

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 31 July 2009

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 11 August 2009 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

**Committee Room 1, The Council Offices, High Street
North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF**

Jaki Salisbury
Interim Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs J Street (Chairman), Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman), P A Blaine,
D Bowater, N B Costin, I Dalgarno, Dr R Egan, P Hollick, K Janes and
A Shadbolt

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: Mrs A Barker, Mrs S Goodchild and Mrs M Mustoe]

Co-optees: Ms Chapman (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic
Diocese), Mr Landman (Parent Governor), Mr Reynolds (Church
of England Diocese) and Mr Sear (Parent Governor)

All other Members of the Council - on request

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING**

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2009.

3. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations and the **nature** in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item.
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item.
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **PETITIONS**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS OR DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **CALL-IN**

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call-in of a decision.

8. **REQUESTED ITEMS**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

REPORTS

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	PRIORITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE To advise Members of the work that has been done to develop a Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire and the priorities that have emerged following consultation with children, young people, families and partners.	11 - 46
10	CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN THE EAST OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE To outline the options for the future of special schooling in the East of Central Bedfordshire in the light of the recommendations of the SEN Review, and the decision made by the Executive on 23 June 2009 to move forward to first stage consultation.	47 - 52
11	NEXT STEPS ON TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE At the request of the Committee at the last meeting, Members are invited to comment on the ideas for the next stage of work and to note the letter that was sent by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to Bedford Borough Council.	53 - 62
12	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN To consider the Executive Forward Plan.	63 - 78
13	DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2009-2010 To provide Members with a draft work programme for approval following initial discussion at the last meeting.	79 - 86
14	ACRONYMS USED IN REPORTS	87 - 88
15	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on 8 September 2009.	

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at Room 14, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 14 July 2009

PRESENT

Cllr J Street (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: P A Blaine
D Bowater
N B Costin

Parental Co-optees: H Chapman
D Landman

Church of England Co-optee: J Reynolds
Roman Catholic Co-optee: F Image

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs I Dalgarno
K Janes
B Sear

Substitutes: Cllr Mrs A Barker (In place of I Dalgarno)

Members in Attendance: Cllrs P N Aldis
M Gibson
Mrs A M Lewis
S F Male
T Nicols
Mrs C Turner

Officers in Attendance: Mr B Carter – Overview & Scrutiny Manager
Mrs M Clampitt – Democratic Services Officer
Mrs S Gibson – Interim Assistant Director, Policy,
Planning and Commissioning
Mrs E Grant – Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of
Children, Families and Learning
Mr P Shevlin – Head of School Standards and
Improvement

CFL/09/1 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

The following Members declared that they were also School / College Governors at various educational facilities:

Cllr P A Blaine
Mrs Chapman
Cllr N B Costin
Cllr Dr R Egan
Cllr Mrs D B Gurney
Cllr P Hollick
Cllr Mrs A M Lewis
Cllr S F Male
Mr Reynolds
Cllr J Street
Cllr D Bowater Assistant Portfolio Holder Adult Services

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

(c) **Any Political Whip in relation to items on the agenda:-**

None.

CFL/09/2 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He referred to the Terms of Reference of the Committee and emphasised the importance of its policy development work in the context of supporting the Council's strategic objective of raising the aspirations of our children and young people.

A question was asked in relation to agenda item 11 Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust Tender Process – Next Steps and why it had been placed on the agenda. It was noted that it was a cross cutting topic which related to both this Committee and the Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

CFL/09/3 **Petitions**

The Chairman announced that no petitions had been referred to this meeting.

CFL/09/4 Questions, Statements or Deputations

There were no applications from members of the public to speak under the Public Participation Procedure allowed for under Part A4 of the Constitution.

CFL/09/5 Call-In

No matters were referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call-in of a decision.

CFL/09/6 Requested Items

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

CFL/09/7 Children, Families and Learning Policy Development

The Committee received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's, Families and Learning which provided an overview of the work being carried out by this directorate and the impact for all residents of Central Bedfordshire.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's, Families and Learning introduced the Assistant Directors and their areas of responsibility:

The Children and Young People's Plan was the responsibility of the Children's Trust and the legal responsibility of the Director to ensure a Plan is endorsed by Council.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's, Families and Learning gave an overview of the Scrutiny role within the Children and Young People's Plan as follows:

"Lead Members may wish to encourage the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look closely at the priorities and associated work streams in the Children and Young People's Plan. This could provide extra leverage over partners in the Children's Trust to drive better delivery." Statutory Guidance The Roles and Responsibilities for the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services – Crown Copyright 2009

The Cultural Strategy should be consultative, area specific, kept under constant review, linked to the sustainable community strategy and offer guidance on allocation of resources. It should be what makes 'life worth living'. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport encourage authorities to have a strategy.

The top performance issues for children’s services were the following:

- Governance and accountability of Children’s Trusts
- The sharp focus on safeguarding
- The need for the Children and Young People’s Plan to be endorsed as soon as possible
- The impact of the performance framework on partners and the council – see national indicators and Local Authority Agreements
- New legislation on Child Poverty, Apprenticeships and Skills, 21st Century Schools
- Revised guidance for working together for Child Protection and word by work guidance for the Lead Member, DCS, Leader and Chief Executive to follow about their roles

Issues for Cultural Services

- Realistic outcomes for the Cultural Strategy to ensure it makes a difference in real terms of outcomes
- Linking work with aspiration and the impact of recession on families
- Co-working across all capital projects
- Review of our services – constantly on-going
- Partnerships with Parish and Town Councils

In summation the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children’s Families and Learning confirmed the following:

- ‘Every Child Matters’ agenda is the best idea ever
- Central Bedfordshire had the potential to go far in terms of cultural services

The Committee then determined an initial work programme for the coming months:

Children and Young People’s Plan	To decide whether to receive the whole Plan at one meeting or over several meetings.
Special Education Needs	A report requested outlining the SEN provision in Central Bedfordshire.
Next Steps in Transforming Teaching and Learning	A presentation and complimentary report in advance of Executive consideration on 15 September 2009.
Performance report Q1	The quarterly performance report
Safeguarding update	To be presented quarterly together with the performance reports
Commissioning Policy	Consideration to be given to the establishment of a task force to review this policy.

Performance report Q2	The quarterly performance report
Safeguarding update	To be presented quarterly together with the performance reports
Children's Workforce Development Strategy	Consideration to be given to the establishment of a task force to review this strategy.
Cultural Strategy	Consideration to be given to the establishment of a task force to review this strategy.
Performance report Q3	The quarterly performance report
Safeguarding update	To be presented quarterly together with the performance reports
Home to School Transport Policy	Consideration to be given to the establishment of a task force to review this policy.

RESOLVED

1. ***that the report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families and Learning be noted.***
2. ***that the work programme as detailed above, be noted.***
3. ***that the work programme be refined further at the next meeting.***

CFL/09/8

Building Schools for the Future and Transforming Teaching and Learning in Central Bedfordshire

The Committee received and considered the report of the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning which set out the background to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and outlined the early stages of the work of the Learning Transformation Board. It also outlined initial arrangements for gathering information and views from head teachers and chairs of governors about improving the way we: organise school places; develop innovative curricula; manage transition and ensure that schools are at the centre of communities in Central Bedfordshire.

The Committee were informed that the former Bedfordshire County Council (BCC) had put in a bid for BSF and had reached wave 2 of 6. Bedford Borough and Kempston were on wave 6 of 6. It was hoped that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) would place a bid but concerns were expressed about accessing the funding due to difficulties experienced by other authorities.

Bedford Borough Council (BBC) had provided their School Organisation Review public consultation document. The Committee were asked to provide their views and what response should be given to BBC. Concerns were expressed in relation to the impact on schools near the border between BBC and CBC.

Members felt that the Portfolio Holder Children's Services should send a response to the equivalent Portfolio Holder at BBC expressing the concerns of the Committee. It was agreed that a copy of the letter would be forwarded to all members of the Committee for reference.

It was agreed that reports would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in relation to:

- 1) Special Educational Needs
- 2) Advance viewing of the 15 September Executive report on the development of the educational vision and progress towards entry into the National BSF.

RESOLVED

- 1. that a presentation / report in respect of the progress made since March 2009 in development of the educational vision for Central Bedfordshire and progressing towards entry into the National BSF be provided to the August Children Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 2. that a report outlining Central Bedfordshire's approach to Special Needs provision be submitted to the August Children's Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

CFL/09/9

Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health & Social Care Partnership NHS Trust

The Committee received and considered the report from the Assistant Director, Specialist Services, which summarised the process and next steps on the proposed 'As Is' transfer of Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust to another NHS organisation.

In January 2009, the NHS East of England asked for NHS Trusts to prepare to become Foundation Trusts by December 2009. Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust was not a large enough organisation to have achieved this target and instead proposed the transfer of their Trust to another Foundation Trust. This would ensure the continuation of service provision for the population. The NHS East of England approved this alternative and the tendering process was initiated.

A brief overview/presentation from representatives of the Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust outlined the work completed to date. It was noted that 22 applicants, all mental health trusts, had expressed an interest, this was shortlisted to 5 applicants and now 4 would be asked to tender. The final 4

were: South Essex, Cambden and Islington, Hertfordshire and Cambrige. The contract would be awarded by November 2009 and the new services would begin from April 2010.

The Committee were informed that there had been strong collaboration between NHS Bedford, NHS Luton, CBC, BBC and LBC. The essential part of the contract was to ensure that the health of the 'child to adult' process was considered. The following were areas of importance:

- Local and national imperatives are accounted
- Improved integration of services
- Improved transition
- Review the social work roles
- Commissioning on behalf of Children and Families
- Speak to children/adults about their experiences of the service
- Providing better services for local people

Members asked if it was a novel tendering process and what experience within the health service was there for this process? Members noted that it was not novel for foundation trusts to take over another trust.

In response to another question, the Director of Health System Management confirmed that the main contract was for 3 years with a possible additional 2 years however if the contract was not working well there was an 18 month cancellation clause.

It was noted that this report/presentation was also being made to the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee who would take the lead in monitoring progress in relation to the new management arrangements.

RESOLVED

1. ***that the contents of the report of the Director of Children Families & Learning be noted and that the arrangements to ensure the they review progress in relation to new management arrangements for local mental health services later in the year, be agreed.***
2. ***that the Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee be requested to monitor progress in relation to the new management arrangements and report back to this Committee any significant issues arising in relation to children's mental health.***

CFL/09/10

Progress made towards establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board for Central Bedfordshire

The Committee received and considered the report of the Assistant Director, Specialist Services, which described the progress to date towards establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board for Central Bedfordshire as agreed by the Shadow Executive on 14 April 2009. Currently a shared agreement with Bedford Borough maintains the previous Board established by the former County Council. Due to the strong working relationship which would be needed

with the Children's Trust Board and the need for effective local arrangements, it was agreed at the meeting of the Shadow Executive held on 14 April 2009 (see Minute No. E/08/124) to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for Central Bedfordshire.

It was agreed at the 14 April 2009 Executive that an Independent Shadow Chairman be appointed to work closely with the Chairman of the Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families & Learning. Maggie Blyth has been appointed to the position.

At the 9 June meeting of the Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) it was agreed to establish a task and finish group to oversee the establishment of the CBC LSCB. The Group met on the 26 June and will meet again in July and early September to adopt the establishment plan. The programme will be underpinned by the following four principles:

- (a) Effectiveness
- (b) Efficiency
- (c) Consensus
- (d) Resilience

The Department for Children, Schools and Families would be consulted throughout the restructuring process. A meeting was held on 2 July 2009 with the Deputy Director for Children Families and Learning and the Assistant Director for Vulnerable Children from Bedford Borough. The meeting provided reassurance to the Department of Children, Schools and Families that all safeguards would be in place prior to the disaggregation of the service.

RESOLVED

that the initial work undertaken to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for Central Bedfordshire as detailed in the report of the Assistant Director Specialist Services be noted.

CFL/09/11 **Executive Forward Plan**

The Committee received and considered the Executive Forward Plan, which covered the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. It was noted that from the Forward Plan to be published on 15 July 2009 specific Portfolio Holders for each item would be listed. It was noted that they had been removed prior to the appointment of the new Executive at the annual Council meeting held on 18 June 2009. In addition, Members requested that Officers indicate under the consultation column which Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was felt should consider the item. It was noted that some items would cross cut several directorates. This information would be provided from the August Forward Plan.

RESOLVED

that the Forward Plan, as attached to the agenda at item 12, be received.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.30 p.m.)

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Meeting: Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 August 2009

Subject: Priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families and Learning

Summary: The report sets out the work that has been done to develop a Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire and the priorities that have emerged following consultation with children, young people, families and our partners.

Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. that members are asked to consider the work to develop a Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire**
- 2. that members give their views on the emerging priorities**
- 3. that members decide which areas of work in the Children and Young People's Plan they would wish to scrutinise at future meetings.**

Background

1. The Children Act 2004 Section 10 requires that all local authorities with a children's services responsibility should make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people in the area. The Act establishes the Local Authority as the lead and accountable partner in such arrangements.
2. The expectation is that these arrangements, commonly known as Children's Trusts, should have been in place in all Local Authorities by the end of 2008 and that partners involved in the Trusts should work together to develop a Children and Young People's Plan.

3. 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 area. It needs to show how all relevant partners will integrate provision to improve well-being across all five Every Child Matters outcomes and focus on specific challenges and priorities.
4. The Children and Young People's Plan should:
 - drive better local integration of children's services;
 - help strengthen local partnership arrangements; and
 - describe what improvements will be achieved in the local area, and when these improvements will be delivered.
5. New legislation in the Autumn is expected to strengthen Children's Trusts by:
 - extending the range of Children's Trust partners to include maintained schools, Academies, sixth form and further education colleges and Job Centre Plus;
 - giving the Children's Trust Board legal responsibility for preparing, publishing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan; and
 - giving responsibility for implementing the Children and Young People's Plan to the Children's Trust Board Members, whose strategy for co-operation it sets out.
6. By 2010 all areas are expected to have consistent and high quality arrangements in place for prevention, early identification and early intervention in order to narrow the gaps and improve outcomes for all. It is expected that all areas will need to develop new Children and Young People's Plans for 2011.

Background to the Children's Trust for Central Bedfordshire

7. In November 2008 Central Bedfordshire Shadow Executive considered a report which set out proposals for establishing a Children's Trust in Central Bedfordshire.
8. At that meeting the following recommendations were agreed:
 - the establishment of a Children's Trust in Central Bedfordshire following the proposed model outlined in the report of the Director of Children, Families and Learning now submitted, be agreed;
 - that the steps as outlined in the report, primarily the establishment of a Shadow Trust Board and Joint Commissioning Board to guide and enable the establishment of the Trust, be agreed; and
 - that the intentions to develop stronger representation for young people on the Trust, be noted.

9. On 9 April the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust Board had its first meeting and agreed the following working arrangements:
- a Children's Trust Board;
 - a Commissioning Executive; and
 - five Every Child Matters Delivery Groups – Be Healthy; Make a Positive Contribution; Enjoy and Achieve, Economic Wellbeing; Stay Safe.

See Appendix A for Trust structure and Appendix B for current Trust membership.

10. The Trust also endorsed the following Local Area Agreement indicators as key priorities for the Children and Young People Plan. The Trust will be accountable to the Local Strategic Partnership for these National Indicators (NIs) which will be monitored by the Government through Go East.
- 11.
- NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHs) - Be Healthy Delivery Group;
 - NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 - Be Healthy Delivery Group;
 - NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities - Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group;
 - NI 115 Substance misuse by young people - Be Healthy Delivery Group; and
 - NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) - Achieve Economic Well-being Delivery Group.
12. As the Children and Young People's Plan is key in setting out our strategic intentions for children, young people and families in Central Bedfordshire and provides the basis against which we will be inspected and assessed, the Trust agreed that we would develop a Children and Young People's Plan between May and August 2009. It was agreed that the plan would be in place for eighteen months so that the emerging guidance and legislation expected in 2010 could inform the new plan that has to be published in 2011.

Developing the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan

13. During April, to start the process of developing the plan, we analysed our local evidence and looked at the findings from the first two stages of the consultation with children and young people to help us build up our local picture of needs and aspirations.

14. During April and May the Every Child Matters Delivery Group leads held a series of workshops with partners to begin the work of developing the plan. As part of this process stakeholders reviewed the local evidence, consultation feedback, equalities issues relating to their particular Delivery Group and completed a self assessment in relation to workforce development issues.
15. A number of priorities emerged through this process and they formed the basis for our consultation with children, young people, families and stakeholders during June and July.
16. Throughout August the Delivery Groups are meeting to consider feedback and finalise the draft of the plan. The feedback they will be considering will be from the most recent consultation, from partner agencies and this Committee.
17. In September the Trust Board will receive the final draft for discussion, sign off and adoption. Once this is agreed the Children and Young People's Plan will be adopted by all partners through their decision making and governance structures and in October we plan to hold a Conference to launch the Trust and Plan.
18. Consultation with children and young people has played a significant part in the development of the Children and Young People's plan and has happened in three phases:
 - In January we consulted with a number of youth groups to help us identify the priorities we should consult on. For this part of the consultation we spoke to 550 children and young people.
 - During February and March we took the results from phase one and produced a questionnaire that was then taken into lower, middle and upper schools. Using an interactive voting system the children and young people were asked to vote for their 1st and 2nd choice priorities. The second stage was fun and interactive, with the children, young people and teachers being able to see the results straight away. 1,050 children and young people were involved at this stage in the consultation.
 - The final phase happened in June and July alongside the online consultation for parents and stakeholders. A questionnaire was developed and made up of two sections: 'What young people have told us' and 'What we are going to do'. The main aim of the consultation was to show that we had listened to children and young people and ask them whether they agreed with what we were planning to do. This final stage involved visiting lower, middle and upper schools and 2,670 children and young people took part. We also had 81 responses to the online version of the questionnaire.
 - In total 4,351 children and young people have given us their views on what they would wish to see as priorities in our plan. We will be developing a children and young people's summary version of the plan so that they can easily see what we plan to do and also to show that we have listened.
 - Further details on involving children and young people and this aspect of the consultation can be found in the plan and in Appendix D.

Scrutinising the emerging priorities

19. As already noted, during the months of June and July stakeholders, children, young people and families were asked their views on the emerging priorities and the early headline results show strong agreement and support for our priorities.
20. 79% of children and young people agreed that what we were planning to do matched what they had asked us to do.
21. There was also agreement from the majority of stakeholders and the adults and parents that we had identified the right priorities for each of the Every Child Matters Outcomes.
22. Across the five themes agreement varied from 64% (the lowest) who agreed with the 'Enjoy and Achieve' priorities to 76% (the highest) who agreed with the 'Being Healthy' priorities. The highest level of disagreement was with the priorities for 'Achieving Economic Wellbeing', but this was very low at 4%.
23. A number of our emerging priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan are cross cutting and underpin everything we do. To ensure we are developing a strong foundation for future working it is proposed that each of the following cross cutting priorities will have their own plans to ensure we make progress:
 - focusing on prevention, early identification and intervention;
 - reducing Child poverty by supporting children, young people and families who need assistance in improving their quality of life particularly with regard to housing, transport, parenting and early year's intervention.
 - developing a locality based approach to delivering services with partners;
 - developing the Children's Trust;
 - ensuring children and young people play an active part in influencing decisions that affect their lives and well-being;
 - developing an integrated workforce which is ambitious for all children and their families and expert in its practise; and
 - ensuring we address equalities and diversity issues.
24. The following is the list of 20 emerging priorities for the five Every Child Matters Delivery Groups:

Be Healthy

25. **Priority 1:** Ensure a healthy start to life – including early access to antenatal care, reducing smoking and improving nutrition in pregnancy, promoting breastfeeding and increasing immunisation and vaccinations.

Priority 2: Ensuring children and young people are able to make responsible decisions in relation to drugs, alcohol and sexual health.

Priority 3: Promoting, protecting and treating the mental and emotional health of children and young people.

Priority 4: Supporting children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing smoking and childhood obesity and increasing physical activity and healthy eating.

Priority 5: Transforming services for disabled children.

Stay Safe

26. **Priority 6:** To protect Children and young people from harm by providing a co-ordinated and effective safeguarding process.

Priority 7: Improving early identification of and intervention with vulnerable young people.

Priority 8: Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

Priority 9: Reducing the incidence and impact of bullying on children and young people.

Enjoy and Achieve

27. **Priority 10:** To transform teaching and learning and strengthen leadership to ensure that every school and early years' setting is at least good.

Priority 11: Raising achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances.

Priority 12: Improving engagement and enjoyment for all children and young people.

Making a positive contribution

28. **Priority 13:** Reduce anti-social behaviour and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.

Priority 14: Reducing youth offending

Priority 15: Promoting and providing activities for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activities

Priority 16: Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting

Economic Wellbeing

29. **Priority 18:** Develop a locality approach in reducing the number of young people Not in Employment Education or training, targeting those areas with the highest NEET levels.

Priority 19: Work with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities.

Priority 20: Inspire our most vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations and provide integrated support particularly to Care leavers, young offenders, young carers, young people with physical and learning disabilities, gypsy and traveller children and teenage parents.

30. Members are asked to scrutinise these priorities and give their views on them. A first draft Children and Young People's Plan has been attached at Appendix C so that members can see how the plan is developing around these priorities. Members will see that there is still work to be done to refine strategic actions and measures of success to ensure a high standard of consistency and rigour. However it was thought that Committee Members would find it beneficial to see this early draft in order to have a real opportunity to influence its development.

Scrutinising the Children and Young People's Plan

31. Over the next few months much work will be done to ensure the major elements of the Trust are working effectively. Delivery plans for the priorities will need to be developed and Delivery Group working arrangements will need to be established and embedded.
32. It is proposed that Committee Members scrutinise the Children and Young People's Plan by focusing on the work of one of the Every Child Matters Outcome Delivery Groups at a time. As the Children's Trust has its first performance review meeting on 9 December, Members could begin reviewing progress by choosing to review one of the priority outcome areas at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 5 January.

Conclusion and Next Steps

33. The Trust Board is aiming to adopt the Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire at its next meeting on the 3 September. Central Bedfordshire Council will consider the plan at its Executive on 15 September. The plan and the Trust will then be formally launched on 16 October at a conference at Whipsnade Zoo which members will be welcome to attend.
34. Key issues going forward are the development of the Trust in particular the Trust Board, the Commissioning Executive and the Delivery Groups. As a Commissioning Trust we will need a strong commissioning framework and governance arrangements. New guidance in the Autumn will have implications for our arrangements and the development of our next Children and Young People's Plan and this will have to be built into the development plan for the Trust.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Children and Young People's Plan identifies a number of priorities in relation to 'Stay Safe', 'Enjoy and Achieve' and 'Be Healthy'. The recommendations in this report provide Committee Members with an opportunity to scrutinise and influence the development of these priorities to ensure they support the delivery of the following Council Priorities:

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
- Creating safer communities
- Promoting healthier lifestyles.

Financial:

Working with partners to deliver services together in a more integrated way, with a focus on prevention and early intervention is a key driver of the plan and will in the longer term deliver efficiencies.

Legal:

The Children's Trust and the Children and Young People's Plan will enable the council and its partners to exercise the 'duty to co-operate' under section 10 of the Children Act 2004.

Risk Management:

Risk is a key part of delivery planning for the Children's Plan and will be managed and mitigated through this process.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None.

Equalities/Human Rights:

During the development of the plan equalities issues and impacts were considered and included in the priorities are a number of strategic actions which identify children and young people who are not achieving, who are excluded or in vulnerable circumstances.

Community Safety:

Stay Safe is an Every Child Matters outcome and the plan will be delivering against a number of priorities to keep children and young people safe in their homes and in the community.

Sustainability:

Delivering services locally is a cross cutting priority for the partners that will support our ambitions to be sustainable.

