



Subject:	Council Response to Department of Health 'Consultation on cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan'
Date:	10 November 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Council received an invitation from Ellis McDaniel, Director of Family & Children's Policy to participate in the Department of Health's (DOH) consultation on the 'Cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan'. (A copy of the letter and plan is attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).
1.2	Full details of the consultation are available at the following link: Consultation on cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan

1.3	Subject to approval by this Committee, it is proposed that a consultation response is submitted to the Department Of Health (DOH), with the proviso that, the response is subject to full Council approval at its meeting on 1 December 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee are asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the proposed consultation response to the 'Cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan' and agree to the response being submitted to the DOH.
3.0	Main report
	Key Issues
3.1	The Department of Health has led on the development of a 'Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan', which has been produced on a cross-departmental basis with DfC, DE, DOJ and DfE.
3.2	The plan has been developed in response to the challenges and risks facing children, young people and their families due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3.3	The plan identifies a series of activities that will be, or have been, undertaken across the Executive to meet the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families during this time and in the subsequent recovery period.
3.4	The Plan aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reflect the activities that are being undertaken to support children and vulnerable families during Covid-19; reflect how services have adapted and enhanced provision to continue to support children and families during Covid-19; and include new actions, which have been (or will be) undertaken specifically to address some of lockdown's risks and challenges.
3.5	The intention is that the Plan will help support the next steps in rebuilding services to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people.
3.6	The draft consultation response is attached as Appendix 3 for Members' consideration (The response refers to the document 'Universal approaches to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing' which is attached as Appendix 4).

3.7	<p>The draft response welcomes the plan and its ambitions. It proposes suggestions regarding the monitoring the plan's outcomes and outputs, the need to take account of work being undertaken by other stakeholders and highlights the need for the plan to be mindful of the current changeable environment that may impact some of the proposed activities.</p>
3.8	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications associated in responding to the consultation.</p>
3.9	<p>Equality and Good Relations implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications in responding to the consultation.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Invitation to respond to consultation</p> <p>Appendix 2: Department of Health's 'Consultation on cross-departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan'</p> <p>Appendix 3: Proposed Consultation Response from Belfast City Council</p> <p>Appendix 4: 'Universal approaches to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing: Short descriptions of interventions identified from the synthesis of systematic reviews' Public Health England (2019)</p>