actions relating to practice improvement and MTFs savings, and make comments or suggestions as it feels relevant.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft Children's Continuous Improvement Plan 2021-24 brings together:

- The savings and growth planned over 2021-24 across early help, children's social care and education as the departmental contribution to the Council's Medium Term Finance Strategy (MTFS) – Section 1.
- The practice improvement priorities for early help and children's social care including actions to address the recommendations in the 2020 Ofsted inspection – Section 2.

The majority of the MTFS savings impact on the practice improvement priorities, and there is a direct read across for many of the priorities and actions. However, there are areas that are specific to each section. More details on the background and rationale for the MTFS savings are set out in the CFE Delivery Plan, March 2021.¹

The plan will help the council achieve the overall reduction in spend required and put children's services in Croydon on a sustainable financial footing. We know that we cannot afford to be complacent to sustain the improvements made and build on them. We also know we will need to adjust to emerging needs and themes including the longer term effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on our children and young people.

2. DURATION OF PLAN

The plan is a three year plan, but will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure that it stays relevant and that the Children's Continuous Improvement Board (CCIB) maintains an overview and focus on key high risk areas.

3. THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT BOARD

The Children's Continuous Improvement Board (CCIB) will continue to take key practice improvement and MTFS items on its scheduled work programme to allow Board members to discuss these in more detail with the relevant service leads.

4. THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY

It is recognised that the scrutiny function of Croydon Council also has an important role to play in ensuring that the best possible services are offered to children and young people, and that savings agreed are met as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Scrutiny Children & Young People Sub-Committee will receive this plan at its meeting on 22 June, and is invited to comment on its content. In addition, the Chair of that Committee is a member of the Children's Continuous Improvement Board, and the Chair of the Children's Continuous Improvement Board will attend a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

5. REVIEWING THE PLAN

¹ Croydon CFE Delivery Plan, February 2021

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/s28951/Appendix%201%20-Draft%20CFE%20Delivery%20Plan.pdf>

It is proposed that the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan is reviewed annually by the CCIB. Quarterly reports on progress against the actions in both sections of the plan will be reported to and challenged by the Scrutiny Children and Young People sub-Committee to provide robust oversight. Work will continue to ensure the work programmes and forward plans of the two formal meetings are co-ordinated and aligned to provide whole-system assurance on the progress and impact of the plan.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS/NEXT STEPS

The Scrutiny Children and Young People Sub-Committee is asked to:

- Review the plan and make any suggestions by close of play on Wednesday 29 June 2021, by email, to charlotte.guha@croydon.gov.uk
- Note that the draft plan will be received and discussed by the Children's Continuous Improvement Board on 16th June 2021.
- Note that a finalised version of the plan, incorporating both sets of comments, will come back to the Children's Continuous Improvement Board for sign-off and agreement on 21st July 2021.

CONTACT OFFICER: Debbie Jones,
Executive Director, Children, Families and
Education.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: *Croydon CFE Delivery Plan*, February 2021

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/s28951/Appendix%201%20-Draft%20CFE%20Delivery%20Plan.pdf>

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 Draft Continuous Children's Improvement Plan