Appendices:

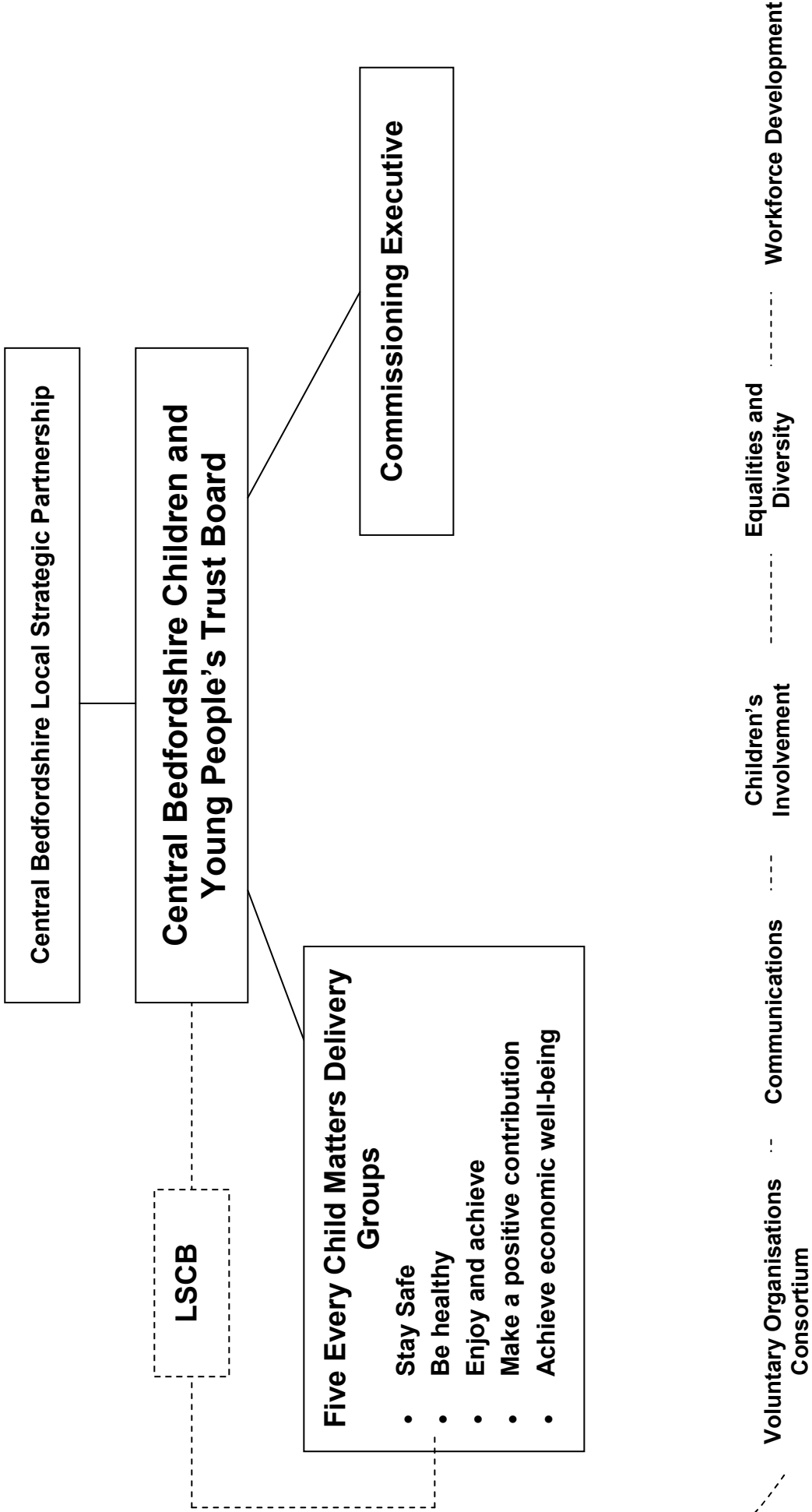
Appendix A – Diagram of Children's Trust

Appendix B – Membership of the Children's Trust Board

Appendix C – Draft Children and Young People's Plan

Appendix D – Overview of Children and Young People's Plan Consultation

Developing arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust



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Appendix B

Trust Board Membership

Edwina Grant	Chair of Trust Board
Jaki Salisbury	Director of Children, Families and Learning, Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Anita Lewis	Interim Chief Executive, Central Bedfordshire Council
Andrew Morgan	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council
Ann Nevinson	Chief Executive, NHS Bedfordshire
Linda Hennigan	Non-Executive Director, NHS Bedfordshire
Laura Eades	Chief Probation Officer
To be confirmed	Independent Chair Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
Nigel Tompkins	Learning and Skills Sector
Michele Flynn	Detective Superintendent, Bedfordshire Police
Linda Bulled	Chair, Voluntary Organisations Consortium
To be confirmed	Consortiums Officer, Voluntary Organisations Consortium
To be confirmed	Youth Offending Team
To be confirmed	Schools representation
To be confirmed	Parent representation
To be confirmed	Children and Young People representation

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Appendix C

DRAFT 27 July

Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan

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Foreword *(still to be signed off and agreed)*

Welcome to the first Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire

This plan sets out our vision for children, young people and their families in Central Bedfordshire and it shows how we plan to achieve it. We know that most children and young people in Central Bedfordshire enjoy their childhood and go on to be confident and successful young adults – we want to make sure that we maintain this and improve the achievements and outcomes for those children and young people who are not doing as well.

We have set out in this plan those things we think are important to focus on over the next eighteen months. It is not a detailed account of all we plan to do but it does set out those things we think are critical to achieving our vision. There are a large number of more detailed strategies and plans which support the priorities set out in this plan.

We would like to thank all those that have been involved in the development of the plan. In particular the more than 4,000 children and young people who were asked what they think is important. Their ideas and priorities have helped to shape this plan. We look forward to working with children, young people, their families and those involved in delivering services for them, to tackle our challenges and celebrate our successes.



Cllr Anita Lewis
Portfolioholder Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council



Edwina Grant
Director of Children, Families and
Learning - Central Bedfordshire Council
and Chair of Children's Trust Board

Introduction

In 2003 the Government launched the 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' which set out a new way of thinking about how services for children, young people and their families are delivered. The result was the Children Act 2004 which provided the legislation for this new approach and which outlines the five key 'Every Child Matters' outcomes for all children and young people, whatever their background or circumstances. They are:

To be healthy

Enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle

To stay safe

Be protected from harm and neglect and grow up able to look after themselves

To enjoy and achieve

Get the most out of life and develop broad skills for life

To make a positive contribution

To the community and society and not offend or behave in an anti-social way

To achieve economic well-being

Overcome disadvantages and achieve their full potential in life

The Children Act 2004 Section 10 requires that all local authorities with a children's services responsibility should make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people in the area. The Act establishes the Local Authority as the lead and accountable partner in such arrangements.

The expectation is that these arrangements, commonly known as Children's Trusts, should have been in place in all Local Authorities by the end of 2008 and that partners involved in Trusts should work together to develop a Children and Young People's Plan.

As a new unitary area we have set up our new Children and Young People's Trust. At its first meeting in April 2009 the Trust Board agreed to put in place the following arrangements to develop and implement our first Children and Young People's Plan:

- a Trust Board – made up of the strategic leaders of all partners and acts as the Executive of the Trust, agreeing and owning the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and any other relevant strategies;
- a Commissioning Executive - made up of those people who commission services from across the partners and its job is to understand the needs of children, young people and their families, work with partners to plan services around these needs and identifying the best providers to deliver the services; and
- five Every Child Matters Outcome Delivery Groups – these groups are made up of key professionals from across the Trust who are involved in delivering services relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes and they have to make sure that services are delivered according to the agreed priorities.

There are also a number of partnerships and groups which the Trust has links with and which will help to deliver the priorities in the plan, including the Local Strategic Partnership, the Local Safeguarding Board, the Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership.

Our vision for Children and Young People in Central Beds

We want every child in Central Bedfordshire to enjoy their childhood and have the best possible start in life. We want every child to do well at school, make friends and build strong relationships with their family. By the age of 19, as young adults we want every young person to have the knowledge, skills and qualifications that will give them the best chance of success, so that they are prepared to take their full place in society as a contributing, confident citizen.

Living in Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire is home to approximately 252,100 people. Around 137,000 (54.4% of the population) people live in the towns with 36,540 in Leighton Linnsdale, 35,070 in Dunstable, 17,000 in Houghton Regis, 16,640 in Biggleswade, 13,310 in Flitwick, 11,690 in Sandy and 6,900 in Ampthill.

Around 63,000 children and young people between the ages of 0-19 live in Central Bedfordshire and by 2021 it is forecast that there will be about 2,000 more children aged under 16. The number of births in Central Bedfordshire has been around 3,000 for the last three years. The birth rate is slightly lower than the England and East of England rates and Central Bedfordshire's proportion of low birth weight babies is slightly lower than the East of England average.

Age range of children and young people population in Central Bedfordshire, 2007

0 – 4	15,400
5 – 9	15,300
10 – 14	16,100
15 - 19	16,200

*ONS – estimates June 2007

Central Bedfordshire is generally an affluent area and many children and young people in the area enjoy a very good quality of life and have excellent prospects in relation to both their own future happiness and their contribution to their communities. The health of our children and young people compares well with the East of England, and to England as a whole. Achievement across the age range from Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage 4 is above national averages. None of our schools is in an Ofsted category of concern and we are on track to have 100% of extended services in schools by 2010. The percentage of school leavers going onto higher education is above the regional and national average and we have low numbers of young people that are not in education employment or training (5.9%).

We know however, that there is a significant minority of children and young people for whom outcomes are much worse than those of the rest.

In terms of overall deprivation, in 2007 none of the areas in Central Bedfordshire were in the top 20% most deprived in England. However, for some of the individual aspects of deprivation (such as education, crime and income) communities in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Flitwick and Sandy do fall into the worst 10% nationally.

We do also have some pockets of deprivation and in total, nine areas in 2007 were in the top 20% most deprived in the East of England and three of these were in the top 10% in the region. This means that around 27% of children in Central Bedfordshire live in low income or workless families and we know that children from poorer backgrounds are doing less well. In

in some areas up to 50% are living in low income families:

% and number children in low income families

Tithe Farm	50%	750
Parkside	49%	670
Manshead	47%	590
Northfields	40%	705
Houghton Hall	38%	670
Planets	34%	420
Plantation	32%	415
Dunstable Central	31%	310
All Saints	30%	315
Biggleswade Ivel	30%	515
Sandy Pinnacle	30%	550

Our Priorities

Cross cutting priorities

In order to deliver on the priorities set out in this plan there are a number of issues and programmes that underpin the work of all the partners. These cross cutting priorities will all have separate plans in place, linked to the Children and Young People's Plan and overseen by either an Every Child Matters Delivery Group or the Commissioning Executive. We will need to work together on the following to make sure we have the right building blocks in place and address the priorities in a co-ordinated way:

Improve prevention, early identification and intervention

Recognising as early as possible when children, young people and their families need advice and support is one of the most effective ways of improving outcomes and it is a key cross cutting priority for the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust. To support this work we will:

- Implement an effective strategic plan to develop high quality, locally delivered, integrated services
- Earlier identification and intervention supported by multi-agency workforce development programme
- Further development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and associated local practice initiatives
- Develop a "Think Family" programme
- Building on the success of our Early Years services and developing Children's centres and our support for new parents and very young children
- Intervening earlier and supporting those children, young people and families we have identified as being at risk: children and young people with mental health problems, children where domestic abuse is a factor, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities, asylum seekers and homeless children, young offenders, teenage mothers; and
- providing enhanced services for families where children and young people have been identified as being at risk of entering the care system

What success looks like

- Local delivery of integrated services based on common processes, outstanding practice, strong partnerships and clearly identified pathways
- Children, young people & families accessing appropriate services to meet their needs and lead to better outcomes.

This approach will be supported by an effective common process for working with children, young people and families – the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). We are reviewing our use of the common assessment framework, the Development of the Lead Professional Role and the design and operation of multi agency panels to support this approach.

Reducing Child Poverty

Our long term aim is to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Central Bedfordshire. This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Economic Wellbeing' Delivery Group and led out of the Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership of the Local Strategic Partnership. We aim to provide support to children, young people and their families who need assistance in improving their quality of life particularly with regard to housing, transport, parenting and early year's intervention. To deliver this priority we will:

- Develop a child poverty strategy
- Commission services devoted to improving people's economic well-being so that they are accessible to those families with the greatest need
- Provide stable accommodation for those under threat of homelessness
- Provide subsidised transport and services for children, young people and their families
- Learn from other agencies who operate best practice in their support of families
- Increase the number and use of our children's centres

What success looks like

- Reduced levels of child poverty (NI 116, LAA priority)
- Increase the range and availability of discounted services
- Reduced levels of homelessness
- Increased take up of childcare by low income working families

Developing a locality based approach to delivering integrated services

In order to develop a locality based approach to delivering integrated services, partners will work together to identify and agree the need for co-located services, identify the priority services for re-configuration and develop plans to ensure we have integrated processes and information sharing to support this approach.

We have an ambitious agenda to deliver a wide variety of services for children and young people that are co-located in local communities. Health, education and social care services will be developed into multi agency teams that use integrated processes and systems and the holistic, 'Think Family' approach.

This integrated practice and locally based, multi agency service will be more responsive to local need and will make it easier and simpler for children, young people and their families to access a variety of services in their own locality

Developing the Children's Trust

As a new unitary area and a new partnership we have identified a number of things we need to do to strengthen partnership working so that we are well equipped for jointly delivering on our priorities. A Trust Development Plan will be overseen by the Trust Board and to deliver this priority we will:

- Make sure we have the right people and partners involved in the Trust and that they have appropriate training and information;
- Make sure we are clear about our links and arrangements with other partnerships;
- Make sure that we clear on what success looks like and that we monitor our progress and challenge each other;
- Develop the Trust Board, our Commissioning Executive and our Delivery Groups;
- Develop a communications strategy so that everyone knows what the Trust stands for and what it offers and so that children, young people, families and partners all feel informed;

Increase opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being

This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Making a positive contribution' Delivery Group. To deliver this priority we will:

- Develop a comprehensive youth engagement and consultation strategy and associated delivery plan
- Further develop young people's active engagement in service design, delivery, and evaluation in relation to all providers
- Build on the Young People's grant giving initiative increasing young people's involvement in decisions about funding allocation
- Improve and enhance integrated working and communication within the areas of engagement and consultation with children and young people

What success looks like

- Increase % of young people voting in youth cabinet elections
- A diverse range of mechanisms in place that demonstrate young people's involvement, voice and influence in decisions that affect their lives and well being
- Engagement and consultation with young people is centrally planned and co-ordinated ensuring communication is a two-way process and avoiding duplication
- Well established and promoted feedback mechanisms are in place for children and young people
- Children and young people actively involved in service assessments

Strategic commissioning

Robust commissioning arrangements are seen as being increasingly important in making sure that services are effective, offer good value for money and improve outcomes for children and young people. During 2009 we will agree a Strategic Commissioning Framework that sets out how we will work together to commission cost effective, high quality services. This is a key priority for the Commissioning Executive.

