

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>15 NOVEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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### CHILDREN'S TRUST UPDATE – MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update with regard to the work of the Children's Trust in relation to Make a Positive Contribution.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To scrutinise and comment on the progress and impact that the Children's Trust has made on the provision of services to children and young people and make any necessary recommendations.

#### 3. LINKS TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The Children's Trust Partnership Board is the partnership responsible for ensuring the delivery of all outcomes for children and young people, with a particular focus upon those within the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Children and Young People Plan.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Statutory duties in the Children Act 2004 require every local authority to work together with partners, through Children's Trust arrangements, to devise and implement strategies to improve outcomes for children aged 0–19 years (25 for those with additional needs) across the five every child matters areas: Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing.
- 4.2 Children's Trust arrangements refer to the totality of change needed to deliver better and more responsive integrated services – including arrangements for integrated working, comprising joint planning and commissioning, integrated processes and integrated front-line delivery for improved outcomes for children, young people and families. Through the development of a local Children and Young People Plan, Children's Trust arrangements set out accountabilities for decision making and spending, and involve children, young people and families in doing so.
- 4.4 Peterborough has had a Children's Trust Partnership Board since April 2008, which includes membership from across statutory, voluntary and community organisations. Underpinning the Children's Trust Partnership Board are a number of partnerships and task and finish groups which work to deliver the strategies set out by the Children's Trust Partnership Board.

#### 5. Key Issues for Make a Positive Contribution

- 5.1 The Make a Positive Contribution outcome area refers to many of the 'softer' skills, attributes and behaviours in comparison to other outcome areas. As such, it is far harder to measure the performance of this area.
- 5.2 Make a Positive Contribution covers such areas as:

- Children and young people being engaged in decision making
  - Children and young people engaging in their local communities
  - Children and young people engaging in positive behaviour
  - Children and young people having positive relationships with each other and adults, including not discriminating
  - Children and young people developing self confidence and skills to deal with changes and challenges in their lives
  - Children and young people developing enterprising behaviour.
- 5.3 We know from surveys such as the Tellus Survey, that Peterborough generally performs well in this area – young people in Peterborough are more likely to believe their views are listened to than in many other areas, for example. Peterborough also has a strong history of volunteering through the local ‘V’ programme. Finally, projects in Peterborough to promote cohesion, such as the Unity Project, are often held up as good practice.
- 5.4 Having consulted with children and young people, practitioners and partners, Peterborough’s Children’s Trust identified the following areas where further work was required:
- Developing and implementing a Young Carers Strategy for Peterborough
  - Developing and implementing an Engagement Strategy for the Children’s Trust Board and its members
  - Developing and implementing a single Transitions Strategy for Peterborough
  - Developing and implementing a Parenting Support Strategy for Peterborough
  - Developing and implementing a Child Poverty Strategy for Peterborough

## **6. MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION OUTCOME DELIVERY**

### 6.1 Young Carers Strategy

- Young carers can face significant challenges of children and young people in Peterborough. Having caring responsibilities, either for a sibling, a parent or another adult, can create many difficulties, including school attendance and the ability to engage in play and recreation time. Many young carers do not wish to be identified as young carers, and may not receive the support they need.
- A Young Carers Strategy Group is meeting and has started to draft a strategy. Key elements of the strategy will include how young carers are identified and what support is offered to young carers. They will be working with a newly commissioned young carer’s provider – Kids – who provide support services to young carers.

### 6.2 Engagement Strategy

- It is important that children and young people have the opportunity to have their voice heard in decisions that affect them. We have a number of engagement opportunities in Peterborough, including the Youth Council, Youth Bank and the Young Inspectors Programme. In addition, it is an expectation of all of our services that they involve children and young people they work with in decision making. However, we are aware that we do not have a strategy to make sure our work is co-ordinated – this could lead, for example, to ‘consultation fatigue’, where we bombard young people with questionnaires and consultations. It is also important to ensure that we go back and tell young people how their views have changed things.
- A multi agency working group is due to be established from a range of organisations, including Cambridgeshire Constabulary, NHS Peterborough and the voluntary sector. Young people will also be on this working group. The strategy will be a relatively simple document that sets out:
  - The principles and standards of engagement in the city
  - The outcomes the strategy is striving to support

- How partners will work together to ensure engagement and consultation is meaningful and acted upon, whilst ensuring that duplication and consultation fatigue within communities is reduced.
- An annual action plan will be developed which will be reported through to the Children's Trust Partnership. It is expected that a draft version of the strategy will be available for consultation by January 2011.

### 6.3 Transitions Strategy

- Transitions refer to any major changes in a child or young person's life. This may include the transition from primary to secondary school, major changes in a child's life (such as bereavement) or the transition from child to adult services (for example, a young person with learning difficulties / disabilities at age 25). There are several different transitions protocols in place in Peterborough, leading to some confusion. The aim of this strategy is to produce a common approach to managing transitions.
- A multi agency working group is being convened to lead this work, including representatives from both adults and children's services. It is anticipated that there will be a draft strategy for consultation by March 2011.

### 6.4 Parenting Support Strategy

- Parents are the biggest single influence on the lives of children and young people. Some parents require additional support at different stages of their children's lives. Peterborough currently has a parenting support strategy, but it is acknowledged that this needs to be reviewed and updated. Also, a universal parenting needs assessment is being completed, which will provide a much clearer picture about the areas where parenting support is required.
- A multi-agency working group will be established, chaired by the Parenting Commissioner. This group will review the current parenting strategy and update, reflecting the learning from the emerging needs assessment. It is anticipated that there will be a draft strategy for consultation by March 2011.

### 6.5 Child Poverty Strategy

- It is known that living in poverty is one of the strongest predictors for children achieving poor outcomes. The Child Poverty Act 2009 made it a statutory requirement for all local areas to produce a Child Poverty Strategy and Needs Assessment. The new coalition government have re-affirmed. This strategy needs to reflect work to both prevent children (and by extension, families) entering poverty, but also examine strategies for supporting those who are in poverty.
- Relative poverty is defined as living in a household with less than 60% of median income. In Peterborough in 2007, 25.3% of children lived in relative poverty. Peterborough currently has more children living in low income families with one or more parent who is working than where both parents are unemployed. The areas of Peterborough experiencing the highest rates of poverty are in the central and east locality. It is known that those children who live in Peterborough's most deprived wards are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training), and less likely to get good GCSE results.
- Work is well underway to develop our needs assessment and strategy. This has involved work to understand the data surrounding poverty, multi-agency workshops and consultation and work with young people. A child poverty strategy must be produced locally by March 2011.

## **7 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Children's Trust Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of improved outcomes for all children and young people within the city.
- 7.2 Actions identified above reflect citywide partnership activity aimed at delivering improvements in key 'Make a Positive Contribution' outcomes.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

N/A

## **9 EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- 9.1 Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise and comment on the progress and impact that the Children's Trust has made on the provision of services to children and young people.

## **10 NEXT STEPS**

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee continue to receive regular reports relating to the work of the Children's Trust.

## **11 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

## **12 APPENDICES**

N/A