

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



please ask for Sandra Hobbs  
direct line 0300 300 5257  
date 2 September 2010

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

**Tuesday, 14 September 2010 10.00 a.m.**

Venue at

**Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ**

Richard Carr  
**Chief Executive**

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

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

[Named Substitutes:

Cllrs: I Dalgarno, Mrs S A Goodchild, J G Jamieson, Mrs M Mustoe and A M Turner]

Co-optees: Ms Copley (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 29 June 2010.

### 3. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members any 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 the 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
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ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NOS.
9	<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATE</b>  To receive a brief verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.	Verbal Update
10	<b>TASK FORCE REVIEW OF THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE</b>  The report provides Members with details of the aims, process and key findings of the review of the provision of facilities for children & young people in Central Bedfordshire.	19 - 30
11	<b>FUTURE OF THE YOUTH SERVICE</b>  The report summarises the present situation regarding the provision of the youth service.	31 - 36
12	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMENTS</b>  This report provides the previous comments of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Every Child Matters outcome areas. The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an opportunity to inform the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.	37 - 42
13	<b>CHILDREN EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL</b>  The report summarises the present situation regarding provision for children excluded from school.	43 - 46
14	<b>WORK PROGRAMME 2010 - 2011 AND EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN</b>  To consider the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2010 – 2011 and the Executive Forward Plan.	47 - 68

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**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Room 15, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 29 June 2010

**PRESENT**

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

Councillors: Mrs A Barker  
P A Blaine  
D Bowater  
N B Costin  
Dr R Egan  
P Hollick  
K Janes  
A Shadbolt

Parental Co-optees: H Copley  
D Landman

Apologies for Absence: Roman Catholic Co-optee: Mrs F Image  
Church of England Co-optee: J Reynolds  
Parent Co-optee: Mr B Sear

Members in Attendance: Cllr J G Jamieson

In Attendance: Mr A Rogers - Headteacher

Officers in Attendance: Mr B Carter Overview & Scrutiny Manager  
Mrs E Grant Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services  
Mrs S Hobbs Democratic Services Officer  
Ms K Peddie Head of Policy & Strategy - Children's Services

**CS/10/11 Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 April 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

Members were advised that the breakdown of the number of foster placements outside of the Central Bedfordshire area referred to in Minute no CS/10/8 would be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

**CS/10/12 Members' Interests**

**(a) Personal Interests:-**

None.

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

None.

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

None.

**CS/10/13 Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

None.

**CS/10/14 Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

**CS/10/15 Questions, Statements or Deputations**

No applications from members of the public were received in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure allowed for under Part A4 of the Constitution.

**CS/10/16 Call-In**

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

**CS/10/17 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.

**CS/10/18 Learning Transformation**

Members received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services on transforming learning. The presentation took Members through:-

- the work undertaken so far;
- Legal and Statutory issues;
- Issues that had arisen out of letters or questions to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services; and
- Lead Member leadership;

A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A.

Since the change in Government transforming learning had been changing daily, especially with the fast tracking of the Academies Bill. The first transforming learning review covering Dunstable and Houghton Regis was at a very early stage with the Transforming Learning Board gathering information and setting up working groups. The Transforming Learning Board was an Officer reference group and not a decision making body.

Members were advised of the legal and statutory issues especially around pre-determination. The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services would report to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January (provisional date to be confirmed) after considering all the options available and discussions with headteachers. Members would then be able to scrutinise the report and make any recommendations to the Executive, who would then make the final decision. Prior to this provisional date, the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services gave an assurance to Members that verbal progress reports would be submitted to the Committee at alternate meetings.

Councillor Bowater reminded the meeting that the role of the scrutiny committee was to consider the whole of Central Bedfordshire.

Members thanked Adrian Rogers, Headteacher for attending the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

**to receive a verbal progress report at alternate meetings of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

CS/10/19

### **Children and Young People's Plan: Making a Positive Contribution**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services that provided Members with the progress made with the priorities within the Making a Positive Contribution aspect of the Children & Young People's Plan. Members were advised that the Making a Positive Contribution Delivery Group's four priorities were:-

- Priority 12 – Develop and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.
- Priority 13 – Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour.
- Priority 14 – Promote and provide activities and information 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 15 – Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting.