Develop an integrated workforce which is ambitious for all children and their families and expert in its practice

Workforce development is the key to providing the right staff with the right skills to provide high quality services and transform outcomes for children, young people and their families. We are developing a workforce development strategy to ensure that we identify key areas of development and then put in place programmes to ensure new ways of working across all agencies. This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Enjoy and Achieve' Delivery Group. To deliver this priority we will:

- Establish and promote a shared identity, vision, language, practices and services across the Children's Workforce
- Develop integrated working and a single staff development framework based on a single needs analysis
- Increase the use of Training hubs for learning in each area of Central Bedfordshire
- Put safeguarding at the forefront of Workforce Development

What success looks like

- Regular self assessment shows progress towards integrated working
- The Children's workforce has shared goals, common language, flexible working practices and works within a common ethos
- There is a common career development and qualifications framework that encourages movement across the Children's Workforce.
- Local needs for the recruitment, development and reform for the children's workforce are effectively identified and development programmes are matched explicitly to need.
- A single directory of workforce development has been compiled and made widely available, signposting both multi-agency (generic) and role specific development opportunities.

Equality and diversity

Equality is a Trust priority. Equality and diversity issues have informed the development of the plan throughout the process. Each of the Every Child Matters Delivery Groups considered equalities issues in relation to their outcomes and identified groups or individuals that may have particular needs that are not being met by mainstream services.

The following groups of children who are vulnerable and who may not have prospects for good outcomes across the Every Child Matters outcomes were identified as a priority for the Trust: children and young people with mental health problems, children in homes where domestic abuse is a factor, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities, asylum seekers and homeless children, young offenders, teenage mothers.

Delivering services that support these children and young people and assessing their progress is a key priority that will be monitored and assessed by all the Delivery Groups and through an Equality Impact Assessment.

What children and young people said

More than 4,000 children and young people helped shape the priorities in this Children and Young People's Plan. More information on how we did this set out in Appendix B. Here are some of the things that children and young people said:

Be Healthy

Children and young people wanted more opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles and felt that better play facilities in schools grounds and more sports activities would help achieve this. They also asked for healthier and nice school meals.

"More stuff on healthy lifestyles"

"More accessible contraception coz some places want all your details if you ask for it"

Stay Safe

Children and young people wanted safe areas to live and play and they wanted action to stop bullying out of school. They also felt it was important to stop bad behaviour and crime in their areas and for children and the Police to have more opportunities to talk.

"Stop big groups of young people walking around at night"

"Stop gang culture"

Enjoy and Achieve

Help to do better at school was something that children and young people wanted and they also wanted more rewards for behaving and doing well at school.

"After school club to help us with Maths and English"

"Young peoples celebration - like Young People of The Year Awards"

Make a positive contribution

As mentioned above children and young people want more rewards for behaving and doing well. In particular they wanted to see good things about young people in newspapers and the media. They also felt that they needed more things to do, such as more groups and clubs to join and play schemes. Cheaper transport to get to places was highlighted as an issue and they were concerned that families who might need help to pay for activities for their children were supported.

"More music concerts - stuff for us to do, could have stalls on drug and alcohol too."

"Good website that says all the stuff you can do and is up to date."

Economic wellbeing

As mentioned above children and young people thought there should be help for families who need it to pay for activities. They also thought that there should be more job opportunities for young people.

"We need more help on what we should do after leaving school"

We will be developing a children and young people's summary version of the plan so that they can easily see what we plan to do and also to show that we have listened to what they told us.

Be Healthy

What we know

- Health and wellbeing of children in Central Bedfordshire generally compares well to the rest of the East of England, and to England as a whole
- In 2008/09:
- 77% of women in Bedfordshire* accessed antenatal care within 12 weeks of pregnancy (against a target of 80%)
 - 15% of pregnant women in Bedfordshire* were reported to be smoking at time of delivery
 - 72% of women in Bedfordshire* initiated breastfeeding after delivery (against a target of 75%)
 - 40% of women in Central Bedfordshire were still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after delivery (against a target of 39%)
 - All immunisation targets were met except for MMR at age 5 years which was 72% against a target of 76% for Central Bedfordshire.
 - 72% of schools in Central Bedfordshire have achieved National Healthy Schools Status
 - In 2008/09 Central Bedfordshire recorded 8% of children in school year R as obese, and 14.3% of children in school year 6 as obese.
 - Central Bedfordshire showed a teenage conception rate of 28.5, based on 2004-6 data. There is on average a 2 year lag time with this data set from ONS. However local intelligence suggests that teenage conception rates remain of concern in Central Bedfordshire, with particular 'hot spot' areas in Houghton Hall, Manshead, Tithe Farm, Parkside and Heath and Reach.
 - In 2008 16% boys and 18% girls in Central Bedfordshire reported to be smoking occasionally or regularly.
 - Data suggest levels of drug use remain relatively stable amongst young people with slight increases or decreases across the 4 year period from 2004-2008.
 - Alcohol use has tended to remain stable with slight increases recorded in 2006. For example, those drinking between 4-20 units was recorded at 32% in 2004, increased to 39% in 2006 and fell again to 33% in 2008.
 - The following have been identified as children in vulnerable circumstances who may have poorer health outcomes: children and young people with mental health problems, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities; asylum seekers and homeless children.

*Central Bedfordshire data not currently available

What we are going to do

Priority 1: Ensure a healthy start to life - including early access to antenatal care, reducing smoking and improving nutrition in pregnancy, promoting breastfeeding and increasing immunisation and vaccinations

Strategic actions

- Improve choices for women to book – increase numbers of midwifery led and community based booking clinics
- Promote multi-agency approach to improved ante, peri and postnatal care for women, utilising acute and community healthcare services and Children's Centres
- Improve antenatal and postnatal breastfeeding support, through the implementation of the Healthy Child Programme and targeted programmes of work such as peer counsellors
- Achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly status in the community
- Expand stop smoking services for pregnant women, both through the Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service and increased training provision to maternity and Children's Centre staff
- Support women to prevent re-starting smoking after delivery

What success looks like

- Increase in the number of women accessing antenatal care within 12 weeks of pregnancy to 85% in 2009/10
- Increase in breastfeeding initiation to 77% by 2009/10 and the continuation of breastfeeding to achieve a 6-8 week breastfeeding rate of 41% 2009/10 (NI 53)

- Reduce smoking during pregnancy to 15% or less in 2009/10

Priority 2: Ensuring children and young people are able to make responsible decisions in relation to drugs, alcohol, and sexual health

Strategic actions

- Ensure services are targeted in line with identified need, particularly teenage pregnancy services
- Improve the quality of Personal, Social and Health Education in schools
- Enhance our family services, particularly services for young parents and those effected by drugs and alcohol issues
- Improve the quality of specialist drugs/alcohol treatment, particularly planned discharges
- Roll out new locality sexual health services across Bedfordshire
- Continue to increase uptake of chlamydia screening services

What success looks like

- Reduce smoking rates among young people from 13% to 9%, and to stop young people from starting to smoke in 2009/10
- Reduce numbers of young people misusing substances, including drugs and alcohol to 11.85% in 2009/10 (NI 115, LAA priority)
- Reduce teenage conception rate to 23.2 per thousand (NI 112)
- Increase rates of Chlamydia screening for 15 to 24 year olds to 25%

Priority 3: Promoting, protecting and treating the mental and emotional health of children and young people

Strategic actions

- Early intervention services need to be further developed and integrated to ensure prompt and timely support for children and young people with emerging mental health problems
- Continued development of the knowledge and skills of all those working with children and young people
- The development of services for children and young people with complex mental health needs
- Alignment of CAMH and Children's Learning Disability Services

What success looks like

- To improve the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services, as rated through the self assessment framework. In 2008/09 a score of 13 was achieved, against a target of 13. The 2009/10 self assessment target is 15. (NI 151, LAA priority)

Priority 4: Supporting children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing smoking and childhood obesity and increasing physical activity and healthy eating

Strategic actions

- Promote the Change 4 Life programme to all communities
- Increase capacity of childhood obesity management programmes
- Expand current 0-5 years healthy living programmes
- Develop and deliver new childhood obesity prevention programmes
- Deliver the National Child Measurement Programme to regional and national targets
- Provide a range of programmes within the extended services communities to up skill and empower parents to better manage their children's healthy weight

What success looks like

- Reduced childhood obesity to 13.6% (NI56, LAA priority)
- 75% of schools in Central Bedfordshire will have achieved National Healthy Schools status by December 2009 (local indicator)
- Take up of school lunches (NI 52)

Priority 5: Transforming services for disabled children

Strategic actions

- Ensure the delivery of the Aiming High for Disabled children programme, in particular the transformation of short break services in line with the national indicators, priorities and timescales.
- Ensure that the strategic objectives of Better Care; Better Lives are implemented
- Improve data available on numbers of disabled children and types of disability.
- Continue the roll out of the Early Support programme for disabled children 0 – 5 years
- Deliver of the Transition Improvement Plan
- Ensure parents, disabled children and young people are fully involved in the shaping and delivery of services
- Develop the workforce to deliver transformation

What success looks like

- Positive response from parents to the NI54 indicator on parental satisfaction. (NI 54)
- Substantial increase in short break provision which offers a range of options
- Improved access to services for disabled children and young people
- Children and young people with palliative care needs and those requiring end of life care have clear plans
- Transparent transition pathway in place for all disabled young people 14+

Stay Safe

What we know

- The majority of children and young people feel safe
- 15% of boys and 13% of girls said they had been the victim of violence or aggression in the last 12 months in the area where they lived
- 35% of girls report feeling they are afraid of going to school because of bullying compared to 16% of boys
- 3,000 contacts in Bedfordshire for whom domestic violence has been recorded by children's social care
- Above average rates of death for young males under 15 per 100,00 compared to England and the East of England

What we are going to do

Priority 6: To protect Children and young people from harm by providing a co-ordinated and effective safeguarding process

Strategic actions

- Work closely with Trust partners to establish processes for identifying and responding to children whose safety is, or is likely to be, compromised.
- Establish a separate and effective Local Safeguarding Children Board by 2010.
- To engage with and deliver Central Bedfordshire's aspect of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency partnership (RIEP) safeguarding programme (ESP) so that high quality, evidence based, safeguarding practice is consistently delivered.

What success looks like

- New Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board is functioning effectively.
- The children's workforce configured and trained to meet the Trust's safeguarding objectives, co-operating in a consistent, responsive and effective manner.
- Children & Young People report feeling safer and know how to access help should it be needed from a trusted source.
- Inspections of Safeguarding services result in positive judgements about the effectiveness of those services.

Priority 7: Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people

Strategic actions

- Align activity which is intended to reduce the impact of domestic abuse within the LSCB business plan and Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse plan
- Integrate research and best practise into multi-disciplinary training programmes so that the workforce is equipped to identify and respond to children exposed to domestic abuse.
- Review the multi-agency Domestic Abuse protocol
- Develop and commission an appropriate range of services to respond to and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people

What success looks like

- Clear identification of children and young people in situations of domestic abuse receiving an appropriate, timely and effective response.
- Children and young people report that they feel safer

Priority 8: Reducing the incidence and impact of bullying on children and young people

Strategic actions

- Further develop the Anti-Bullying Strategy to include out of school bullying
- Incorporate bullying awareness into the Workforce Development Strategy
- Align anti-social behaviour strategy and anti-bullying strategy to ensure early identification and response

What success looks like

- Children and young people report feeling safer
- Incidence of bullying reduces

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Enjoy and Achieve

What we know

- Most children up until the age of 7 are doing well and achieving at Key Stage 1 with 79 out of 96 lower schools currently seen as good or outstanding
- On track to have 100% of extended services in schools by 2010
- Children and young people at the ages of 11 and 16 perform less well than those in other areas and only 14 out of 33 middle and upper schools are seen as good or outstanding
- Rate of fixed term exclusions is increasing
- Children in certain groups do not achieve as well as their peers (boys, some ethnic minorities, children who are looked after and children on free school meals)
- Contact with nature, access to the countryside and outdoor activities, play, sport and leisure all have significant and beneficial impacts on families, children and young people

What we are going to do

Priority 9: To transform teaching and learning and strengthen leadership to ensure that every school and early years' setting is at least good.

