

CITY COUNCIL – 12 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2010 - 2014

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is the single, statutory, strategic, overarching plan for all services which directly affect children and young people in the City of Nottingham. It has a commitment to improve life outcomes for all children and young people but particularly for those who are vulnerable or at risk of not achieving their full potential. This plan, which is the third since they were introduced in 2006, has been approved by the Children's Partnership Board. The Plan is part of the City Council's Policy Framework and is submitted to the City Council for approval as a key partner for its successful implementation.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2010 -14 be approved as the basis for the Council's work with partners to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 3.1 It is now 2 years since the Council launched, with partners, the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12. This new plan takes account of:
- One Nottingham's adoption of the Nottingham Plan;
 - Legislative changes which make all partners accountable for implementing the plan through collaboration within the Children's Partnership Board (acting as the Children's Trust).

3.2 **Key Features of the new plan:** The Children and Young People's Plan marks a step forward in partnership work to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. The Plan now fully aligned with the 2020 Objectives of the Nottingham Plan; its key features are:

- Strong effective partnership established, chaired by the lead member for children and families;
- Named accountable officers taking responsibility for performance and impact assessment to drive delivery;
- Family Pledge being drafted to crystallise Partnership commitment to engaging children and young people, parents and carers in plan development and service delivery;
- Cross partnership performance management framework established;
- Partnership focus through the choice of year 1 priorities;
- Partnership Board to develop joint commissioning of services;
- Greater emphasis on neighbourhood focus for delivery of services;
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment providing the needs analysis to underpin priority setting.

3.3 **Consultation:** Extensive consultation was undertaken between January and March 2010 and a separate report on the consultation process is available at the Children's Partnership website (<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ics/index.aspx?articleid=2511>)

All area committees were briefed in January and invited to assist in seeking the views in local communities. The Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee considered the draft plan during the consultation period and made their views known.

Consultation was focussed on the proposed priorities and their relative importance but this was supplemented by open ended interviews with children, young people and parents so that a rounded view of issues and concerns could be formed. In summary:

By the end of March 2010, **over 600 people** had expressed views about the new Children and Young People's Plan in some way.

Respondents have included children and young people, parents and carers, councillors, community members, representatives of the voluntary and community sector and from across the Children's Partnership workforce.

Over **200 community members** expressed some views on the Children and Young People's Plan 2010-14 in some way.

Around **200 members of the children's workforce** expressed some view.

The views of **more than 50 parents and carers** were obtained by direct contact up to 3rd March.

Over 100 hundred children and young people were engaged directly with this consultation activity.

In addition the draft plan was assessed for its impact on equalities. The equality screening report is also published alongside the Consultation Report on the Children's Partnership website.

3.4 **Outcomes of Consultation:** The headline views expressed through the consultation process were:

Overall, across all categories of respondents, keeping children and young people safe was seen as the most important priority that the Children and Young People's Plan should address.

A degree of scepticism was expressed by a number of respondents – from all groupings – about the difference that their views would make to the Children and Young People's Plan and what difference the plan itself would make.

Support to families and to address some of the key factors that can impact adversely on parenting (for example, substance misuse and domestic violence) were generally considered the second most important area for the Children and Young People's Plan.

Generally, health outcomes were given the least importance across the range of respondents.

Children and young people tended to consider education and attainment outcomes less important than did adult respondents (parent and carer, community and workforce). However, children and young people considered that reducing the number of young people not in employment, education and training was important.

Parents and carers generally rated educational attendance and attainment to be relatively less important than did workforce respondents.

For children and young people, having safe neighbourhoods, with safe and accessible local places to go and things to do were consistently the most important matters they wanted the Children and Young People's Plan to deliver.

In addition the Equalities Screening Report made recommendations on sexual orientation and homophobic bullying which have been picked up in revisions to the draft report. Similarly, there have been changes to the text following comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None – the Plan is a statutory requirement, and is compliant with the non-statutory guidance published by the then Department of Children, Schools and Families in 2009.

5 BACKGROUND

The Children and Young People's Plan provides an assessment of need for different groups in the community with particular regard to those that are disadvantaged. It then provides a policy framework to address those needs with an emphasis on vulnerable children and families in challenging circumstances. It includes performance measures to record progress, with accountable partners to ensure this happens, and an undertaking to report annually so the effectiveness of policies can be tested with the community. The Plan has also been screened for its impact on equalities.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

Resources for the Plan's implementation will be made available through:

- Work undertaken by the named lead officers and the Partnership Board to align planning and budget processes within partner agencies to the CYPP objectives;
- Development of the Joint Commissioning Framework and pooled budgets.

The Partnership's Year 1 priorities will have first call on resources where partnership decisions on resource allocation are being made.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

The Partnership will develop a Risk Register to identify and mitigate risks to the successful delivery of its Plan and will review this regularly in its management of performance. Current identified risk areas are:

- A lapse of inter-agency arrangements resulting in a failure to keep all children and young people safe.
- Inadequate resources to support the Partnership's priorities.
- Inability to align individual partners' budgets and resources with the CYPP due to conflicting calls on resources
- Inability to meet need due to a misunderstanding of trends and changes
- Failure to develop a strong and well resourced joint commissioning strategy
- Possible political and legislative changes

Failure to engage key groups (children, young people parents and carers) in plan development.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 *The Nottingham Plan to 2020 - published by One Nottingham in 2009*

9.2 *The Children and Young People's Plan Guidance 2009. Department of Children, Schools and Families*

COUNCILLOR DAVID MELLEN