

Report to:

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Mrs Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services

Date of Meeting:

13 September 2018

HEADSTART UPDATE

1.1 To update the Committee on the work of Headstart and the key highlights of the first two years of the programme.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To consider the update provided and identify any further information and actions required.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure progress is monitored and scrutinised effectively.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options considered:

None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 HeadStart

HeadStart has now been running for two years, with another three to go until the

end of the programme. Funding committed from the Big Lottery Fund over the course of the programme (ending August 2021) equates to £10.4 million, of which £2.9 million has been spent in the first 20 months to March 2018. The programme strategy includes a proportionate universalism approach, first authored in the Marmot Report (2008). This means that all 10 to 16 year-olds across the town benefit from HeadStart support – as well as parents, carers and professionals – with the aim of increasing their resilience and wellbeing by giving them the tools to do so and by changing the systems around them. However, the level of support they receive is proportionate to their need. HeadStart is building a Resilience Revolution, which will help beat the odds for our young people, at the same time as changing the odds for everyone in Blackpool.

- 5.2 The early part of the programme involved the set-up of the 16 different projects developed within the strategy, the recruitment of staff, and the procurement of contracts with external providers. The programme is now in full operational mode, and early outcomes are starting to be realised.
- 5.3 Appendix 7(a) contains details of the various initiatives that form part of the programme, in the format of “HeadStart on a page”. As well as universal initiatives, the programme also incorporates support specifically aimed at our target groups: looked after children, pupils in transition from primary to secondary school, and young people at risk of self-harm. The resilience approach underpinning the work across the programme is the Resilience Framework created by Hart, Blincow and Thomas (2004). The version of the Framework at Appendix 7(b) has been adapted from the original by Blackpool young people, incorporating wording and images that are more accessible and attractive to young people.
- 5.4 The draft of the first Annual Report can be found at Appendix 7(c). This covers the period September 2017 to August 2018, with some of the figures being updated prior to publication. The Annual Report has been co-designed with young people in order to ensure that it is accessible to the target audience. Given that this is the first of such documents, any comments and feedback from the Scrutiny Committee would be welcomed regarding whether it contains what would be required of an Annual Report.
- 5.5 Some key highlights from the Annual Report:
 - There has been a significant amount of co-production activity with young people and with parents and carers. Co-production is fundamental to the programme, and no decisions are made without involving young people. In total, 44 young people are involved in groups outside of schools, with 137 involved in groups in schools. The groups are a key part of driving change through the programme, and the young people hold HeadStart to account through attendance and challenge at the Executive Board.

- HeadStart is using digital solutions as a key method of engaging with young people and the community. In total, 120 pieces of digital content have been created in collaboration with young people, staff and the community, and posted on HeadStart's YouTube page and across social media. A variety of digital campaigns have helped to spread the word about the Resilience Revolution and raise its profile.
- All of Blackpool's schools have now engaged with HeadStart, with 17 Resilience Action Plans in place, setting out the schools' proposed activity to further develop their whole school environment to be resilience building. Eighteen Resilience Committees, made up of 137 pupils in schools, have been established and have been a key part of this action planning process.
- Lancashire Mind's Bounce Forward programme has been delivered in 25 schools, teaching Year 5 pupils all about resilience. In total, 68 per cent of pupils reported an increase in their wellbeing, with 50 per cent saying that their resilience had increased.
- A total of 363 young people have been supported by Resilience Coaches, including 14 looked after children who have managed to avoid permanent exclusion and remain in their mainstream school. This September will see the first cohort of pupils who have received transitions support from the team moving up into secondary school.
- There has been a significant focus on workforce development, with programmes in schools, Children's Services and beyond helping to embed the use of the Resilience Framework and common language across all professionals who work with Blackpool's young people, and the people who care for them and volunteer with them. In order to support sustainability, HeadStart has shifted from using partner Boingboing to deliver training sessions to developing in house cohorts of trainers and learning resources.
- There are 15 people committed to being Friends for Life to looked after children, with the first four friendships already in place and working well.
- Walk and Talk counselling, delivered by Blackpool Hospitals Trust, has supported 217 young people at risk of self-harm, with 76 per cent reporting a decrease in negative thoughts.

5.6 Over the course of the next year, a key focus will be on the evaluation of the various initiatives and the programme overall. The research and evaluation workstream has been slow to get off the ground, but in February 2018, University of Brighton was

appointed as the Collaborative Research Partner. Their full-time Research Fellow will be based in Blackpool from the end of September 2018, and the combined team will then have more capacity to evaluate the growing evidence and assess the impact and outcomes for young people. A timetable has been established for “deep-dives” to be presented to the Executive Board, which will take the initiatives in turn and scrutinise the evaluation and outcomes so that decisions can be taken about the future direction of the programme.

5.7 Even though there are still three years of the programme to run, work has already begun on sustainability to ensure the Resilience Revolution is kept going and to leave a legacy for future generations of young people. The sustainability plan has three strands:

- Spreading the Revolution – raising the profile of the Resilience Revolution through communications and academic research activity, developing an identity for Blackpool as a resilient town and ensuring that Blackpool becomes the worlds first in having embedded one approach to resilience across the whole town, with people from far and wide wanting to learn from Blackpool. One way of doing this is through the creation of a “Resilience Pathway” along Talbot Road. This will see paving stones depicting the 42 resilient moves from the Resilience Framework laid alongside the new tramway, helping local people and visitors to learn more about the work.
- Doing Things Differently – ensuring that whole-systems change is effected within schools, the Council, Health, Police, Voluntary and Community Sector and other partners through learning opportunities available to all, and the embedding of changes in practice. This change will be centred on the principles of the programme including co-production, asset based approach, brave and innovative, whole systems change, one language – one approach and a focus on research and evaluation.
- Keeping the Good Stuff Going – detailed evaluation of the emerging evidence from HeadStart’s initiatives that demonstrates the added value from the various projects, the impact on young people’s resilience, and who is benefitting, which will allow future funding streams to be identified.

5.8 The programme will be analysing data available from HeadStart activity over the next 12 months and making key decisions regarding the strategy for the remaining three years, including which projects will cease and which will be expanded. With a key focus on sustainable activity, the vision is to achieve the necessary momentum of successful activity to enable the Resilience Revolution to continue after the Big Lottery Funding ceases.

6.0 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a): HeadStart on a page

Appendix 7(b): Resilience Framework

Appendix 7(c): Draft HeadStart Annual Report September 2017 to August 2018

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None

14.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

14.1 None

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None