



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

17th June 2009

Subject: Building Brighter Futures in Leeds - The Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Executive Board with an overview of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2014 (attached at appendix 1) and seeks the Board's approval of the Plan before its submission to Full Council and then to Government Office.
- 1.2 All local authorities are required to lead the development and approval of a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for their area, in partnership with all local children's services. Leeds first CYPP was approved in 2006 and ran until 2009. This new Plan has been developed through extensive consultation over the past year, including the involvement of children, young people and families. It particularly reflects the findings of the recent Annual Performance Assessment inspection and the city-wide work already underway to bring different services together around more integrated ways of working.
- 1.3 This cover report highlights some of the key learning from the consultation and outlines the new priorities for all children's services in Leeds. It highlights the distinction between specific immediate priorities and longer-term ambitions. It also outlines how the Plan will be monitored through a range of different processes including elected member involvement. It outlines next steps to progress the Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Executive Board recommend to Full Council the adoption of the new Children and Young People's Plan for Leeds 2009-14 attached at appendix 1.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides Executive Board with an overview of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2014 (attached at appendix 1) and seeks the Board's approval of the Plan before its submission to Full Council and then to Government Office.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 All local authorities are required to lead the development and approval of a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for their area, in partnership with all local children's services. The CYPP is intended to form the 'single, overarching strategy' for improving outcomes for children and young people and as such the plan is a framework for all strategic and service planning for children and young people's services. The CYPP therefore brings together and is linked to all other strategies and plans within children's services to ensure a cohesive approach to improving services and working better together for children and young people in Leeds. The plan is also a key part of our performance management framework, is used by inspectors to judge progress and is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. It follows the Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance for developing a local Children and Young People's Plan.
- 2.2 The first Leeds CYPP was developed in 2005/06 and approved by Full Council in summer 2006. The plan ran until 2009, with regular annual reviews. This new Children and Young People's Plan has been developed in line with revised national guidance and linking to the wider Leeds Strategic Plan and national Children's Plan, from which it takes its name. The new plan will be for the years 2009-2014. This period has been chosen to link into national and local planning and budget cycles and to allow time to set out and implement the longer term strategy for children's services in line with the government's own 2020 targets in the Children's Plan. It is intended to undertake a major review in 2011, when new statutory requirements are likely to come into force for children's trusts and also to coincide with the next Leeds Strategic Plan and the three-year national budget cycle.
- 2.3 The new plan has been in development over the past year. Since January 2008 the Director of Children's Services Unit has been working across the partnership to consult on it. This has involved working with, amongst others: children and young people; parents; Elected Members; staff; school governors and partner organisations. In addition to this consultation, learning and analysis from various processes has informed the new draft plan. Important examples of this include: quarterly performance reviews; the formal Annual CYPP Review 2008; the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken last year with NHS Leeds; and crucially the feedback from recent inspections in services, schools and children's centres.
- 2.4 A draft was developed for consultation over the spring of 2009. In March and April it was posted on the Children Leeds website, with opportunities to respond promoted to a variety of relevant groups and partners across the city. The Children's Services Scrutiny Board received a draft of the Plan at its March 2009 meeting and then again in May 2009. Upon closure of the consultation the Children and Young People's Plan was re-drafted, taking the feedback received into account.
- 2.5 As it is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, following submission to and subject to the approval of Executive Board, the Plan will be submitted to the July

2009 Full Council to seek approval and adoption of the plan in advance of its submission to Government Office.

- 2.6 This cover report outlines; the priorities identified in the plan, a review of the progress made since the first CYPP was developed, the performance management and monitoring arrangements for the plan and the next steps to ensure its timely publication.

3.0 A Brief Overview of the Plan

- 3.1 The new Children and Young People's Plan reflects on the progress and learning of the last three years and aims to be ambitious and focused about our priorities and approach for the future. Drawing particularly on the outcomes of our recent Annual Performance Assessment it gives prominence to the importance of safeguarding work throughout, it also captures our learning and understanding about how we must improve services and strengthen safeguarding by making 'integrated working' the central premise of how Leeds will deliver improved outcomes to children and young people.

- 3.2 The Plan is structured in the following sections:

- ***Our Vision for children and young people:*** The 'Promise' to young people and key components of our approach that will help deliver this.
- ***Review:*** This section outlines the context of growing up in Leeds and the development of children's services since the first plan was published in 2006. It considers progress made since our first plan with a particular focus on what we have learnt. It also examines very briefly changes in the wider children's services context both nationally and in Leeds.
- ***Our immediate priorities:*** these are informed by our review, our needs analysis, and the targets in the Leeds strategic plan, this section sets out our priorities for improving outcomes over the next two years.
- ***Delivering our plan:*** this section details key information on how we will deliver our plan. It focuses on bringing services together through to help strengthen safeguarding integrated working, our joint plans for managing resources and how this work will be performance managed.
- ***Our longer term ambitions:*** This section details the wider areas that we will focus on over the next five years, whilst many of these ambitions clearly link to our immediate priorities, they also recognise the importance of a wider range of work to bring about improvements in outcomes across many important aspects of children and young people's lives. It includes the rationale, vision and actions that inform these ambitions.
- ***Appendices:*** This last section provides relevant further information cited in the plan, action plans and links to relevant documents.

