FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 June 2017

DRAFT STRATEGY OUT FOR COMMENT

A draft strategy detailing Campaspe Shire Council’s role in children’s growth and development is on public exhibition until Friday, 14 July.

Mayor, Cr Adrian Weston, said the draft Municipal Early Years Plan has been developed with key stakeholders and sets out the community’s vision and goals for children from birth to eight-years-old and their families.

“The plan provides a strategic direction for the development and coordination of early years programs, activities and other local community development processes that impact on children from birth to eight-years-old,” Cr Weston said.

“The plan sets out council’s commitment to supporting children and ensuring that families understand the importance of the early years and have the support they need during this critical phase of every child’s life.”

Research and consultation were key in developing the draft plan, including an online survey, followed by workshops with key stakeholders. Trends were then identified and formulated into the overarching vision for the plan – the Shire of Campaspe is a place where children are supported to reach their potential – underpinned by the four key goals of:

- **The best possible start** – Children have the opportunity to grow and develop in a rich and nurturing environment.
- **High quality, sustainable services and infrastructure** – Plan for, monitor and evaluate services and facilities to meet community need.
- **Support vulnerable children** – Families in which children may be vulnerable are identified and assisted before things become critical.
- **Family friendly places** – The physical environment of the shire supports the growth and development of children and families.

Each year, annual plans will be developed outlining the actions that council and its partners intend to take towards achievement of the vision and goals.

“I encourage people with an interest in the growth and development of children to take some time to review the strategy and contribute their comments.”

“This feedback will help inform the final strategy for council’s consideration,” Cr Weston added.

The draft Municipal Early Years Plan can be viewed on council’s website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au or at a council customer service centre.

Feedback on the strategy can be emailed to k.mullane@campaspe.vic.gov.au or sent by post to:

Municipal Early Years Plan, Campaspe Shire Council, PO Box 35, Echuca VIC 3564

To coordinate an interview or seek further information contact:

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