

27 February 2023

Regarding: **Information and support from the Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group (HPIG)**

Dear Executive Lead for Children,

We are writing to you as co-chairs of the [*Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group \(HPIG\)*](#), a coalition of over 70 national charities, Royal Colleges and professional associations working to improve the health of babies, children and young people across England.

Our focus in the coming months is **monitoring the implementation of Integrated Care Systems** and considering the extent to which children have been prioritised within Integrated Care Partnership strategies and Integrated Care Boards 5 Year Joint Forward Plans. HPIG played a key role during the passage of the Health and Care Act 2022, and we welcomed the government amendments to the Act which ensured the needs of babies, children and young people would be at the heart of the new system. We continue to work collaboratively with DHSC, the Hewitt Review and NHS England and play a supportive role with the implementation of the Act.

Our current plan is to undertake an analysis of every Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and Integrated Care Board 5-Year Joint Forward Plan using the set of criteria that we include in Annex 1. This is intended as a positive exercise and it is likely that we will make this analysis public later in the year. We wanted to you to be aware of this work and to give you the opportunity to comment on our approach or to send us further information about your ICS that might be helpful.

As a group, we are also very keen to assist you in your role as Executive Lead for Children. We are happy to discuss further with you directly to consider how we can be of most help.

Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group

Other ways we can support:

- **Provide evidence or insight** for your strategy and 5 year joint forward plan in relation to babies, children and young people. If you have not yet published your strategy or plan we would be happy to provide additional input or evidence.
- **Celebrate what is going well** and share any insights with other ICSs. If you feel something has been going well in your work with children, we would love to hear this and share it through our membership. This will also help us collect best practice and improve the health outcomes for children across the country.
- **Share insights from other ICSs** with you around good practice, approaches to addressing inequalities and what is going well in other parts of the country.
- **Specialist insight and knowledge** from our wide range of member organisations, many of whom work directly with children with particular needs (such as young carers, children with cancer, children with disabilities and other needs).

Please do let us know if you would like to follow up on anything in this letter, and thank you for all you do for children.

Yours sincerely,

Co-chairs of HPIG

Amanda Allard,

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Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group

ANNEX 1

Key criteria for assessing strategies and plans:

- **Population health** - whether children and young people have been recognised as an entire population health group, from conception to 25.
- **Leadership** - whether an Executive Lead for Children and Young People has been appointed; whether there is clarity about leadership for children's mental health, SEND and safeguarding (other statutory roles).
- **Co-production** – whether there is evidence of the extent and quality of the engagement with children, young people and families, and how this has informed decisions.
- **Workforce** - whether there is a clear approach to building and strengthening the children's workforce in its widest sense.
- **Information and data** – whether there is evidence of joined up use of multi-agency data to drive planning, prioritisation and commissioning.
- **Integration** – whether there is evidence of engagement with a full range of statutory agencies with responsibility of children and young people; if plans articulate a joint approach with other key services, notably local authority children's services, SEND, and early education, schools and colleges, as well as an approach to integration across NHS services, such as community, GP and hospital services.
- **Inequalities** - the extent to which health inequalities amongst different groups of children and young people are recognised and steps identified to address those inequalities; whether the role of Cor20Plus5 for children and young people is referenced