Members were advised that the Tell Us survey that had been undertaken to collect data on activities children and young people had shown that 69% of young people consulted participated in positive activities. The Council's target was 77.9% for this year. The Council was in the upper-middle quartile of the Council's statistical neighbours and this was seen as a good performance. The Government was stopping the Tell Us survey so it was unlikely that this performance data would be collected in future years. The data collected did not just reflect the activities run by the local authority, but also those run by other organisations.

Members were advised that Friday and weekend youth provision had been put in place in parts of Central Bedfordshire and this would be rolled out further in the coming months, finance permitting.

Members discussed the removal of funding by the Government to provide free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds as this contributed to a range of priorities including reducing obesity, children and young people taking part in activities. The committee agreed to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the issue and explore proposals for potential local funding of this initiative. This review could include discussions with partner organisations, such as NHS Bedfordshire, who is understood to have specific funding to tackle obesity.



During 2011 there would be financial constraints on the Children and Young People's Plan. The Youth Parliament had identified their priorities which would be circulated to Members. The Director advised that young peoples issues usually included transport, financial advice within schools, improved careers guidance, improved sexual health education in schools, positive images for young people and affordable access to the right positive activities.

## **RESOLVED**

**that notwithstanding the budget pressures that Officers write on behalf of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting that they consider the funding for free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds.**

CS/10/20

### **Children and Young People's Plan - Be Healthy**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services that provided Members with the progress made with the priorities within the Be Healthy aspect of the Children & Young People's Plan. Members were advised that the Be Healthy Delivery Group's five priorities were:-

- 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 – Ensure children and young people are able to make responsible decision in relation to drugs, alcohol and sexual health.
- Priority 3 – Promote, protect and treat the mental and emotional health of children and young people.
- Priority 4 – Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing smoking and childhood obesity and increasing physical activity and healthy eating.
- Priority 5 – Transform services for disabled children.

Members discussed the red performance indicator NI 56 obesity among primary school are children in Year 6. Members were advised that the Children's Trust had received and agreed an obesity recovery plan. School nurses had set days where the children were weighed in schools which increased the number of pupils being measured. There was also a role for encouraging children to have school dinners or a healthy lunchbox.

Members reiterated their concern over the removal of funding for free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds as this might have an adverse impact on the number of children being obese. A suggestion was made that a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee to the local NHS enquiring if there were available funds to support the free swimming scheme.

With regard to short break places for disabled children, although Members were pleased to note the increase in places provided, they requested further information regarding the number of places available.

**NOTED**

**the report.**

CS/10/21

**Task Force Update - Youth Facility Provision**

Members received an oral update from the Chairman of the Youth Facility Provision and Youth Services in Central Bedfordshire Task Force. The Task Force had met on 3 occasions and had carried out some visits to 3 youth centres in Central Bedfordshire. In summary the Task Force agreed the following interim conclusions at their meeting on 16 June:-

- the Council needed to ensure that it made the best use of the property and assets that it had for providing youth services;
- the Council needed to ensure there was a wide range of universal services available in Central Bedfordshire, but not necessarily be provided by the Council; they could be provided in partnership or by other local organisations;
- the Council had made a great deal of progress in relation to targeted youth services for those who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), engage in anti-social behaviour or were teenage parents. It was important that the Council continued to develop new ways of working in those wards with the greatest need so as to make a difference for children and young people in the most effective way.

The Council were carrying out a great deal of positive work with a wide range of support and activities that were being made available to children and young people in Central Bedfordshire. The Chairman of the Task Force explained that the service had done a significant amount of work to support the development of apprenticeships and the use of these schemes, where appropriate, as well as promoting young people entering into jobs needed to be encouraged and good relations with the colleges maintained.

