

Maternity, Childhood and Adolescence Portfolio Board

(But we recognise we need a new name!)

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There is a compelling case for change

We have a growing population

- Over 330,000 children and young people live across Birmingham and Solihull
- We have one of the youngest urban populations in Europe

Often facing a challenging start to life

- 1 in 10 of our mothers suffer from mental health problems in the first year after giving birth
- 1/3 of our children are deemed to live in poverty and 1 in 10 suffer from mental health problems
- We have amongst the worst rates of infant mortality in England

With significant consequences

- Overall levels of health and wellbeing, child development at the end of reception, obesity rates and levels of emergency hospitalisation are significantly worse than the national average for many of our areas

Supported by what our children, young people and families have told us so far

- We have established a clear framework for co-production and engagement
 - Youth parliament
 - Working with schools and colleges in partnership with Envision
 - Creating films and visual imagery
 - Engaging with vulnerable groups and the seldom heard
 - Hearing what we are told
- Examples of best practice exist, and we have some amazing people doing their very best
- However the current system as a whole is too complex and not responsive enough – when we need support we need it quickly
- Biggest concern is mental health, wellbeing and self-confidence
- We see unacceptable levels of homelessness and knife crime – we want to create a positive image of the place we are growing up in

Some of things we have heard

“Knowing that you are tackling the big issues means a lot to me”

“I just want to be able to feel comfy in my own skin”

“People working that have a ‘passion’ for helping. I want you to help me, but more importantly, I want you to want to help me.”

“I want you to tell me the truth, don’t wrap it up”

Themes emerging so far



Services must be based around the child and their family, not organisations

- Single strategy for health and social care
- Models based on delivery through integrated teams
- Importance of place and ensuring services are delivered locally



There needs to be a compelling offer to support the early life course of a child

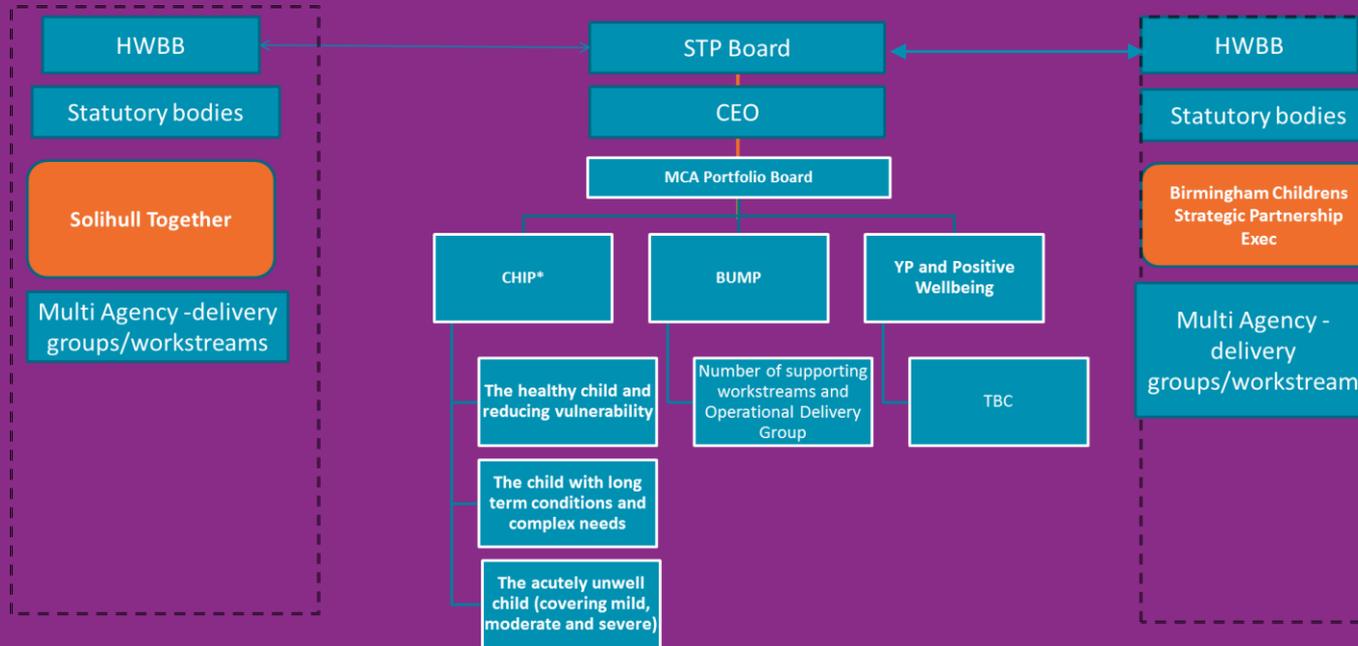
- Pre-conception offer for physical and mental health (BUMP)
- Comprehensive early years 0-5 model
- A clear plan aimed at improving school readiness



We need a joined up programme that focuses on mental health and wellbeing

- Our ambition should be to create and promote “positive childhood experiences” from pre-school age into adulthood
- However, not all mental health issues are avoidable and when children and young people do need our support this must be provided in a timely and accessible way, ideally face-to-face

Governance of partnership working in children's services still requires further thought



And there are challenges and risks that must be addressed

- Our strategy for children and young people must create **a single shared vision** that is owned across health and social care
- There is a danger that existing governance arrangements and the need to respond to regulation and inspection will take us off course
- Working with partners in Early Years Services and Education is critical, but not easy to do at scale
- It is important that we are honest with our children, young people and families about what we can and cannot directly influence
- The need for a clear focus on delivery — **it has to be different this time!**

What will we do next

- Expand our engagement approach to ensure that the voices of vulnerable and seldom heard groups are truly represented in our strategy
- Work with our children, young people and families in order to define the 2-3 specific measurable objectives that will have the biggest impact
- Develop our strategy document for the programme so that it is ready for public consultation – draft version to be considered at February 2019 portfolio board
- Refine the current governance arrangements between the portfolio board and the respective local authority structures in order to ensure that there is a shared clarity of purpose