- 3.3 The Plan presents a balanced review of progress and a good foundation on which to build. Drawing on performance and inspection information it highlights progress in areas that include:

- Increasing the number of mothers who breastfeed their babies, the number of children and young people involved in sporting activities and the number of schools achieving healthy schools status;
- Ensuring key assessments of children and young people happen more quickly;
- Delivering of a successful anti-bullying strategy which involving over 114 schools;
- Leeds best ever GCSE results in 2008 and a 22% reduction in persistent absence, however this remains an area where more work is required;
- A reduction in the number of young people who offend and re-offend;
- Investments made in regeneration that have improved housing in the city;
- Stronger children's trust arrangements, are working better at a local level and are working more effectively together to plan and organise local services;

3.4 It also identifies issues where improvement and more intensified focus are needed, these include:

- Increasing the numbers of children who are being immunised;
- Supporting children & young people to help prevent obesity;
- Reducing the number of children and young people becoming parents whilst still teenagers and the number of children who die before reaching one year of age;
- Reducing the number of our children who need to be taken into care and where they are taken into care supporting and involving them in their reviews;
- Helping children and young people by working more closely with services who work with parents who have mental health or substance misuse needs;
- Raising our Foundation Stage and primary school standards, increasing our GCSE achievement in line with government floor targets, and reducing the number of young people who are persistently absent;
- Doing more to reduce the number of young people who receive fixed term exclusions from school;
- Raising the numbers of young people who go on to further education, employment or training at age 16 and helping more young people continue into education, employment or training at age 19; and
- Narrow the achievement gap between different groups of children and young people, particularly helping those who are Looked After, from Black or Minority Ethnic groups, those who receive free school meals and those who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities;

3.5 The learning outlined above, along with the wider feedback from consultation and several other key considerations have informed the development of new priorities for

Leeds. Recognising that there are issues that require immediate, intense and targeted focus as well as themes where we have longer-term ambitions to improve, the Plan makes a distinction between our immediate priorities and our longer-term ambitions, recognising that these are interlinked. The two tables below detail what our priorities and ambitions are and summarise the rationale for their identification;

Our immediate priorities		Priority for children	Priority for parents	Priority for services	Priority for inspectors	National priority	Leeds Strategic Plan	Narrowing the gap
<i>Improving outcomes</i>								
1	Improving outcomes for Looked After Children			✓		✓	✓	✓
2	Improving attendance and reducing persistent absence from school				✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Improving early learning and primary outcomes in deprived areas		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Providing places to go and things to do	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
5	Raising the proportion of young people in education or work	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Reducing child poverty	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
7	Reducing teenage conception		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Reducing the need for children to be in care			✓			✓	✓
<i>Working together better</i>								
9	Strengthening safeguarding		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Enabling integrated working		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Our long term ambitions.		Priority for children	Priority for parents	Priority for services	Priority for inspectors	National priority	Leeds Strategic Plan priority	Narrowing the gap
All Children and Young People:								
1	Are safe and secure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Are safe and supported in stronger communities	✓	✓				✓	✓
3	Are helped to narrow the gap			✓			✓	✓
4	Are thriving in learning		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Are safe and supported in stronger families	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Enjoy life and have places to go and things to do	✓	✓			✓		✓

7	Make the right choices	✓	✓			✓		✓
8	Make a good start		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Are supported by excellent, integrated working.		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

4.0 Performance Management and Accountability Arrangements

4.1 The Plan recognises the importance of clear and consistent performance monitoring arrangements to drive the implementation of the Action Plans for improvement it includes. These arrangements have several strands, which together provide a framework of accountability. This includes:

- Reporting to Children and Young People: through an annual 'report card' of progress produced and distributed through the Youth Council, school councils and Reach Out and Reconnect (ROAR) group.
- Through Children's Trust Arrangements: With specific roles for the Director of Children's Services (DCS), the Children Leeds Partnership, the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board, the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and our local partnerships and clusters.
- Through Democratic Involvement: The Plan outlines the distinct roles of Full Council, Executive Board, the Children's Services Scrutiny Board, the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, Area Committees and the Corporate Carers Group.
- The new Ofsted Inspection Framework: As part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, will focus closer scrutiny specifically on safeguarding and looked after children's services.

5.0 Resource Management

5.1 The effective management and targeting of resources will be essential in working to address the Plan's priorities. The Plan includes a section that outlines resource management for the coming year. Following publication of the Children and Young People's Plan the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board will lead on a programme to better focus all partners' resourcing and commissioning plans on the priorities and ambitions set out in this plan. This will be developed through budget and commissioning plans to be confirmed in Autumn/Winter 2009.

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 Subject to approval of the plan by Executive Board and Full Council, work will be undertaken to develop the document ready for wider publication. Details are still being finalised, but recognising that the current version is quite strategic and aimed primarily at those working in children's services a more 'public friendly' version, containing a range of pictures and quotes from children and young people will be developed. A children and young people's version will also be created over the summer, with the support of The Project, this will focus on the areas that young people feel are particularly important to them. A much more simplified 'desk friendly' version will be also be created for children's services staff to use. All three versions of

the plan will be ready for publication in late September 2009, when a launch event will be held.

6.2 Following submission to Full Council in July and subject to its approval it will then be submitted to Government Office.

6.3 To be effective the plan must remain a live document, therefore as detailed above it will continue to be used to guide and support the monitoring of service delivery and performance across the city, and will undergo an annual review in 2010.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 Leeds has made a variety of good progress since the development of the first children and young people's plan, however some big challenges remain and the 2009 – 2014 Children and Young People's Plan highlights these and details how we intend to address them.

7.2 The new Leeds Children and Young People's Plan has been developed by partners from across the City and through extensive consultation. The plan identifies clear immediate priorities and longer-term ambitions and as such will guide commissioning decisions and policy development for children's services across the city. The plan is a strong over-arching policy document that will act as our mandate for change and improvement in both the short and longer term.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 That Executive Board recommend to Full Council the adoption of the new Children and Young People's Plan for Leeds 2009-14 attached at appendix 1.

9.0 Background Papers

The 2006-09 Children and Young People's Plan for Leeds.