Strategic actions

- Ensure schools and settings have the right targeted support with a focus on prevention and early intervention
- To strengthen leadership in schools and settings by identifying, developing and retaining leadership talent
- Develop a vision for future learning in Central Bedfordshire which has an innovative, engaging and continuous curriculum which is centred around the learner and which ensures that children and young people experience effective transitions within and between each place of learning

What success looks like

- Increase % of upper schools judged as good from X to X by 2011
- Increase % of lower and middle schools judged as good from X to X by 2011
- Increase % settings judged as good from X to X by 2011

Priority 10: Raising achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances.

Strategic actions

- Develop a culture for learning which is based on high aspirations for all
- Develop collaborative approaches to leadership and learning for the benefit of all learners
- Develop high quality learning environments
- To promote a supportive, caring climate for learning to improve enjoyment of learning for all and to reduce levels of unacceptable behaviour and persistent absence
- To promote Social, Emotional Health and Well-being
- Improve the core skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT by supporting schools in developing effective strategies and teaching approaches geared to narrow achievement gaps
- Improve progress tracking and improve learner progression
- Develop and commission a range of targeted, early intervention programmes for children and young people in vulnerable circumstances

What success looks like

- Reduction in the number of schools judged as requiring special measures (NI 89)
- Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas (NI 90)
- Participation of 17 year-old in education and training (NI 91)
- Emotional health of children is achieved (NI 50)
- Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour (NI 86)
- Achievement of at least 78 points across EYFS (NI 73)
- Achievement at level 4 or above in English and Maths at KS2 (NI 73)

- Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent inc. English and Maths (NI 75)
- Achievement at Level 4 or above in English and Maths at KS2 (above floor target of 55%) (NI 76)
- Reduction in number of schools below 30% A*-C inc. English and Maths at GCSE (NI 78)
- Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (NI 79)
- Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (NI 80)
- Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 by the age of 19 (NI 81)
- Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 by the age of 19 (NI 82)
- Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalents (NI 84)
- Post-16 participation in physical sciences (NI 85)
- Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in Literacy (NI 161)
- Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in Numeracy (NI 162)
- Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (NI 92)
- Children in care reaching level 4 in English at KS2 (NI 99)
- Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at KS2 (NI 100)
- Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs or equivalents at KS4, including English and Maths (NI 101)
- Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2 and KS4 (NI 102)
- The SEN/non SEN gap –achieving KS2 English and Maths (NI 104)
- The SEN/non SEN gap –achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths (NI 105)
- KS2 attainment for Black and Minority ethnic groups (NI 107)
- GCSE attainment for Black and Minority ethnic groups (NI 108)
- Progression by 2 levels in English between KS1 and KS2 (NI 93)
- Progression by 2 levels in Maths between KS1 and KS2 (NI 94)
- Secondary school Persistent Absence rate (NI 87)
- Rate of permanent exclusions from school (NI 114)

Priority 11: Improving engagement and enjoyment for all children and young people

Strategic actions

- Improving extended school services, out of hours learning, and a wide range of outdoor recreational and play activities and opportunities including volunteering
- A programme of positive, out-of-hours/extra-curricular activities for children and families that involves innovative approaches to learning, play and recreation at a range of localities
- Pyramids of schools to produce comprehensive development plans for out-of-hours learning and positive activities and submit these to the LA along with regular financial breakdowns of spend to date
- Develop Playing for Success study support programme within Central Bedfordshire
- Providing effective support for children who are not engaged with learning and are at risk of exclusion
- Provide local and effective support through short stay schools and other interventions for children who are not engaged with learning and who are at risk of exclusion
- Establish and strengthen behaviour and attendance partnerships within four geographical localities
- Develop parental involvement from the start regarding support and consultation structures

What success looks like

- 85% of schools meet the full core offer of extended services by Sept 2009
- all schools meeting full core offer by 2010

Enjoy and achieve – supporting plans

- Transforming Learning/BSF (Business Transformation Project)
- Locality Based Services (Business Transformation Project)
- Workforce Development Strategy (Business Improvement Project)

Making a Positive Contribution

What we know

- Children and young people allocated £1.7 million in grants for positive activities projects
- Anecdotal evidence of a wide range of activities on offer for children and young people
- Too many young people in custody
- There is a perceived gap in provision for 8-13 year olds in relation to positive activities
- Only 52% of boys and 41% of girls consider themselves fit or very fit aged 12-13 and only 52% of boys and 25% of girls consider themselves fit aged 14-15
- Perceived under representation on fora from children and young people with special education needs, disabilities and from particular communities

What we are going to do

Priority 12: Reduce anti-social behaviour and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire

Strategic actions

- Enhance the anti-bullying strategy to incorporate bullying out of the school
- Develop and promote a positive images campaign to promote and champion children and young people's achievement and contribution
- Offer and promote positive activities for children and young people at key times including Friday evenings and weekends
- Create opportunities for young people to engage in volunteering
- Improve access to a range of high quality outdoor formal and natural play spaces
- Delivery of the strengthening families 10 – 14 and Triple P parenting programmes across Central Bedfordshire
- Start up and delivery of the Family Intervention Project, providing intensive support to families in the greatest difficulty with children at risk of offending

What success looks like

- Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Positive images of young people on display consistently across the authority in significant places for young people and the wider community
- 150-200 parents participating in evidence based parenting programmes annually
- % of parents and young people participating in parenting programme demonstrating improvements (Parents have extended their knowledge and understanding of child development and behaviour. Parents demonstrate positive parenting and problem solving skills with greater belief in the competence)
- Reduction in the number of family members involved in Anti Social Behaviour
- Reach: The Youth Service reaches 25% of the 13-19 population
- Participation: The Youth Service is in regular contact with 15% of the 13-19 population
- Recorded Outcomes: 60% of 13-19 year olds participating in youth work receive a recorded outcome
- Accredited Outcomes: 30% of 13-19 year olds participating in youth work receive an accredited outcome.

Priority 13: Reducing youth offending

Strategic actions

- Reduce re-offending rates amongst young people
- Reduce first time entrants in to the Youth Justice System

What success looks like

- Achieving National targets relating to youth offending
- Perception of crime reduced

Priority 14: Promoting and providing activities for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activities

Strategic actions

- Increase Children and Young People's participation in positive activities
- Enhance and further develop accessible information, advice and guidance provision for children, young people and families. (Develop an Information, Advice and Guidance strategy)
- Enhance integrated working between providers to enhance existing opportunities for children, young people and families
- Further develop and promote play, leisure, sport and cultural opportunities for children and young people aged 8-13
- Further shape and deliver services for disabled children and young people following participation

What success looks like

- Increase the % of young people participating in positive activities to 82.9% by 2011 (NI 110, LAA priority)
- Development of One Stop Shops offering Information, advice and guidance
- Demonstrable evidence in future service delivery that we had been able to incorporate the views and wishes of young people with disabilities in options of provision to meet their needs and that they can recognise their input

Priority 15: Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting

Strategic actions

- Strengthen communities through innovative family and community involvement
- Implementing Think family reforms across Children, health and adult services
- Delivery of Parenting Early Intervention Programme
- Support and maintain existing parenting support services

What success looks like

- key outcomes for Be Healthy are delivered: reduced smoking rates among young people, reduced numbers of young people misusing substances, including drugs and alcohol and reduced teenage conception rates
- key outcomes for Enjoy and Achieve are delivered: improved achievement, behaviour and attendance
- Xx% of parents completing parenting programmes or individual casework support demonstrating improvements (parents and their children communicate effectively and respectfully. Parents demonstrate positive parenting and problem solving skills with greater belief in their competence)
- % of parents surveyed report sustained benefits
- Protocols in place across children's, health and adult services for identifying, referring and planning how the needs of other family members can be met alongside those of their client

Making a positive contribution – supporting plans

- Integrated Youth Support Plan
- Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy
- NEET Strategy

Economic Wellbeing

What we know

- Children from poorer backgrounds are doing less well and are more likely to die from an accident in childhood, have low educational achievement, turn to crime, be poor as an adult and raise their own children in poverty
- 27% of children in Central Bedfordshire live in low income families and 12% live in workless families. In parts of Houghton Regis and Dunstable between 45% and 50% of children live in low income households
- The inequality gap at age 19 for achievement at either level 2 (GCSE or equivalent) or level 3 (A level or equivalent) places Bedfordshire in the bottom quartile
- Low levels of young people going on to higher education in Tithe Farm (7.9%), Parkside (10.5%), Biggleswade Stratton (11.7%) and Sandy Pinnacle (12.8%) compared to England (24.3%). Northfields, Dunstable Central, Manshead, Planets and Houghton Hall also fall below the England average
- Around 6% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- 66.7% of care leavers in employment education and training – this is above the national average (64.9%) but below the region and comparator authorities (68%)

Priority 16: Develop a locality approach in reducing the number of young people Not in Employment Education or training, targeting those areas with the highest NEET levels.

Strategic actions

- Develop one stop shop multi-agency settings in our four priority areas
- Identify needs and interests of NEET young people and work with employers, colleges and training providers to develop appropriate opportunities
- Ensure all young people receive a comprehensive and high quality programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance to support effective decision making in relation to learning and/or work

What success looks like

- Reduced % of NEET from 5.8% to 5% by 2011 (NI 117, LAA priority)

Priority 17: Work with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities.

Strategic actions

- Co-ordinate the promotion of local job opportunities
- Increase the range of services in school settings
- Provide increased training and work experiences for 14-16 year olds
- Develop our workforce's ability to serve our customers
- Develop apprenticeship opportunities within public services

What success looks like

- More jobs, volunteering and training opportunities will be provided
- Increase in the number of apprenticeships available

Priority 18: Inspire our most vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations and provide integrated support particularly to Care leavers, young offenders, young carers, young people with physical and learning disabilities, gypsy and traveller children and teenage parents.

Strategic actions

- Provide support to parents of excluded children
- Consult children and their families at regular intervals
- Develop information sharing protocols with colleges and training providers to improve transition support at 16+

- Actively engage with Aim Higher to raise aspirations of young people

What success looks like

- Every child leaving care has a pathway plan
- Achievement of level 2 and 3 qualifications of vulnerable young people
- Increased entrants into higher education
- Increased number of care leavers and young offenders entering NEET category

Economic wellbeing – supporting plans

- Child poverty strategy
- Strategy for change
- Homelessness strategy
- Workforce strategy
- Economic strategy
- Cultural strategy

DRAFT

Appendix A: Our resources

CYPP Resources

This section to be developed.

DRAFT

Appendix B: Consultation with Children and Young People

The consultation with children and young people was conducted in 3 stages

Stage 1:

We asked a number of youth groups 'what they would like Central Bedfordshire to do for them'. Groups varied and included: Hurricane, Connexions Teenage Pregnancy group, Potton Travellers, Young Carers, Urban dance groups, Looked After Children, Youth Cabinet, African Caribbean and various disability groups. This exercise allowed the children and young people to say what they feel is a priority for them.

Total number of children and young people consulted were 550.

Stage 2:

Following on from stage 1, we then collated all of the answers and produced a questionnaire that was then taken into 3 lower schools (Meppershall, Hadrian and Robert Peel) 3 middle schools (Parkfields, Burgoyne and Edward Peake) and 3 upper schools (Stratton, Samuel Whitbread and Sandy). Using a voting system the children and young people were asked to vote for their 1st and 2nd choice on what service providers should do for them. The second stage was fun and interactive, with the children, young people and teachers being able to see the results straight away.

Total number of children and young people consulted were 1050.

Stage 3:

To test that we had understood children and young people's priorities we then organised a final consultation exercise. Based on what the children and young people said in stage 1 and stage 2, we then produced a questionnaire which set out 'What young people have told us' and 'What we are going to do'. The main aim of the consultation was to clarify that we understood what the children and young people of Central Bedfordshire were saying to us. Stage 3 involved visiting different lower, middle and upper schools. Schools who took part in stage 3 included: Potton Lower, St Georges Lower, Thomas Johnson Lower, Southill Lower, Hitchmead Special School, Henlow Middle, Arnold Middle, Holmemead Middle, Redborne Upper, Vandyke Upper, Queensbury Upper and Harlington Upper, 2670.

In addition to this we had 81 responses online.

Total number of children and young people consulted with were **4351**.

By undertaking 3 different stages we have achieved both qualitative and quantitative results from children and young people who live or go to school in Central Bedfordshire. All of the results have been broken down further into: gender, demographical area, schools and ethnicity.

Appendix D

Overview of Consultation with Children and Young People for the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan

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Meeting: Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 August 2009

Subject: Consultation on the future of Special Schools in the east of Central Bedfordshire

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families and Learning

Summary: The report outlines the options for the future of special schooling in the East of Central Bedfordshire in the light of the recommendations of the SEN Review, and the decision made by the Executive on 23 June 2009 to move forward to first stage consultation.

Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to comment on, and clarify the process by which, the Executive decision of 23 June 2009 is implemented and to advise the Executive.**
 - (a) **At its meeting on the 23 June 2009 the Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council decided that:**

The Council carries out a formal consultation on the options for the future of special schooling in the east of Central Bedfordshire during Autumn 2009, in order to inform the Executive's future decision making.

This is so that the Council begins to discharge its duty to consult in order to secure the future of special school provision in an efficient way that meets the needs of children and young people with complex needs

Introduction

1. This paper sets out the process for the first stage consultation. It identifies 4 possible options but the consultation process will allow for any other option to be submitted for consideration by the Executive.

2. The first stage consultation will start in the Autumn Term and will last for 6 weeks. All interested parties will be invited to respond, and the Council will ensure that the consultation is as broad as possible. Statutory consultation will follow if any proposal for structural changes arise.

Background

3. On 29 January 2008, Bedfordshire County Council's Executive considered a report on the future of Special Educational Needs (SEN) following a formal review. The report made a number of recommendations to improve provision for SEN.
4. At its meeting on 6 June 2008, the Central Bedfordshire Transition Task Force – Children, Young People and Families, discussed the outcomes of the SEN review. It noted the recommendation of Bedfordshire County Council that this work should continue. It agreed to recommend that the new Council endorse the concept of Area Special Schools described in this report.
5. In summary, the review proposed the development of Area Special Schools, each with 150-160 places for children and young people aged 3-19 years, making provision for all children with complex learning needs. This type of school would therefore provide for the combination of needs currently met by both schools for children and young people with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and those with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties (SLD / PMLD). The report recommended a staged approach to implementation of the strategy.
6. The report identified particular concerns in relation to Hitchmead and Sunnyside schools, because numbers in Hitchmead School have reduced significantly while numbers in Sunnyside School have risen. In the case of Hitchmead this is principally because mainstream schools have become better able to meet the needs of pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and prepare them for future success in an adult environment. This was also achieved in similar schools in the authority (see section 9 below).
7. Hitchmead school, which provides for children with moderate learning difficulties aged 7 – 16, is anticipated to have 41 pupils on roll for September 2009, with one possible additional admission. These numbers make it increasingly difficult to organise classes and deliver the full curriculum.
8. Sunnyside School for children aged 3 – 19 with Severe and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD and PMLD) currently has more children on roll than the building is able to accommodate, with requests for placement increasing. It currently has classes based at Langford Lower School, Holmemead Middle School, Stratton Upper School and Hitchmead School. Anticipated numbers for September 09 are 100 with one possible additional admission.

Pupil numbers

9. According to the January 2009 figures, there were 149 pupils in total in the two schools (Jan 2009 Pupil Level Annual School Corus (PLASC)). Pupil numbers have reduced over the past five years in the MLD Schools due to greater expertise in mainstream schools, and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. There are increased pupil numbers in the SLD schools generally due to the increasing number of children with more complex needs and the development of provision for children locally who might have previously gone to out of County schools.

Hitchmead

10.

PUPIL NOS	Jan 05	Jan 06	Jan 07	Jan 08	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 11
TOTAL	88	80	64	54	51	42	32

Of the numbers for September 2009, 2 are Hertfordshire County Council children, 6 are Bedford Borough Council children and 1 is a Luton Borough Council child.

Sunnyside

11.

PUPIL NOS	Jan 05	Jan 06	Jan 07	Jan 08	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 11
TOTAL	82	80	86	98	98	100	100

Of the numbers for September 2009 include 18 from Bedford Borough Council, 2 from Hertfordshire County Council and 1 from Luton Borough Council.

The Consultation

12. The following options have been agreed by the Executive for consultation
- (a) Option A: The merger of Hitchmead School and Sunnyside School to provide one Area Special School utilising both sites. This will result in the re-designation of the merged school as one Area Special School. In order to do this 1 school will effectively go through a process of closure. The new school can have a new name.
 - (b) Option B: The closure of Hitchmead School and the redistribution of children to the other MLD school (Weatherfield School) in Central Bedfordshire or an MLD school in their own Local Authority
 - (c) Option C: Status quo.

- (d) Option D: The closure of both schools and a re-provision of a new school which would become the subject of a competitive process for provision, unless there was a special dispensation from the Secretary of State.
- (e) Option E: Any other proposal that comes forward during the period of consultation.

13. A consultation document is currently being drafted and will be available for circulation at the meeting.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

This recommendation meets Council Priority 2 – Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

Financial:

If the decision were taken to merge Hitchmead with Sunnyside schools, this would release £1111,000 of revenue funding to be distributed through the special school formula. The availability of additional accommodation to support Sunnyside pupils would enable more children to have their needs met locally who might otherwise be placed out of county due to a lack of available places at a saving of up to £300,000 per year per pupil.

If the decision were taken to close the Hitchmead school site this would release a further £69k and would potentially provide the opportunity to dispose of the site which is within the Bedfordshire East Schools Trust (BEST). The relocation of pupils to other MLD schools would result in a significant increase to the transport costs (the other MLD school in Central Bedfordshire is in Dunstable).

Legal:

There will be a requirement to follow the statutory process for schools reorganisation if proposals to change the status of schools ensue.

There are legal implications regarding the land as set out below.

a Foundation, Trust or Voluntary School is being closed and discontinued those persons holding land for the purposes of the school are required to apply to the Secretary of State to decide what should happen to any land used by the school that has been provided, acquired or enhanced at public expense. (Part II Schedule 22 School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by schedule 4 Education Act 2006).

Briefly the Secretary of State's power allows him/her to:

1. require the land to be transferred to the schools maintaining local authority;
2. allow the governing body, foundation body or trustees to retain the land; or
3. require the land to be transferred to another maintained school

He/she also has the power to require the payment of compensation wherever he/she considers this appropriate.

Risk Management:

There is a risk in taking no action as the Council would be failing in its duty to provide an efficient education for children and young people with special educational needs.

Failure to consult on any proposals and leaving the future to chance could result in litigation and damage to the Council's reputation.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

The options would require specific consultation with all staff and unions, as part of the overall process. Unions have been kept updated with the recommendations of the SEN Review and work of the Steering Group.

Equalities/Human Rights:

During the statutory consultation a full range of opportunities will be given to ensure that all consultees have the opportunity to make a response by a means that is accessible to them and meets their needs.

Community Safety:

Pupils will continue to travel to specialist provision outside their home area.

Sustainability:

If a decision involves any capital development, wherever possible opportunities will be maximised for incorporating energy efficiency and sustainability measures. The environmental impact of all options will be fully appraised.

Appendices:

None.

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Meeting: Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 11 August 2009
Subject: Next steps on Transforming Teaching and Learning in Central Bedfordshire

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families and Learning

Summary: This report was requested by the Committee at its meeting of 14 July 2009. This was for the Committee to advise the Portfolio Holders for Children's Services and Culture and Skills. The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services has the legal responsibility and the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Skills oversees capital across the Directorate. This is with a view to the report planned to be put to the Executive on 15 September 2009.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee are invited to comment on their ideas for the next stage of this work. Members of the Scrutiny Committee are also asked to note the letter that the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services sent to Bedford Borough Council.

This work builds on the report that the Committee considered at its last meeting of 14 July 2009.

Director's presentation

At the meeting the Director will make a presentation to provide some thoughts to stimulate comment on this report. It is expected that the Portfolio Holders, if they are able to be present, will make an introduction to this item.

Where there are areas where the Committee is likely to want to offer advice this will be covered in the Director's presentation and are highlighted in bold in this report. It is however, entirely for the Committee to comment on any aspect.

Contact Officer: Edwina Grant (0300 300 4229)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Members of the Scrutiny Committee are invited to comment on their ideas for the next stage of this work. This will be taken as advice to the Portfolio Holders for Children's Services and Culture and Skills (the latter in his role of overseeing capital across the Directorate) and will inform the report to Executive on the next steps planned for 15 September 2009.**

2. Members are asked to note the letter that was sent to Bedford Borough by the Portfolio Holder.

Background to the work so far

1. As the Committee was previously informed, the Government has promoted BSF as a Government funded 15 year programme of investment in secondary schools (including middle schools in Central Bedfordshire). This will involve building new schools and refurbishment and aims to transform learning by:
 - enhancing school diversity and parental choice;
 - increasing the use of schools by the community;
 - seizing new technologies;
 - developing more creative approaches to learning;
 - producing places for learning that are exciting, flexible, healthy, safe, secure and environmentally sustainable.
2. Levels of deprivation and levels of underachievement are used by Partnerships for Schools (a non departmental organisation). Using this prioritisation matrix, the prioritised area would be Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Please note that underachievement is calculated as a significant factor in these calculations which are done by Partnerships for Schools and therefore it may be that some areas with lower levels of deprivation may be prioritised higher in the order than areas of higher deprivation. This would be followed by Leighton Linlade, Sandy and Biggleswade, and then rural mid-Bedfordshire.
3. The Central Bedfordshire Shadow Executive agreed on 17 March 2009 that preparatory work should be undertaken for the possible inclusion in this programme. It is not yet clear when Central Bedfordshire will enter the programme, but there needs to be a 'readiness to deliver'. Also, there needs to be a planned approach to improving teaching and learning in the authority. There is scope for improvement in the outcomes of young people in some areas and some schools. Bidding for BSF funding provides a unique opportunity. The programme provides an important context for the new Council to develop its educational vision with its partners and to deliver its aspirations for children and communities. The programme acts as a catalyst for ensuring approaches to learning are innovative and modern. At its heart is personalised learning to ensure all pupils reach their potential.
4. This programme is not just about schools, it is about schools in their communities. All partners will need to consider carefully what learning for the wider community will mean and how increased community use of schools for childcare, adult learning and family support can be facilitated. School facilities will be open to the whole community, taking into account local needs and priorities. Schools must be at the heart of the community.

5. Developing special needs provision, including proposals for special schools, could be brought forward as part of this programme. Similarly, there must be support for mainstream schools, ensuring they are more inclusive. Co-location with mainstream schools and special schools will be looked at, as will the local provision of special needs. The needs of all groups of pupils must be met, especially vulnerable groups. There is a report elsewhere on the Committee's agenda regarding first steps in the East of the Authority.
6. The Council is required to set out a Strategy for Change document against a national template. This sets out the educational vision and the plans seek to reflect the wider Every Child Matters agenda. The final Strategy for Change document will be prepared at the end of 2009, or early 2010. Discussions about the strategy have been taking place, without addressing the question of school reorganisation.
7. The Strategy for Change should illustrate how schools across the local area will provide more choice for parents and carers. The Strategy should be based around a firm commitment to raise standards, especially in the lowest attaining schools. It also needs to consider curriculum changes and how these can best be accommodated within school organisation so that schools can deliver vibrant and relevant curricula. These include 14-19 curriculum reform including the introduction of diplomas, the new Key Stage 3 curriculum, the Rose Report on a new primary curriculum and the recent introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
8. The Strategy needs to examine how the Local Authority can best work with Trusts in Central Bedfordshire, and the impact of the Trusts upon school effectiveness. Similarly, the impact of current and future federations should be analysed, and how these may work to improve school effectiveness.
9. On 19 March, the Shadow Executive agreed a way forward for developing the Council's programme to transform teaching and learning in Central Bedfordshire. The Learning Transformation Board has been established and has moved forwards with its work and at its last meeting this Committee received in an appendix to a report a copy of the 19 March report which is also listed in background papers.
10. At its last meeting this Committee reviewed the progress of the Learning Transformation Board which has been established to oversee the Building Schools for the Future Programme and to gather the information necessary to help elected members make informed decisions. The Board is made up of elected members, chairs of headteachers' groups and officers. It is not a decision making Board, it is an advisory Board. It is possible that attendance at this Board will be refreshed in the Executive report in September. This will be discussed at the next full meeting of the Learning Transformation Board on 7 September 2009 to ascertain the views of attendees. There are various possibilities as to the way forward and **the Director will comment on this in her presentation.**

11. At its last meeting the Committee was updated on the work streams which have been identified in preparation for developing the Strategy for Change and to demonstrate a readiness for BSF. The workstreams are:

- Transforming Teaching and Learning;
- Governance and Management;
- Finance and Legal;
- Property, Regeneration and Sustainability;
- Information and Analysis for Decision Making;
- Partnerships, Sport and Culture;
- Communications;
- Information and Learning Technology;
- Every Child Matters and Extended Schools; and,
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion.

