

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 July 2012



Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016

Report of David Williams, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Children, Young People's and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2012-2016. Separate reports were presented to Cabinet on 30th May and Council on 13th June detailing the plan.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In April 2012, revised statutory guidance issued by the Department of Education on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services stressed the importance of ensuring that Local Authorities (LA) continue to focus on the progression of, and improved outcomes for, children and young people. In order to support the improvement of outcomes, the LA acknowledges that we cannot do this alone and that it is imperative that a strategic partnership plan that articulates how this will be achieved in partnership remains in place. The new plan is pivotal in achieving this vision together with our partners. The new plan covers the four year period 2012-2016 and will be reviewed annually.
- 2.2 Following a review of the Children's Trust in County Durham, a number of changes have been proposed. In order to reflect the increased focus on the needs of the 'family', the Children's Trust has been renamed the *Children and Families Trust* and the Children and Young People's Plan the *Children, Young People and Families* plan.
- 2.3 The involvement and contribution of children, young people and families has been central throughout the development and shaping of this plan and a number of consultative events have taken place.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 A formal consultation period for the plan ended on 29 February 2012. 26 responses were received and considered from a variety of stakeholders including the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB). All responses have been considered and the vast majority have been reflected in the plan.

3.2 The comments received focused mainly around layout/formatting, performance measures, and additional information to strengthen particular points made within the plan (e.g. Elected Member involvement).

4.0 Strategy and Outcomes/Priorities

Following formal consultation and comments provided, the general direction of the plan and the outcomes/ priorities and strategy remain as follows:

4.1 Strategy

4.1.1 We will deliver success through a two-fold strategy. Firstly, we will focus on those areas that are root *causes* of poorer outcomes rather than focus on both the *causes AND effects* of poorer outcomes. Secondly, we will mobilise our resources to intervene early. The needs of vulnerable families will be identified at the earliest opportunity and they will receive the support that they need at a much earlier stage. We will do this through the delivery of our integrated service – One Point.

4.2 Outcomes and Priorities

CYPFP Outcome	No.	CYPFP Priority
Children and young people realise and maximise their potential	i)	Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain to prepare them for adulthood
	ii)	A range of positive activities are available for children and young people
Children and young people are healthy and make positive choices	iii)	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced
	iv)	Children and young people are more resilient
Children, young people and families needs are fully met	v)	Children are safeguarded and protected from harm
	vi)	Early Intervention and Prevention services improve outcomes for families

5.0 Recommendations and Reasons

5.1 Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Background papers

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - There no financial implications.

Staffing - There are no staffing implications.

Risk - The risk attached to this plan is linked to future spending reductions in public sector funding and the impact of such future reductions on delivering against the objectives and priorities within the plan over the next 4 years.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The CYPFP has engaged with and consulted with children, young people and families across all backgrounds, ages and equality strands. The CYPFP has ensured that the voice of all children and young people is heard, shared and reflected within the plan. There are no adverse implications for any equality group.

Accommodation - There are no accommodation implications.

Crime and Disorder – There are positive implications for crime and disorder as the plan is aligned with and contributes to the current priorities within the Youth Justice Plan.

Human Rights – Human rights have been considered in the production of this plan. Children and young people have been central to the development of this strategic plan and the plan has ensured that their voices are heard.

Consultation – Extensive consultation has been carried out in the development and approval of this plan. Partners, parents, families, children and young people have all been provided an opportunity to shape the direction and the content of this plan at each stage.

Procurement - There are no procurement implications.

Disability Issues – The views and needs of families of and children with disabilities have been considered and reflected in the plan and the needs of children with disabilities remains paramount to the work of the Children and Families Trust.

Legal Implications – there are no legal implications.