



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 5th March 2009

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Electoral Wards Affected: All | Specific Implications For: Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|---|

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an opportunity to offer input and comment to the draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The Board are being provided with an early opportunity to support the plan's development as part of the plan's final consultation period. The consultation period on the draft will run from 6th March until 6th April 2009.

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, over-arching strategy' for improving outcomes for children and young people. The CYPP is an important document for partnership working, inspection and is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

2.2 The first Leeds CYPP was developed in 2005/06 and approved by Full Council in summer 2006. The plan was for a three-year period and so is now coming to its conclusion. As reported previously to the Board, progress has been generally good overall, with improvement seen in the majority of indicators and strong gains in key areas such as GCSE results. However, as recent inspections have confirmed, significant challenges remain, particularly around safeguarding and post-16 learning.

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 the new CYPP. This has involved consultation and engagement 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; the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken last year with NHS Leeds; and the feedback from recent inspections in services, schools and children's centres.

- 2.4 The new Children and Young People's Plan is in line with revised national guidance and provides a link 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 Children's Plan which sets targets for 2020. 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 next three-year national budget cycle.

3.0 Main Issues

- 2.1 The plan includes the following sections:

- *Introduction:* this includes a Foreword from the Lead Member and Director, and a list of all the partner agencies that have approved the plan, and their pledge to work together to implement it.
- *Vision:* this section briefly sets out the aspiration for the future, both for children, young people and families as well as for children's services in Leeds.
- *Safeguarding:* this part provides a vision for safeguarding, a review of national and local issues and action plans both for inter-agency work on safeguarding through the Local Safeguarding Children Board as well as the proposed 'Transformation Programme' for Children and Young People's Social Care.
- *Working Together Better:* this section describes the strategy for changing and integrating services and for further developing locality working. An action plan sets out the key activities for the next two years.
- *14-19 Education:* as 14-19 learning is an important part of the children's services agenda, all CYPPs are expected to include information on 14-19 Education. This section does this by referring to the Leeds 14-19 Education Plan and providing a brief summary of the plan.
- *Review:* this part of the plan summarises the progress, challenges and learning points for children's services in the three years since the first CYPP was approved. It also includes
- *Priorities:* this section explains the eight priorities agreed by the partnership for the next two years. The priorities are concentrated on achieving key targets in the Leeds Strategic Plan, important issues raised in inspection and include a priority decided by children and young people themselves. These eight priorities are supported by a 'top ten' list of targets to measure success.
- *Longer-term programme:* this part of the plan provides a framework for the longer-term, wider agenda for children's services in Leeds over the next five years. It is organised around eight key themes.
- *Managing the plan:* this last section provides a summary of the proposed arrangements for the resource management, performance management and joint commissioning needed to deliver the plan.

2.2 The priorities set out in the plan are intended to be a clear, short list that can provide the focus for intensive collective effort by all local children’s services over the next two years. This short list of shared priorities is intended to help create a wider understanding and ownership of the most important issues in the city for children and young people. These eight priorities have been agreed as those areas where there are the highest risks, where improvement is not yet embedded, and where change is challenging. These eight priorities are those that most require new shared approaches, innovation and collective effort. The priorities, and a summary of their rationale are shown below:

| Priority | Priority for children | Priority for parents | Priority for services | Priority for inspectors | National priority | Leeds Strategic Plan Priority | Narrowing the gap |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Improving early learning and primary outcomes in deprived areas | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Improving attendance and reducing Persistent Absence from school | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Reducing teenage conception | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Raising the proportion of young people in education or work | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Reducing the need for children to be in care | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Reducing Child Poverty | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| ‘Places to go and things to do’ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |

2.3 Whilst it is important for the plan to set out a sharp set of priorities, there is also a need for the plan to help shape and communicate the city’s direction and wider strategy for change in children’s services. This is included in the plan in two ways – firstly in the sections on the central issues of safeguarding, integrated services and 14-19 Education. Secondly, the plan describes the wider, longer-term strategy, based around key themes. These are shown below:

All children and young people are...

- *Making a good start*
- *Thriving in learning*
- *Making the right choices*
- *Supported by stronger families*

- *Supported by safer, stronger communities*
- *Enjoy life and have places to go and things to do*
- *Are helped to narrow the gap*
- *Supported by excellent, integrated services*

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 The plan is at present a draft document. Several sections, particularly those that include targets and/or resources, will be completed once budget, service and commissioning plans are approved over the next two months. During this period, it is proposed that the draft will be shared for further consultation with all local partner organisations and for further discussion with children, young people and parents. Once this has been completed the plan will be approved by partner agencies, the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board at the end of April before final formal approval by the Executive Board and Full Council in June and July.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The draft new Children and Young People's Plan has been produced through extensive consultation, analysis and review. The plan now provides a focused set of priorities whilst also describing the key elements of the wider longer-term strategy. This will now be subject to further consultation across the city prior to final amendments and approval. Therefore it will be valuable to receive the input and comments of the Scrutiny Board at this point of the drafting of the plan.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Board is requested to comment on the proposed draft CYPP.

Background papers

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009