At the time of writing this report a workshop has been planned at officer level to see if the work streams can now be conflated to become more targeted and focussed. The outcome of this workshop will be considered by the Learning Transformation Board at its first full meeting in the autumn term, currently planned for 7 September 2009. **The Director will comment on this in her presentation.**

12. At its last meeting, the Committee was advised that an important aspect of the work on transforming teaching and learning is to gather views and information about a range of areas for future development. This includes the way school places are organised; how innovative curricula can be developed; how transition is effectively managed and how schools can improve the quality of life for all of the people in our communities. All the five consultation meetings have now taken place and the seconded head teacher is writing up the report during the summer holiday period. This will be presented to the Learning Transformation Board at its first meeting in September and will be available for the Executive to have as an Appendix in the September report. **At the time of writing this, as it was commissioned for September, it is not ready; see comments in section 13 below.**

13. These meetings which were arranged for head teachers and chairs of governors to discuss principles which should be taken into account in making decisions and to start to explore the wide range of options and issues in relation to possible future arrangements for schools in Central Bedfordshire were well attended and well received.

As the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services attended many of the meetings and the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Skills was also present at some, it is possible for this Committee to discuss some of the issues that came out of the meetings and **the Director will comment on this during her presentation.**

Response to Bedford Borough

14. At the last meeting this Committee advised the Portfolio Holder on their views to inform her response to the Bedford Borough consultation. A copy of the letter that the Portfolio Holder sent is attached as Appendix A.

Communication with Schools and Governors

15. A copy of the letter to Bedford Borough was sent to all Schools and Chairs of Governors where information lists allowed.

Any letters or emails from schools about aspects of this work are being acknowledged and filed.

Early work on the impact assessment on any change made by Bedford Borough

16. The Committee are advised that impact work is on-going and the current impact assessment is attached at Appendix B.

Developing thoughts on the strategy for change

17. The strategy for change has to be written within a tight timescale as set out below.

September 2009	Produce early thoughts for Strategy for Change Part 2 including detail and delivery, estates strategy. Gain Executive approval and submit to DCSF for approval (this timescale may slip but it is important that it is completed by the end of the year and Shadow Executive in March agreed that the report should be at the September Executive).
December 2009	Executive approval of Outline Business Case. Central Bedfordshire Council submitted to DCSF for approval. Formal approval to issue OJEU notice (Official Journal of European Union).
February 2010	Prepare procurement documentation and evaluation plan. Submit OJEU notice to Board. Partnerships for Schools (PFS) approves OJEU and procurement documents.
June 2010	Bidders Day. Interview long list of Bidders. Project Board to agree short list.
May 2011	Issue Invitation to Competitive Dialogue (ITCD). Evaluate bids. Issue Invitation to submit final bids (ITSFB).
June 2011	Final Evaluation report to Project Board. Appoint preferred partner. Financial close

September 2012 Opening of first improved/rebuilt school.

The Committee may wish to question the Director on the purpose of the strategy for change.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities: Achieving BSF funding and transforming teaching and learning would support the Central Bedfordshire Strategic Plan (2009-11) particularly in educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

Financial: Authorities that have already participated in the programme have had to set aside considerable resources. At a meeting of the County Council Executive in January 2007 £1.8 million was set aside to fund the implementation plan for Bedfordshire. This allocation has been disaggregated to Bedford Borough Council, as this was needed for their on-going base budget provision for projects already agreed. There may be a need for a future report on budget provision should intensive work be needed in 2009/10 on BSF preparation. In the meantime current preparatory work is being funded from existing resources.

Legal: A project of this nature has significant and wide-ranging legal implications for the Council associated with Governance and the establishment of a Local Education Partnership. Once the project is up and running there could be complex contractual arrangements involving £200 - £300 millions worth of building projects. Partnership for Schools has produced standard contractual documentation, which the Council will be expected to adopt if it proceeds with the BSF option.

Risk Management: Initial risks have been identified and mitigation developed. If Central Bedfordshire was successful in achieving BSF funding then mitigation of risk would be a key part of the project.

Staffing (including Trades Unions): In the event of specific work stream impacting on staff, appropriate consultations will be undertaken with trade unions and professional associations

Equalities/Human Rights: None.

Community Safety: Improvements in the quality of school buildings and the opportunities for extended services will enhance the opportunities for wider community development and improved community safety.

Sustainability: To develop new school buildings which are well designed and maintained during their lifetime and provide optimum efficiency and effectiveness in relation to their use by schools and the wider community.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Portfolio Holder's response to Bedford Borough Consultation

Appendix B – Current Impact Assessment on any change made by Bedford Borough

Background papers: –

Report to the Shadow Executive 'Building Schools for the Future' (March 2009)

Report to Scrutiny Committee 14 July 2009 – Transforming Teaching and Learning

Appendix A

Ms Joan Wheeler
BSF Projects Manager
Children's Services, Schools & Families
Bedford Borough Council
Borough Hall
Bedford MK42 9AP

Tel: 01462 611498
Your ref:
Our ref: AL/ae
Date: 14th July 2009

Dear Ms Wheeler

Re: Bedford Schools for the Future – Consultation Response

I write to you as Portfolio Holder for Children's Services with regard to Central Bedfordshire's response to Bedford Borough's School Organisation Review.

Whilst I have not used the form provided as your consultation document, I have responded to the questions. However, before addressing the questions, I would like to make general observations.

My first comment is that many of the Central Bedfordshire residents will have their children in schools on the Borough Boundary and Borough residents will have their children in Central Bedfordshire schools. I am concerned that these communities need to be given particular consideration. I will be keeping an on-going communication with you in representing the needs of these constituents as I know Edwina Grant will be talking to Chris Hilliard at officer level.

My second point is regarding the implementation of any decision. Should the responses to your consultation be in favour of your proposal this will take some time to implement. Reassurance will need to be given by yourselves to new parents with very young children and all parents with children already in schools about the continuity of high quality education and proper transition between existing school phases so that confidence in the system is maintained throughout any change.

On the questions that are particularly relevant for me to address, I have commented below.

How do you think that schools in Bedford Borough should be organised?

We think that schools should be organised in a way that provides good outcomes for children and takes account of the need to personalise the education for every child. I firmly believe that “one glove does not fit all hands”. It is important that the provision is responsive to the context of the area the school serves and the needs of the community.

Please give any comments you have about the proposed timing of any change

With respect of the timing, I think that this consultation has happened very quickly after Bedford Borough Council was established as a new Unitary Authority. This speed is of concern in that we have had limited time to engage with you in preparation for the change.

Please give any comments on the individual proposals for any of the schools

On comments about individual proposals for schools, I do not propose to comment on schools within your area. However, I would need to make strong representation as we go forward should there be any negative impact on the continuity of learning for pupils in Central Bedfordshire schools.

I have copied this letter to all of our Central Bedfordshire schools so that they are aware of my response. I will continue to keep in close contact with our own schools and our parents to make representations as appropriate as we go forward.

Finally, to further my aim to represent our constituents, I ask for a meeting with your Lead Member for Children’s Services, along with each authority’s Director of Children’s Services so that we can discuss issues. If necessary, after this meeting, we may need to have a further meeting to include the two Leaders and Chief Executives of the Councils. It is disappointing that the consultation closes one week after schools have themselves moved into the holiday period.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Mrs Anita Lewis
Portfolio Holder – Children’s Services

Appendix B

Bedford School Organisation review

Potential Impact on Central Bedfordshire Schools

1. Background

- 1.1 Bedford Borough are consulting on a proposal to re-organise the structure of educational provision across the Borough to move from a 3 tier system of schools based on a 5-9, 9-13,13-18 system of Lower, Middle and Upper schools respectively to a two tier system based on 5-11 Primary and 11-16/18 Secondary.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the changes are effected in two stages, commencing with Stage 1 in September 2013 and Stage 2 in September 2014. However each of the stages will be phased over a two year period to give a gradual transition from one system to the other; hence Stage 1 will be completed in September 2014 and Stage 2 in September 2015.
- 1.3 Therefore, by 2015 all Bedford Borough Schools will have become either Primary or Secondary schools based on the enlargement of the current Lower schools to become Primary, the lowering of the age range of the Upper Schools to become Secondary and the closure of the Middle schools. (the only exception to this is at Lincroft Middle which would become an 11-16 Secondary feeding into Sharnbrook at 16+).
- 1.4 The net effect of this would be a proposed reduction of 16 schools in total from 74 to 60 but with an increase of 3 Forms of Entry at Secondary level from 65 FE to 68 FE and an increase of about 6 FE at Primary level from 68.5 FE to 74.4.

Detail of the impact on Central Bedfordshire Schools

- 2.1 Further discussion on the detail of the Impact on Central Bedfordshire Schools will be part of the presentation by the Director at the meeting regarding this report.

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**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010**

- 1) During the period from **1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
 - to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Member	Portfolio
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Chairman of the Executive and Leader of the Council
Cllr Richard Stay	Vice-Chairman of the Executive and Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation
Cllr Rita Drinkwater	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Cllr Carole Hegley	Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation
Cllr Maurice Jones	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Cllr Anita Lewis	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services
Cllr Steve Male	Portfolio Holder for Culture and Skills & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation
Cllr Ken Matthews	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Cllr David McVicar	Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities
Cllr Tom Nicols	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation

3) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Head of Democratic Services, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.

4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
12 May 2009	01 May 2009
23 June 2009	15 June 2009
21 July 2009	13 July 2009
18 August 2009	10 August 2009
15 September 2009	7 September 2009
13 October 2009	5 October 2009
10 November 2009	2 November 2009
8 December 2009	30 November 2009
12 January 2010	4 January 2010
9 February 2010	1 February 2010
9 March 2010	1 March 2010
6 April 2010	25 March 2010

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 15 July 2009

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
1.	Street Lighting & Bridge Maintenance Strategies - This paper is to gain a steer from Executive on how best to manage an ageing street lighting stock and to advise Members on how essential maintenance work will be carried out to ensure safe usage of the Council's bridge structures.	18 August 2009	Police Community Groups	Report	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 02/08/09 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 228477
2.	Property Acquisitions and Disposals Monitoring - Standing item for key decisions and quarterly basis monitoring and reporting of all property transactions	18 August 2009	Items will have been reviewed and assessed by the CBC Capital Assets Management Group (CAMG).	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 22/07/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
3.	<p>Medium Term Accommodation Plan - To review the strategy for CBC office accommodation.</p>	18 August 2009	<p>Management Team CAMG All Service Areas</p>	Report	<p>Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 22/07/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038015</p>
4.	<p>Albion Archaeology - That all historic environment work of Albion Archaeology should be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct and other by-laws of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA). Resolution required in order that Albion can maintain registration under the scheme.</p>	18 August 2009		IfA Code of Conduct IfA By-Law (Regulations for the Registration of Organisation)	<p>Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 22/07/09 to Contact Officer: Gary Worth, Assistant Director Development Management gary.worth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5177</p>
5.	<p>Update of Design Guide for Central Bedfordshire - To approve the updated Design Guide.</p>	18 August 2009		Report	<p>Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 22/07/09 to Contact Officer: Fiona Webb, Team Leader, Conservation Project Design fiona.webb@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4405</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
6.	Review of Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme and Listed Buildings At Risk - To approve the Scheme.	18 August 2009		Buildings at Risk Survey (North Area) 2008 Buildings at Risk Survey (South Area) 2005	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 22/07/09 to Contact Officer: Robin Uff, Principal Planning Officer robin.uff@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611339
7.	Rushmere Park - acquisition of land in partnership with the Greensand Trust - Approval to the commitment of external funding resources (registered in the capital programme) to the purchase of land for open access part of the provision of new green infrastructure for the Growth Agenda.	18 August 2009	Ouzel Valley Park Partnership (a consortium of representatives from the Leighton Linlade Town Council, The Greensand Trust, British Waterways, SUSTRANS, the Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council and Council officers from Planning and Culture.) Councillors Peter Rawcliffe, Peter Snelling, Alan Shadbolt and Brian Spurr (Chairman of the Council) who attended a site meeting with the Portfolio Holder and the Greensand Trust on 25 June 2009.	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 02/08/09 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4239

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
8.	Children and Young People's Plan - To agree the Children and Young People's Plan.	15 September 2009	Stakeholders, members of the public children and young people	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5522
9.	Community Engagement Strategy - To approve the Strategy for Central Bedfordshire Council.	15 September 2009	Portfolio Holder (Business Transformation) LSP Partners	Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Service Policy, Partnerships & Performance ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276067
10.	Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 2010 - This is the first Children and Young People's Plan. Thereafter it will be refreshed annually.	15 September 2009	Consultation has already taken place with children and young people. Further stakeholder consultation will take place in May, June and July through a variety of mechanisms such as workshops, information published on our website and meetings with key partners.	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0845 849 6092