During the difficult economic situation it was clear that partnership working and support for other partners too effectively use the facilities that were already available in the best possible way. It was important that the Council ensured its targeted services were prioritised in those areas of greatest need.

Members were advised that a full report would be received by the Committee at its meeting on 14 September 2010.

**NOTED**

**the verbal update.**

**CS/10/22      14 to 19 Commissioning**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services that provided Members with information on national changes to the commissioning of education and training provision for 16-19 year-olds. On 1 April 2010 the funding for post-16 education and training passed from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities.

A suggestion was made that the Committee receive a presentation from the Principal at Central Bedfordshire College. It was highlighted that Central Bedfordshire College was not the only provider of further education and training in Central Bedfordshire. Members were advised that the Council had only been managing this funding for two months and it was still too early to feedback any information.

The Children's Trust had an Economic Wellbeing Sub Group who were looking at young peoples skills and where they fit in the workplace. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive the first annual report on 14 – 19 Commissioning at their meeting scheduled for 14 June 2011.

**NOTED**

**the report.**

**CS/10/23      Work Programme 2010-11 and Executive Forward Plan**

Members considered a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Manager which set out the details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Members noted that the Quarter 1 budget information would be circulated to Members by email at the beginning of August 2010. The reserve meeting on 3 August 2010 would not be called unless an urgent item needed to be considered by the Committee.

Members made a request for further information at their next meeting on 14 September 2010 on the Council's policy for children excluded from school and the disaggregation of the service with Bedford Borough Council. Members were advised that negotiations had only just started with Officers at Bedford Borough Council, so only limited information would be available in September.

A Member also suggested the possibility of a Task Force review of school meals. The Chairman agreed to consider the matter further.

**RESOLVED**

**to receive a brief report on the Council's policy for children excluded from school at the Committee meeting scheduled for the 14 September 2010.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.30 p.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....



# Transforming Learning

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Edwina Grant

Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Children's  
Services

29<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny

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# Purpose of the presentation

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- To comment on the aspirations of the transforming learning work so far
- To advise Members of any legal and statutory issues
- To explain issues that have arisen out of letters or questions
- To refer to the Lead Member for any matters regarding policy development or political accountability

## Work so far:

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- Development of thinking in the light of current legislative direction and the emergent Trusts in Central Bedfordshire
- Guiding principles for the Vision
- First review at its very early stages in Dunstable and Houghton Regis
- Transforming Learning Board as reference group for operational activity

# Legal and Statutory Issues

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- Elected Members personal and prejudicial interests
- Principle of pre-determination
- Lead Member & DCS accountabilities:
  - To support schools and encourage them to play a part in the Children's Trust (LM & DCS)
  - To use powers to address underperformance quickly inc. the creation of interim Executive Boards and other alternative governance arrangements and where necessary, school closures (DCS)
  - Base legislation 1944 Act, secure efficient and effective education (Chief Education Officer - now DCS)
  - Academies Bill?



# Issues that have arisen out of letters or questions

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- Learning Transformation Board is an officer group and reference only, not a decision making body.
- The three phases are represented by election and will endure through all four phases of the review, subject to peer re-election
- Secondment of Headteacher will end - summer term
- Role of Chief Executive and Chair of School Forum
- Prerogative of the Lead Member to re-call the Member Reference Group and invite discussion at any time

# Lead Member Leadership

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- DCS required to organise a fair process and to bring a report with the options to Executive
- All the options and the pros and cons will be brought to Scrutiny – January ? – although timescales are challenging
- DCS's duty to make recommendation to Members
- Lead Member's duty to take this through Executive – pre-determination particularly applies to Lead Member through the process

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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 14 September 2010  
**Subject:** Task Force Review of the Provision of Facilities for Children & Young People in Central Bedfordshire  
**Report of:** Youth Provision Task Force  
**Summary:** The report provides Members with details of the aims, process and key findings of the review of the provision of facilities for children & young people in Central Bedfordshire.

