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## Report of the Director of Children's Services

### Executive Board

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

Subject: Children & Young People's Plan 2011-15

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In  
(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report brings to Executive Board the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011 to 2015. The role of the CYPP as a city wide priority plan is covered in a separate report on this agenda which sets the five city priority plans in the context of the new Vision for Leeds and new Council Business Plan. The Board is asked to support the CYPP as the framework for improving outcomes for children and young people across the city, prior to formal approval by full Council. The plan has been developed through a detailed needs analysis and consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, Children Leeds partners, Children's Trust Board members (CTB), and Children Leeds staff. It was approved at the Children's Trust Board at its meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Recommendations

2. Members of Executive Board are asked to:
  - endorse and support the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15, (attached at appendix 1) subject to formal approval by full Council on 13 July 2011.
  - contribute to the delivery of the CYPP by using contribution to delivering the CYPP 2011-15 as a key criterion in their evaluation of all issues relating to children and young people

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 This report brings to Executive Board the final version of the CYPP and seeks their endorsement and support for this important statement of outcomes, priorities and indicators agreed by all the Children Leeds partners as the framework for improving outcomes.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to have a CYPP, Leeds' Children's Trust Board (CTB) has confirmed its commitment to having a single shared vision and set of priorities for children and young people. The removal of the statutory framework for CYPPs means that local CTBs are free to determine the form and contents of their CYPPs. They can also make local arrangements for monitoring and evaluating performance against the delivery of agreed priorities.
- 2.2 The 5 outcomes, 11 priorities and 15 key indicators with 3 "obsession indicators" form the core of CYPP, see page 6 of the CYPP document. This framework in the context of the vision to have a child friendly city and minimise the effects of poverty on children and families is the CTB's agreed, shared response to improving outcomes for children and young people. The three obsession indicators are reducing the number of looked after children; reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training; and, improving school attendance.
- 2.3 The three obsession indicators reflect areas where there is a need for rapid improvement but have also been chosen because they are powerful "can openers" that provide a way to tackle the complex issues affecting the most vulnerable. Rapid progress on these indicators will have a "knock on" effect in other areas. An example of the power of seemingly limited, one subject issues is reflected in the fact that a range of groups of young people are more likely to be NEET, including some BME groups, those with learning difficulties and disabilities, care leavers, young offenders, poor school attenders, young parents, young carers, pregnant young women, homeless young people and those living away from their family. NEET rates vary significantly in different areas of the city. Young people who are NEET report feeling bored and isolated. They have more chance of long-term unemployment, poor health outcomes and criminality than their peers. Tackling one indicator- obsessing on this indicator- will therefore draw services and partners together to progress a range of complex priority areas.
- 2.4 The three obsession indicators and the vision for a child friendly are the main focus of the city wide priority plan for children and young people which is one of five city priority plan described in detail elsewhere on this agenda. The wider CYPP consisting of the 5 outcomes, 11 priorities and 15 key indicators is the CTB's agreed, shared response to improving outcomes for children. Children's Trust Board sponsors have been agreed to support the Leeds City Council leads for each CYPP priority.
- 2.5 The CYPP includes initial action plans for the 3 obsessions. These highlight a small number of key partnership actions designed to maximise impact. Regular report cards will describe progress against all 11 priorities and 15 indicators, and there will also be regular reports on the overall vision for a child friendly city and the cross cutting theme of minimising the effects of child poverty. Ensuring that

the links between the five plans are fully articulated and equality issues addressed where appropriate will be part of the action plan updates and detailed service plans that underpin the CYPP.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 The plan has been developed through needs analysis and consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, Children Leeds partners, CTB, and Children Leeds staff. It was approved at the CTB meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 3.2 Child poverty is at the root of most, if not all, poor outcomes for children and young people (CYP) and their families. Minimising the effects of child poverty is a cross cutting theme that informs work in all our priority areas.
- 3.3 Child friendly city (CFC) as well as being an overarching vision is also a specific programme of work. CFC is a United Nations initiative based on the belief that every child has the right to the best possible start in life; to have the highest standards of health and education; and, to be heard and influence the quality of their lives and their environments. Initial work in Leeds includes engaging partners and local organisations and businesses in the CFC movement and gaining their commitment to a specific pledge to
- 3.4 Other key overarching strategies to deliver our shared vision are Results based accountability (RBA) and restorative practice. RBA focuses attention on key performance trends and asks partners to develop simple, clear action plans to improve baseline performance. The fundamental premise of restorative practice is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when agencies and service deliverers do things *with* them, rather than *to* them or *for* them.

### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

#### **4.1 Risk management**

- 4.1.1 The corporate and directorate risk register will be reviewed and updated in light of these new plans to ensure that the key risks associated with the priorities in these plans are appropriately risk assessed. These will continue to be monitored through the existing risk management procedures. An update will be provided to Executive Board in the Risk Management Unit Annual Report in July 2011.
- 4.1.2 The risk of not supporting the CYPP is that there would not be a clear set of priorities for the Council and the city. This would have an impact on other linked planning and performance processes such as service planning and appraisals.

#### **4.2 Equality and Diversity and Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed on the strategic planning approach and City Priority Plans. This considers the strategic planning approach and development of the city priority plans as a whole, rather than at the detailed level of individual priorities or actions contained in them. In common with the other the City Priority Plans and the Council Business Plan, the CYPP adopts an approach to give due regard to equality which is relevant and proportionate. This includes linking to existing Equality Impact Assessments, identifying where there are any gaps and providing challenge, where necessary, to the developing action plans. It is still early relatively early days in the development of these action

plans. However as they are further developed, it is anticipated that work will continue to develop meaningful equality outcome measures, address data gaps and ensure any outstanding equality impact assessments are undertaken where relevant. This future work will ensure a robust approach to equality and provide visible evidence of its consideration.

- 4.2.2 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening process has been completed for the CYPP. This suggests that the CYPP framework of outcomes, priorities and indicators addresses equality, diversity and integration issues but that further work will be required to ensure that the delivery of the CYPP action plans and the service and team plans underpinning them adequately reflect equality, diversity and integration issues.

#### 4.3 Council policies and City priorities

- 4.3.1 This report is bringing to Executive Board the final version of a key Council and partnership plan, reflecting shared priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people across the city. Where appropriate reports on key issues and major decisions, will now be required to state how they contribute to the priorities and targets in the Vision, City Priority Plans and Council Business Plan.

#### 4.4 Consultation

- 4.4.1 The CTB's work on the framework of outcomes, priorities and indicators began with workshops based around the updated needs analysis for children and young people. Following this further consultation took place with children and young people, including focus groups, parents and carers, Children Leeds partners, and Children Leeds staff.

#### 4.5. Call-In

- 4.5.1. The approval of these plans is a Council decision and therefore is not subject to call-in.

### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

#### 5.1 Constitution and legal matters

- 5.1.1 The Vision, City Priority Plans and Council Business Plan form part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework as set out in the Constitution. The draft outcomes, priorities and indicators have been subject to Scrutiny during their development.

- 5.1.2 Previously the CYPP was a statutory requirement and the secretary of state exercised powers to prescribe to local authorities and partnerships the detail of the contents of their CYPPs. There is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a CYPP or any statutory guidance on the format and content of CYPPs.

#### 5.2 Financial and resource implications

- 5.2.1 The CTB is developing a joint financial and investment plan to enable the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan with an initial focus on the priority of 'helping children to live in safe and supportive families'. This means that partners will align current spend and future investment in key areas to underpin commissioning and service plans in order to have maximum impact and benefit. The plan will initially cover intensive support to children and families,

including mental health provision and joint funding arrangements for placements that require funding from more than one agency.

- 5.2.2 An important element of the Children's Services budget is LCC's decision to protect the services that support the most vulnerable children by recognising demand pressures such as the number of referrals to social care, increasing numbers of children with a child protection plan and the increasing numbers looked after in the care system. The 2011/12 budget provides additional funding of £11.2m to meet demand pressures.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Members of Executive Board are asked to:
- endorse and support the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15 (attached at appendix 1), subject to formal approval by full Council on 13 July 2011.
  - to contribute to the delivery of the CYPP by using contribution to delivering the CYPP 2011-15 as a key criterion in their scrutiny and evaluation of all issues relating to children and young people

## **Background Documents**

- Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15