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
11.	Customer Services Strategy - To approve the Strategy.	15 September 2009		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Assistant Director Business Transformation & Customer Services clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611168
12.	Licensing Policy and Framework - To approve the Policy and Framework.	15 September 2009	Licensing Trade Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee Three month period commencing 1 April 2009, meetings, publication on website and in other media	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Head of Public Protection (North) susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611394
13.	Property Services Review - To report on the process for reviewing future delivery of property services for CBC.	15 September 2009	CAMG All Service Areas Stakeholders	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 19/08/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Basset, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.basset@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
14.	<p>Specialist Provision for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders at Holmemead Middle School, Biggleswade -</p> <p>To approve the proposal to set up a Specialist Provision for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders at Homemead Middle School, Biggleswade.</p>	15 September 2009	Statutory Consultees - consultation carried out in April/May 2009 and Statutory Notices published June 2009.	Report	<p>Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis</p> <p>Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Helen Redding, Head of SEN and Inclusion helen.redding@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01234 228148</p>
15.	<p>Business Transformation Strategy -</p> <p>To approve the Strategy.</p>	13 October 2009		Report	<p>Cllr Richard Stay</p> <p>Comments by 22/09/09 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Assistant Director Business Transformation & Customer Services</p> <p>clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01462 611168</p>
16.	<p>Commissioning Policy -</p> <p>To agree the policy</p>	13 October 2009	Stakeholder and the Children's Trust	Report	<p>Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis</p> <p>Comments by 22/09/09 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning</p> <p>sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 5522</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
17.	Medium Term Property Strategy Update - To report on the progress of the implementation of the strategy.	13 October 2009		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 13/10/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105
18.	Property Acquisitions and Disposals Monitoring - Standing item for key decisions and quarterly basis monitoring and reporting of all property transactions.	10 November 2009	Items will have been reviewed and assessed by the CBC Capital Assets Management Group (CAMG).	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 14/10/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105
19.	Harmonisation of Waste Management Services - To provide Members with the opportunity to comment on suggested service changes.	10 November 2009		Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 14/10/09 to Contact Officer: Steve Whittaker, Contract Services Manager steve.whittaker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4344

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
20.	Lord Laming Action Plan - To agree the plan.	10 November 2009	Stakeholders and the Local Safeguarding Children Board	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 14/10/09 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
21.	Eligibility for payments policy - To agree the policy	8 December 2009		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/11/09 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
22.	Raising Achievement Policy - To agree the policy	8 December 2009		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/11/09 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Head of School Standards and Improvement patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821
23.	Luton-Dunstable Guided Busway - To receive the Tender Returns and recommendations to progress the scheme.	8 December 2009		Report	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 10/11/09 to Contact Officer: John Austin, Interim Head of Transport Strategy john.austin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 228687

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
24.	<p>Development of a Uniformed Presence for Central Bedfordshire - To consider the options available for Central Bedfordshire to undertake enforcement of a range of environmental and community safety legislation (including the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)) and exploring the role that a uniformed team has in that respect.</p>	12 January 2010	Relevant Portfolio Holders	Report	<p>Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0845 849 6252</p>
25.	<p>Children's Workforce Development Strategy - To agree the strategy.</p>	12 January 2010	Stakeholders and the Children's Trust	Report	<p>Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Head of School Standards and Improvement patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
26.	Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Policy - To agree the policy	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Glen Denham, Assistant Director Integrated Services 0-19 glen.denham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6125
27.	Cultural Strategy - To agree the policy.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Stephen F Male Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 3004239
28.	CCTV Service Options - To consider options available to move to a common approach to the provision of a CCTV service within Central Bedfordshire.	9 February 2010	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Key Stakeholders	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 15/01/10 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0845 849 6252

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
29.	Property Acquisitions and Disposals Monitoring - Standing item for key decisions and quarterly basis monitoring and reporting of all property transactions.	9 February 2010	Items will have been reviewed and assessed by the CBC Capital Assets Management Group (CAMG)	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 13/01/10 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105
30.	Play Strategy - To agree the strategy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4239
31.	Child Poverty Strategy - To agree the strategy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 Glen Denham, Assistant Director Integrated Services 0-19 glen.denham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6125

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
32.	Transitions Policy - To agree the policy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
33.	Safeguarding Policy - To agree the policy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
34.	Child in Need Policy - To agree the policy	9 March 2010		None.	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
35.	Looked After Children and Young People Policy - To agree the policy.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive (and intended decision)	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
36.	Fostering Policy - To agree the policy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
37.	Adoption Policy - To agree the policy.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
38.	Private Fostering Policy - To agree the policy.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
39.	Children Missing Education Policy - To agree the policy	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Head of School Standards and Improvement patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821

Postal address for Contact Officers: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues**

The following table sets out the dates on which the Central Bedfordshire Council Forward Plan will be published in 2009/10:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
08.05.09	1 June 2009 – 31 May 2010
15.06.09	1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010
15.07.09	1 August 2009 – 31 July 2010
13.08.09	1 September 2009 – 31 August 2010
10.09.09	1 October 2009 – 30 September 2010
08.10.09	1 November 2009 – 31 October 2010
05.11.09	1 December 2009 – 30 November 2010
03.12.09	1 January – 31 December 2010
07.01.10	1 February 2010 – 31 January 2011
04.02.10	1 March 2010 – 28 February 2011
04.03.10	1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011
31.03.10	1 May 2010 – 30 April 2011

Meeting: Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 11 August 2009
Subject: Draft Work Programme 2009-2010
Report of: Jon Partridge, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Summary: The report provides Members with a draft work programme for approval following initial discussion at the last meeting.

Contact Officer: Jon Partridge
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: n/a
Key Decision n/a
Reason for urgency/ n/a
Exemption from call-
in
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers and approves the draft work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make.**
- 2. That the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers whether it wishes to establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items on the draft work programme.**

Reason for Recommendation: So that Members of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee can establish its work programme for the municipal year 2009 - 2010.

Work Programme

1. As Members will be aware, the Committee received a directorate presentation at its last meeting, complemented by a long list of suggested items for inclusion in a draft Committee work programme for 2009 - 2010.
2. At this meeting, and with the support of the Director, Members highlighted from this long list a number of priority items for inclusion in a Committee work programme.

3. The current draft work programme contains those priority areas agreed for inclusion by the Committee at their last meeting. There are presently four meetings of the Committee scheduled where items have not yet been allocated, these being the 5 January 2010, 2 February 2010, 27 April 2010 and 25 May 2010. In order to assist the Committee, with the support of the Director, in highlighting further items for inclusion in the agenda the initial long list of items has once more been attached at Appendix B. Members of the Committee are requested to consider, with the support of the Director, which of these further items they wish to add to their work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.
4. The Committee is therefore requested to consider the draft programme attached, make further amendments if considered necessary and approve a final version so that officers can plan accordingly (this will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists).

Task Forces

5. In addition to approving a final version of the work programme, Members will also need to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Conclusion

6. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached draft work programme, subject to any further amendments they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
Council Priorities: The work programme of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee should contribute to all 5 Council priorities, and will specifically support the priority directly related to the work of the Children, Families and Learning Directorate, being educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people. The work programme of the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee should also contribute to each of the priorities agreed under the Children and Young People's Plan and the five key 'Every Child Matters' outcomes for all children and young people; 'be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being'.
Financial: n/a
Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Development/Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

Appendices:

Appendix A - Draft Work Programme for Children Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2009 – 2010

Appendix B - Further Potential Work Programme Items for Children Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2009 - 2010

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**Draft Work Programme for Children Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2009
- 2010**

Ref	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date	Comment
1.	Children and Young People's Plan	The CYP sets the strategic vision and commissioning framework within which partners will, together or individually, ensure delivery of services which improve outcomes for children and young people and families in the area. Members will receive a report on the priorities and the priorities within the plan for their comments.	11 August 2009	Committee need to decide whether they receive the whole Plan at one meeting or over several meetings.
2.	Overview of Special Needs Provision	A report requested by the Committee at its first meeting outlining SEN provision in Central Bedfordshire.	11 August 2009	
3.	Next Steps in Transforming Teaching & Learning	A presentation requested by the Committee at its first meeting providing an update on progress regarding BSF and outlining the results of recent consultation with schools regarding CBC's educational vision and guiding principles.	11 August 2009	
4.	Performance report Q1	The quarterly performance report	11 August 2009	
5.	Safeguarding update		8 September 2009	In future Safeguarding updates will be presented quarterly together with the performance reports
6.	Commissioning Policy	This policy informs how the authority will undertake Strategic Commissioning and sets out the framework for strategic Commissioning	6 October 2009	The Committee may wish to establish a Task Force to review this policy

Ref	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date	Comment
7.	Performance report Q2	The quarterly performance report	3 November 2009	
8.	Safeguarding update		3 November 2009	
9.	Children's Workforce Development Strategy	This strategy sets out how we are going to develop the children's workforce locally to create a world-class workforce	3 November 2009	The Committee may wish to establish a Task Force to review this policy
10.	Cultural Strategy	The Cultural Strategy encapsulates the vision for cultural entitlement for all citizens in Central Bedfordshire moving to a strategic commissioning and entitlement model and recognises the cross cutting nature of cultural entitlement.	1 December 2009	The Committee may wish to establish a Task Force to review this policy
11.	Performance report Q3	The quarterly performance report	2 March 2010	
12.	Safeguarding update		2 March 2010	
13.	Home to School Transport Policy	This policy sets out how the authority will respond to the Home to School Transport requirements within the Education Act 1996 and the Educational Inspections Act 2006	30 March 2010	The Committee may wish to establish a Task Force to review this policy

Further Potential Work Programme Items for Children Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2009 - 2010

Ref	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date
1.	JSNA	Update on the progress of the JSNA	8 September 2009
2.	Lord Laming Action Plan including non-regulated safeguarding policies	This report sets out the how Central Bedfordshire is responding to the recommendations set out within the Lord Laming report including the arrangements for safeguarding within non-regulated functions. Members will be asked for comments.	6 October 2009
3.	Eligibility for payments policy	This policy sets out eligibility criteria for payments to foster carers, RO, SGO and AA allowances, S17 and S23 payments, payments to Care Leavers and Direct Payments.	3 November 2009
4.	Raising Achievement Policy	This policy outlines how resources within the council will be targeted to improve provision in schools and early years settings and raise achievement especially that of children and young people in vulnerable circumstances	3 November 2009
5.	Work of the Children's Trust	Presentation for information then onto Executive for comments	1 December 2009
6.	Lord Laming Action plan including non-regulated safeguarding policy	This plan sets out the response to the Lord Laming Action Plan and also covers the duties of the local authority in relation to safeguarding covering issues such as vetting and barring, allegations against staff and those coming into to contact or working with children and young people.	1 December 2009
7.	Play Strategy	To improve the lives of children and young people by delivering high quality and innovative play opportunities and experiences across Central Bedfordshire	5 January 2010
8.	BUDGET	BUDGET	2 February 2010

Ref	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date
9.	Fostering Policy	This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children who become looked after to an in-house foster carer.	2 February 2010
10.	Adoption Policy	This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children to suitable prospective adopters.	2 February 2010
11.	Private Fostering Policy	This statutory policy sets out how we will safeguard children who are in Private Fostering Placements.	2 February 2010
12.	Safeguarding Policy	This policy sets out the statutory duties of the authority and how we will work with partner agencies locally to ensure that children are safe. (Comes under LSCB)	2 March 2010
13.	Child in Need Policy	This policy sets out the eligibility criteria for services based on the levels of need of children and their families. It responds to the statutory duties to support children in need.	2 March 2010
14.	Looked After Children and Young People Policy	The Looked after children and young people policy responds to the statutory duties for the local authority in line with the Children Act 1989 the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Leaving Care Act 2000.	2 March 2010
15.	Post 16 Home to School Transport Policy	The Local Authority has a duty to prepare and publish an annual Transport Policy Statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the Authority considers it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at schools, colleges or any establishment funded by the Learning and Skills Council.	30 March 2010
16.	Transition Policy	This policy sets out how the Local Authority will work with children transferring from Children's Specialist Services either to service provision within Adult Social Care or to independent adult life to ensure that they are given the support necessary to as they move into adulthood.	30 March 2010
17.	Inclusion Policy	This policy sets out the intentions of the local authority to enhance the inclusion of all vulnerable groups of children including through participation and service design and delivery and is underpinned by the principles of Children's Rights.	27 April 2010
18.	Children Missing Education Policy	This policy is designed to help the local authority meet its statutory duties relating to the provision of education and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.	27 April 2010

Children Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 August 2009

Acronyms used in reports

Please note, that whilst the acronyms listed here are used in the reports, the majority of them have been spelt out within the body of the report

Acronym	Meaning
BEST	Bedfordshire East Schools Trust
BSF	Building Schools for the Future
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
DCSF	Department for Children Schools and Families
ESP	Safeguarding Programme
FE	Forms of Entry
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ITCD	Invitation to Competitive Dialogue
ITSFB	Invitation to submit final bids
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LTB	Learning Transformation Board
MLD	Moderate learning difficulties
MMR	Measles mumps and rubella
NEET	Not in education employment or training
NI	National Indicators
NOR	Number on Roll
OJEU	Official Journal of European Union
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PFS	Partnerships for Schools
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Corus
PMLD	Profound and multiple learning difficulties
RIEP	Regional Improvement and Efficiency partnership
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SLD	Severe learning difficulties

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