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**Contact Officer:** Bernard Carter, Overview & Scrutiny Manager  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

## CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

### **Council Priorities:**

The work of the Task Force will contribute indirectly to one of the Council's five priorities, namely to educate, protect and provide opportunities for young people.

### **Financial:**

n/a

### **Legal:**

n/a

### **Risk Management:**

n/a

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

n/a

### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

n/a

### **Community Safety:**

n/a

**Sustainability:**

n/a

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee:**
  - (a) **endorses the findings and recommendations contained within the Task Force report; and**
  - (b) **agrees to note that the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services will bring forward a policy for provision for youth in February/March 2011 that will address said findings and recommendations, whilst taking account of the changing national landscape. This draft policy will be available for Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on at their meeting on 21 December 2010.**

1. Attached at Appendix A is the final report of the Task Force established by this Committee in August 2009 to review the provision of facilities for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.
2. The report sets out a number of findings and recommendations which the Committee is asked to consider and endorse at today's meeting.
3. Since production of the report the OSC Chairman, Portfolio Holder and Director have met to discuss how best to take forward its findings and recommendations and build upon the good work of the Task Force, whilst also having regard to the changing legislative framework emerging from the coalition government's recent and continued announcements in this area (which will be covered in greater detail at Agenda Items 9 and 11).
4. It is therefore suggested that the Committee agrees to note that the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services will bring forward a policy for provision for youth in February/March 2011 that will address said findings and recommendations, whilst taking account of the changing national landscape. This draft policy will be available for Scrutiny to comment on at the December meeting.

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A –** Final report of the Task Force review of the provision of facilities for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire

## **Appendix A**

Central Bedfordshire Council

# **Task Force Review of the Provision of Facilities for Children and Young People in Central Bedfordshire**

August 2010

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Executive focuses on raising the aspirations of the most vulnerable young people in Central Bedfordshire.
2. That the Executive analyses the positive activities on offer in Central Bedfordshire and the outcomes of the Tellus Survey and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in order to identify need locally and gaps in provision.
3. That the Executive analyses the numbers of NEET young people at ward level in Central Bedfordshire and prioritises the allocation of resources in the wards with the highest numbers of NEET young people where there is a gap in provision and a need has been identified locally.
4. That the Executive develops links with the parenting service to reduce the impacts of teenage pregnancy on the numbers of NEET young people in Central Bedfordshire.
5. That the Executive encourages the use of apprenticeship schemes, where appropriate, but also promote opportunities for young people to enter into jobs.
6. That the Executive encourages other organisations to extend apprenticeship schemes to provide training for youth workers and enhance the local youth offer.
7. That the Executive develops its role as a commissioner of services, increasing the range of universal services that are provided by other organisations.
8. That the Executive ensures the youth services it provides are delivered in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.
9. That the Executive actively promote the co-location of services such as youth service and Connexions in facilities throughout Central Bedfordshire to enhance positive outcomes for children and young people.
10. That the Executive be requested to provide a report and action plan relating to the accepted recommendations arising from this review to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee within six months.

## **Background**

1. Members will recall that at the meeting of Children, Families and Learning Overview Scrutiny Committee on 11 August 2009 the Committee resolved to set up a Task Force regarding the provision of facilities for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.
2. The areas to be covered by the Task Force were agreed in consultation with Members and officers in Children's Services and were agreed as follows:-

- To provide policy advice on youth provision in Central Bedfordshire and the legislative framework for targeted and integrated youth support services and what this means for Central Bedfordshire Council.
  - To consider the implications for working with partners to deliver targeted and universal services and develop and identify key local issues for which further or improved services are required within existing resources or through targeted efficiencies.
3. Following an invitation to all non-Executive Members the following Members were appointed to the Task Force:-
- Councillor Norman Costin (Chairman)
  - Councillor Rita Egan
  - Councillor Adam Fahn
  - Councillor John Street
  - Councillor Peter Williams
4. The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Anita Lewis, and the Assistant Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Christina Turner, were also invited to attend meetings of the Task Force.
5. It was stated at the outset that the areas to be considered during the review might be refined during the process of the investigation and during the process it was proposed that a specific focus be placed on the number of children and young people who are not in education, employment or training (otherwise known as NEET). The Task Force discussed the positive activities available for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire and the barriers to engagement, which might lead to young people becoming classified as NEET.
6. Following discussion of the key areas to be included in the review the Members agreed that it was important to understand the Council's current performance in relation to children and young people who were classified as NEET and how that compared to local and national figures.
7. Having considered performance in relation to NEET statistics the Task Force then considered what were the barriers to reducing the numbers of NEET young people and how could youth centres contribute to minimising this. The Task Force also discussed partnership approaches to delivering services and considered how the Council could promote cost-effective approaches to delivering youth services collaboratively.

