

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Director of Children’s Services

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THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF PETERBOROUGH’S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To appraise Scrutiny Panel of the review process for Peterborough’s Children and Young People Plan (CYPP).

2. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

2.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) state that: *“Children’s Trusts must have a central and visible role in implementing, monitoring and refreshing the Local Area Agreements, in a way that is consistent with reviewing and implementing the CYPP. The Children’s Trust will agree, monitor and drive the children and young people elements of the Local Area Agreement, which should, in turn, be wholly consistent with priorities in the CYPP. Both will feed into and deliver the overarching local authority Sustainable Community Strategy.”* (Children’s Trust: statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families (2008)).

2.2 Peterborough’s 2008-2011 CYPP makes explicit reference to Peterborough’s Local Area Agreement (LAA), shares its targets, and makes direct reference to the activity that is being undertaken to deliver the LAA.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Children and Young People Plan is a statutory plan which was required by the Children Act 2004. There is a statutory requirement to review the plan annually. Many elements of the plan, including the partners who need to be involved, the way the plan is published, and key areas which need to be directly addressed, are mandated through either the Children Act 2004, or subsequent statutory guidance. However, there is still the opportunity for significant local discretion in shaping the plan.

3.2 The DCSF’s statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation highlights the role of the CYPP: *“The Children and Young People’s Plan continues to be the key document which covers, in one place, all services for families, children and young people within a single strategic and overarching vision of the local area. Children’s Trust partners should be closely involved in its development and ensure their own plans are fully aligned with it. The Children’s Trust should sign off the CYPP, ensure that it is published, refreshed, evaluated and reviewed as necessary, and drive the operating plans which underpin it.”*

3.3 Peterborough’s first statutory Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) was published in April 2006 by Peterborough City Council Children’s Services department and its partners in the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership. The three-year rolling plan has undergone two subsequent reviews and has been approved by the Children’s Trust, Full Council and PCT Board in April of each year.

3.4 In 2008, the CYPP served a dual purpose, setting out both the direction and vision for children's services within the city, but additionally acting as the self-assessment for the purposes of Ofsted's Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services. To meet this dual role, a variety of annexes were produced to the plan containing a significant amount of detail regarding the delivery and planning of services within the city. In total, the CYPP consisted of 8 documents:

- Children and Young People Plan – 30 page overview document
- Children and Young People Plan Needs Assessment
- Be Healthy Annex
- Stay Safe Annex
- Enjoy and Achieve Annex
- Make a Positive Contribution Annex
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing Annex
- Service Management Annex

3.5 The 2008 – 2011 Children and Young People Plan outlined ten broad, outcome-focused strategic priority objectives, drawn together following extensive engagement of children and young people and other stakeholders, the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and analysis of data relating to local need, as follows:

- Children and young people are supported to make healthy choices
- Children and young people have the best possible emotional health
- Vulnerable children and young people are supported to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Children and young people have a safe environment to grow up in
- Children and young people are safeguarded from harm
- Children and young people have enjoyable learning opportunities
- Children and young people achieve their potential and succeed emotionally
- Children and young people are engaged and supported within their communities
- Children and young people resist engaging in crime and anti-social behaviour
- All young people have access to appropriate housing

3.6 Beneath each of these priorities, a number of key areas of focus were identified where specific action was required to improve outcomes. For example, key areas of focus under the first priority 'healthy choices' are; Teenage Conceptions and Sexual Health, Obesity, Alcohol Misuse, and Drug Misuse.

3.7 The CYPP is not a delivery plan. Rather, it identifies key city-wide priorities and sets direction for all partners. The CYPP provides clear links to detailed action plans and strategies for each key area of focus. This may include, for example, detailed LAA action plans, local strategies or business and service plans. This ensures that the CYPP is embedded into service delivery.

3.8 The CYPP is monitored by the Children's Trust Partnership Board. Within the CYPP, a total of 85 national indicators have been identified which are monitored by both the city council's Children's Services and Children's Trust Partnership Board using the Performance Dashboard.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 There is a statutory requirement to conduct an annual review of the CYPP in order to assess progress and consider whether needs have changed. It is expected that the review will be based upon "*the best possible data about outcomes and outputs*" and involved "*consultation with service users, children, young people, and families and carers...*" (Guidance on the CYPP 2006)

4.2 The objectives for the 2009 annual review of the CYPP are as follows:

- To develop and review the needs assessment, ensuring that priorities identified within the CYPP are appropriate and reflect the vision for children and young people in Peterborough
- To ensure that the CYPP is delivered effectively, with links to clear action plans
- To evaluate the impact of the delivery against the 2008 CYPP

- To support planning at a locality level by providing clear locality-based information
- To identify and detail the developments necessary in delivering truly integrated working within Peterborough
- To improve the communication of the CYPP to all stakeholders and, in particular, to children, young people and families.

4.3 The review will need to consider and have regard to the developing national policy agenda. Further statutory guidance on the CYPP and the development of Children's Trusts is expected in early 2009, although preparation work to undertake the review will need to commence in the third quarter of 2008/09.

4.4 The DCSF have sought consultation on legislative options for strengthening children's trusts. These include proposals to extend the ownership of the CYPP to all statutory partners who have a duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004 (it is currently owned by local authorities). All partners would be legally required to 'have regard' to the CYPP. Proposals are also being put forward to strengthen the statutory framework for CYPPs through secondary legislation. This could include requiring CYPPs to explicitly set out arrangements for early intervention and joint commissioning and specify the spend of each partner on areas such as child health and youth offending, and in particular those areas covered by local joint commissioning arrangements.

4.5 Ofsted have released a consultation on the development of the new inspection framework for Children's Services under the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which will begin from April 2009. Initial indications are that the CYPP will no longer be required to have the additional purpose of acting as a self-assessment for Children's Services. This, in turn, provides a greater flexibility in the format and level of detail contained within the plan.

4.6 Plans for the review process are currently in development. As part of this process, a 'lessons learnt' document is being produced and feedback is being sought on the existing plan. As a result of the developing national policy framework and feedback received to date, a number of developments to the CYPP are being considered:

- Developing a young people's version of the CYPP in order to improve the communication and awareness of the plan amongst young people.
- Re-viewing the way priorities are highlighted within the CYPP to ensure that there is a clearer focus upon the outcomes that need improving and the integrated working that is necessary to deliver those improved outcomes
- Developing clearer links and ownership between the CYPP and the Youth Council
- Removing six of the Annexes and replacing them with a single, simpler, Annual Report (this is possible due to the potentially reduced burden caused by the change from the APA to CAA)
- Developing the Needs Assessment to include specific profiling of localities and clusters in order to strengthen locality-based planning.
- Strengthening the accountability for outcomes and priorities within the CYPP by detailing explicitly which partnership under the Children's Trust will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of improved outcomes against each priority.

5. IMPLICATIONS

The CYPP is a statutory plan and as such there is a legal requirement to review the plan annually.

6. CONSULTATION

A range of consultation activities will be undertaken with key stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, practitioners and partners.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

7.1 This report is presented for information and comment to the panel.

7.2 The views of the panel are sought on the process for the review of the CYPP; proposals for developments within plan; and how the panel wishes to be involved in the review of the plan.

7.3 The panel may wish to discuss potential priorities and areas of focus following their review of performance across Children's Services.

8. NEXT STEPS

A full plan is being developed for the review of the CYPP. It is anticipated that an initial draft of the plan will be prepared by February 2009, in order to progress through the council and partnership decision making processes.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Peterborough's Children and Young People Plan 2008-2011

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.