

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to Council Area Committees

Date: 15 March 2007

Subject: The Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007

Electoral Wards Affected:
All

Specific Implications For:

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

Executive Board Decision

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report asks the committee for their support and input into the ongoing review of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). To support this, the report provides a summary of the purpose, content and structure of the CYPP, and highlights the issues and concerns that are emerging through the evaluation work of services and partners.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The Government introduced the requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in 2005 as part of the Children Act 2004. It replaces a number of statutory plans, such as the Education Development Plan. The Children and Young People's Plan is an important element in Every Child Matters, helping to drive forward the integration of local children's services and the development of children's trust arrangements.
- 1.2 In 2005/06 Children Leeds completed a wide scale consultation exercise involving nearly 9,000 stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, staff and partners. The first Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 for Leeds was produced in May 2006 and outlines the strategic vision for improving outcomes in Leeds.
- 1.3 This year the government has introduced an annual review process which requires council's to involve a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the review of existing activity and priorities in order to publish a Children and Young People's Plan Review.
- 1.4 The Review is to measure progress against milestones, take account of new circumstances and maintain the momentum of change. It must provide a clear evaluation of the impact of the actions taken to improve outcomes for children and young people.

1.5 The Children and Young People's Plan Review must be produced by 14th June 2007 and submitted to Ofsted as the self assessment part of the Annual Performance Assessment for Children's Services.

2.0 Reviewing the Children and Young People's Plan in Leeds

2.1 The Children and Young People's Plan Review process started in December 2006 as part of the regular performance monitoring of progress. It has involved the analysis of key performance information, needs analysis work and the review of feedback from the DfES Priorities Meeting, the Annual Performance Assessment and discussions with the regional National Strategies team from the DfES.

2.2 We are now in the consultation and engagement phase with local stakeholders which involves a series of events for example:

- Children Leeds Open Forum
- A children and young people event
- News of elected members (see below)
- Focus group work with parents and carers
- Partner engagement through workshops around the 5 every child matters outcomes
- Children Leeds Partnership and Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board.

2.3 We are very keen to seek the views and input of elected members to help inform the review. There have been a series of children's services member seminars, with the last two sessions focused on identifying the key priorities for elected members across the city for children and young people and understanding the implications for local services.

2.4 However, not all elected members were able to attend or input to the seminars, therefore, it is important to gain the views of local elected members through the Area Committees. This consultation process is taking place in the March/ April cycle of area committees in order to get input to help develop the Plan and meet the deadlines for producing the plan and gaining Executive Board approval. Discussions will also take place with Scrutiny both in developing the plan with a final draft of the plan.

3.0 Framework for the Review

3.1 As this is a review of the existing plan there is a framework within which local priorities are identified, following the extensive process last year (described in para 1.3). This is set out here as a reminder.

3.2 The vision already established in the Children and Young People's Plan is that:

all children and young people in Leeds to be happy, healthy, safe, successful and free from the effects of poverty.

3.3 There are ten aims linked to the every child matters outcomes which are:

Be healthy	Stay safe	Enjoy and achieve	Make a positive contribution	Achieve economic Wellbeing
A healthy start and healthy lifestyles	Safe, secure and cared for	Achieve personal learning goals	Valued by families, communities and services	Confident and skilled to thrive in work and adult life
Mentally and emotionally healthy	Safe in communities	Enjoy and learn through play, sports and arts	Value peers, families and communities	Live in thriving families and communities

3.4 Underpinning these aims is the 'Transforming services' programme, which deals with Integrating Services, management and governance, e.g. Extended Schools and the new children's trust arrangements.

3.5 To achieve our vision and aims partners have committed to a new and shared approach which includes the following:

- Personalising services with a child-centred approach
- Partnership with all stakeholders
- Participation with children, young people and families to ensure they are involved in decisions that affect their lives
- Community focus
- Inclusion, equality and diversity – working to counter discrimination and support community cohesion
- Early intervention and prevention – identifying risks and needs early and responding quickly
- Ambitious and a 'can do' culture that makes the extra effort to get things done.