### **Meetings and Site Visits**

8. The Task Force met on 3 occasions during the course of the review and carried out a series of site-visits to youth centres in Central Bedfordshire. Meetings occurred as set out below:-
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Meeting Date	Purpose of the Meeting	Attendees
02 December 2009	To receive a strategic overview of youth facilities and the youth services and to agree the issues to be considered by the Task Force	Cllrs Costin, Fahn, Williams and Cllr C Turner (Assistant Portfolio Holder Children's Services) Glen Denham (Assistant Director Integrated Services) and Ketan Gandhi (Head of Integrated Youth Support)
02 February 2010	To discuss integrated youth support services (IYSS) and targeted youth support services (TYS)	Cllrs Costin, Egan, Street and Williams Glen Denham (Assistant Director Integrated Services) and Ketan Gandhi (Head of Integrated Youth Support)
18 March 2010	Site visits to various youth clubs in Central Bedfordshire to view some of the youth facilities currently available in Central Bedfordshire so as to inform the remainder of the review	Cllrs Costin, Egan, Fahn and Williams. Ketan Gandhi, Head of Integrated Youth Support
16 June 2010	To receive evidence and discuss positive activities currently available in Central Bedfordshire. Also to discuss the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training.	Cllrs Costin and Williams and Cllrs A Lewis (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) and C Turner (Assistant Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) Martin Pratt, (Deputy Director of Children's Services), Ketan Gandhi, Head of Integrated Youth Support and Katherine Peddie (Head of Policy and Strategy)

9. Members received briefings from officers in a series of early meetings to discuss work that was already underway in relation to Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) and Targeted Youth Support (TYS).
10. Members also undertook a series of visits to youth centres in Barton, Toddington and Leighton Buzzard in order to inform the review. The purpose of these visits was not to propose specific recommendations in relation to adaptations or funding in these centres. Members were asked to consider the key issues as they related to the whole range of youth services and facilities on offer for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire. There are therefore no specific recommendations contained in this report relating to these three centres.



**Key Findings:**

11. The Task Force's review was undertaken in context of the current financial situation. It was highlighted to Members that there were limited resources to deliver youth support services and as a result the Task Force should consider the Council's priorities in relation to the delivery of services. The Members of the Task Force considered it was important to understand the implications of reductions in the youth service and Connexions budgets and the effect this would have on vulnerable young people. It was suggested that reducing budgets, which are specifically targeted at vulnerable young people, would have a negative long term effect and the Council needed to consider how it would address these negative effects.
12. The services within the structure that had been incorporated to form Integrated Youth Support Services were youth services, Connexions, Family Adolescent Services, the Family Intervention Programme Team and the Young People's Homelessness Officer.
13. The Task Force considered the following areas in detail and received evidence in relation to the following areas:-

