

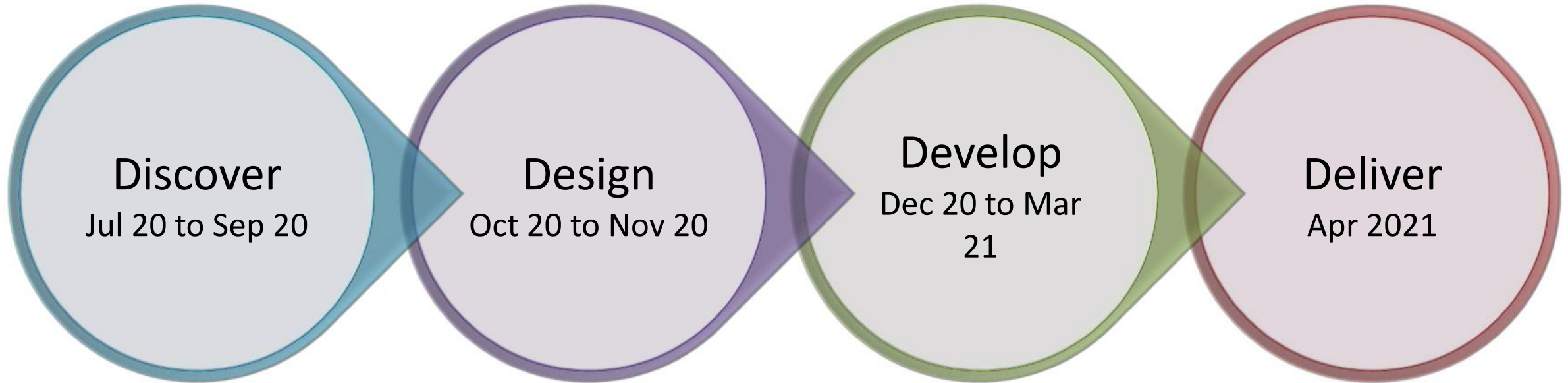
Update and launch a new Early Years and Childcare Strategy from April 2021

- The previous Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2015–2018 set out the specific commissioning and operational approach that delivered the strategic direction for the Authority.
- This created the conditions to give all children the best possible opportunity to succeed; to thrive in school and be able to make a positive contribution throughout their lives.
- An ECC cross function project team have convened to review this strategy, understand the current landscape to produce and implement a new Early Years and Childcare strategy from April 2021

The Project Team Outputs are: -

1. **To produce a new Early Years and Childcare Strategy. Including:**
 - A definition of School Readiness
 - Maintaining a good level of development and improving outcomes for those not able to achieve a good level of development
 - A clear focus to connect the full early years system effectively
 - A 5year business plan that clearly aligns to the overarching Education Strategy
2. **To implement a set of minimum expectations for the childcare sector to address quality**
 - The 'Essex Early Years Charter'
3. **A redesigned Early Years and Childcare service, with:**
 - A clear vision, purpose and direction
 - Fit for purpose roles and responsibilities
4. **Assess the proposal for ECC to enter the Early Years and Childcare market**
5. **Workforce** – how we drive forward the wider early years and childcare workforce changes needed.

Proposed Timeline and Key Deliverables



- Local Authority Insight
- Wider engagement with key partners
- Further engagement with Schools, Settings and the Internal Workforce
- Parental Engagement

- Future Vision
- Draft Early Years and Childcare Strategy
- Alignment to Education Strategy
- Draft Comms Strategy
- Develop success measures
- Pilot new ideas

- Share Strategy with Stakeholders incl. Schools, Settings and Children's Partnership to create buy in
- Develop Strategy following feedback from Stakeholders
- Finalise solutions and different ways of working
- Implementation Plan
- Communications Plan
- Project Governance

- Go Live - Launch strategy (alongside issuing the Essex free early education entitlement funding contract)
- Measure success - ongoing

To launch a new Early Years and Childcare Strategy, which focuses on the following 5 aims:-



1. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO MAKE EXPECTED OR BETTER THAN EXPECTED PROGRESS FROM THEIR STARTING POINTS IN THE EARLY YEARS.



2. SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE



3. DEVELOPING THE EARLY YEARS WORKFORCE TO PROVIDE THE EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



4. ENSURING SUFFICIENT CHILDCARE PLACES TO SUPPORT EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FOR WORKING PARENTS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY IMPACT FROM COVID-19



5. AN EFFECTIVE, CONNECTED WHOLE EARLY YEARS SYSTEM THAT HAS A CLEAR VISION, PURPOSE AND DIRECTION