3.6 The Children and Young People's Plan links into the Leeds Initiative vision for Leeds and the Council's Corporate Plan.

4.0 Emerging Priorities in the Review so far

4.1 The needs analysis and performance review work have identified a number of emerging priority areas for improvement. These include:

4.2 See attached Appendix A

4.3 We recognise from the discussions at the elected member seminars that members have a significant amount of experience and information relating to their case file work which can inform the priorities for children's services and identify key service challenges. It is within this context that we would like to members views on the following questions:

- ***Does the list of emerging priorities reflect your experience of what matters to local children, young people, families and communities?***
- ***What are the top priorities for your area in relation to children, young people and families?***

5.0 Next steps

5.1 We will develop a draft Children and Young People's Plan by the end of April 2007 on the basis of the needs analysis and consultation and this will be on the Children Leeds website

(www.childrenleeds.co.uk) for consultation during early May. The Plan will then start the approval process to gain approval at Executive Board on 14 June 2007.

6.0 Developing local Children and Young People's Plans

6.1 One of the key pieces of learning from the West Project that has been underway in the last twelve months is the value of having a more local expression of the city-wide Children and Young People's Plan. This process was very inclusive and took a local needs analysis and the city-wide Children and Young People's Plan to distil local priorities for people to work on through partnership working.

6.2 We therefore recognise that it is important to turn the city-wide plan into local action that address local need across the city so, in the coming months locality enablers from children's services will be working with local stakeholders to establish locality plan for children services. This will involve workshops with local partners and elected members to identify key priorities for agreed joint action. The information collected through this round of area committees will be used to inform the starting point for these plans.

6.3 There will also be a forward programme of involvement with area committees through the locality enablers and monitoring the impact of the development and implementation of locality plans and the citywide Children and Young People's Plan. The proposed schedule is outlined below:

- Regular attendance of locality enablers to discuss the development of locality plans and their successful implementation – starting from June 2007;
- Wedge based Children Leeds Open Forums in June;
- Workshops with local elected members and Children Leeds partners to develop action plans for improving services to children and young people and to improve integrated working between all key services;
- September review of the city-wide Children and Young People's Plan;
- March end of year Children and Young People's Plan and locality plan review to support the development of the annual review for 2008.

6.4 These locality plans will be brief and focussed on priorities for actions and connections to be made. As such, they will need to feed in and from any other local planning that is done at an Area Committee or District Partnership level.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- Identify priorities that reflect local understanding of what matters to local children, young people, families and communities for inclusion in the Children and Young People's Plan review and locality plans.
- Agree to the proposed schedule of ongoing engagement of children services through the locality enabler role.

CYPP Review 2007

CYPP Review - Emerging Issues

Be Healthy

- Teenage conceptions and sexual health
- Mental health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Dentistry
- Looked After Children health and dental health checks

Stay Safe

- Timeliness of reviews and assessment
- Stability of placements for Looked After Children
- Bullying and harassment
- Domestic Violence

Enjoy and Achieve

- Secondary attainment and progress
- Attendance
- Schools in challenging circumstances
- Progress against national Foundation Stage targets and Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 'Floor Targets' for minimum attainment levels in schools
- Outcomes for vulnerable groups, particularly Looked After Children, some Black and Minority Ethnic heritage groups and those from deprived neighbourhoods

Make a Positive Contribution

- School exclusions and behaviour
- First time entrants into the Youth Justice System
- The proportion of young offenders engaged in education, training or employment
- Participation of some hard to reach groups, particularly engaging Looked After Children in their care planning and review

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

- The proportion of young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET), particularly some vulnerable groups such as care leavers, those with learning difficulties or disabilities and those from deprived neighbourhoods
- The proportion of young people aged 19 with Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

- Support for hard to reach families in relation to childcare and other issues e.g. housing, worklessness etc.

Service Management

- Integrating working and ICT Projects – ContactPoint, Common Assessment Framework etc
- Workforce reform
- Children's trust arrangements, particularly performance and resource management