**Targeted Youth Support Services and Children and Young People who are not in education employment or training**

14. The Task Force discussed the importance of delivering an appropriate range of services for children and young people of a variety of ages. Members were also informed of the duties on local authorities to secure access for young people to positive activities through the 1996 Education Act by way of the 2006 Education and Inspections Act. Central Bedfordshire Council was required to provide both educational and recreational positive activities.
15. To ascertain the views of children and young people on aspects of positive activities the Task Force received the outcomes of the most recent Tellus survey, which was completed by children and young people in years 6, 8 and 10. The survey indicated that 69% (target: 77.9%) of young people consulted participated in positive activities, which was in the upper middle quartile of our statistical neighbours. It also indicated that children and young people wanted more places where they could spend time with friends (47%).
16. The Task Force was particularly impressed with the great deal of positive work that was being carried out and the wide range of support and activities that were being made available to children and young people in Central Bedfordshire. Officers presented Members with a schedule of positive activities in Central Bedfordshire for ages 3 to 11 years and 12 to 19 years. Members were particularly impressed with the development of the 13 – 19 central youth website, which provided children and young people a database of activities and other organisations that offered information, advice and guidance throughout Central Bedfordshire ([www.13-19central.co.uk](http://www.13-19central.co.uk)).

17. The Tellus survey also indicated that some children and young people were unsure about their future particularly in relation to those that would go on to apprenticeships and jobs. The importance of enhancing aspirations, particularly in the Houghton Regis area, was discussed as a specific concern. Closer working relations had been developed between Connexions, Job Centre Plus, 14-19 consortium manager, National Apprenticeship Service and the Economic and Skills team to better inform young people about future aspirations.
18. The Task Force focused on the numbers of young people who were beyond statutory school age but were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The Task Force received figures in relation to the numbers of NEETs in Central Bedfordshire as well as other local authorities in its comparator group and figures nationally. At the end of March 2010 the number of young people in Central Bedfordshire aged 16-18 who were NEET was 5.7% (332 young people) compared to 6.1% (regional average) and 6.5% (national average). The adjusted target for 2010 – 11 for Central Bedfordshire was 5.0%.
19. The Task Force was informed that the key factors to young people becoming NEET in Central Bedfordshire included a lack of life skills, a lack of appropriate employment opportunities, teenage pregnancy and a lack of joined up information, advice and guidance. The Task Force raised specific concerns that 17% of 16-18 year old NEETs had a level 0 attainment level and that 15.7% were either teen parents or teenage pregnancies. Officers informed Members that the Council was developing links with the parenting service to minimise the negative effects of being a teenage parent and the Task Force stressed the importance of continuing to develop these links.
20. The Task Force also considered a breakdown by area of NEET young people aged 16-18 and were told by officers that significant work was being undertaken to address those areas that were in greatest need of targeted youth support (TYS). This work included the development of the right *provision*, the right *systems* and the right *support* in these local areas.
21. There was a significant amount of work underway to increase the numbers of positive activities available specifically for young people who were NEET and to increase targeted youth services for those who are NEET, engage in anti-social behaviour or are teenage parents. It was increasingly important that the Council understood the level and type of youth provision available in local areas, thus providing a base of information on which the Council could understand where facilities were located. The 13-19central website provided a great deal of information on the location of local activities and the Task Force felt that this information would be important to assess gaps in local provision.
22. Members also noted that a significant amount of work had been undertaken to support the development of apprenticeships. The use of apprenticeship schemes was appropriate for many young people although in some cases it was more appropriate to encourage that young person to enter into work. In some cases young people had said that they would rather get a job than enter into an apprenticeship scheme. The Task Force agreed that good relations with the colleges needed to be maintained to promote the use of apprenticeship schemes.

23. The Task Force felt that it may be appropriate for Children's Services to investigate the feasibility of developing an apprenticeship to train youth workers. This apprenticeship could be developed in partnership with other appropriate organisations in order to enhance the local youth offer.
24. The Task Force agreed it was important that the Council continued to develop new ways of working in those wards with the greatest need so as to make a difference in the most effective way. It was increasingly important in light of the current financial situation and the resource challenges facing the Council that it should ensure its targeted services were prioritised in those areas of greatest need so as to minimise the numbers of NEET children and young people in these areas.

### **Property and Assets**

25. On 18 March 2010 the Members of the Task Force visited youth club facilities in Barton, Toddington and Leighton Buzzard. The purpose of these visits was to see first hand some of the youth facilities on offer. Members were provided with a short briefing and were informed of the outcomes of commercial valuation appraisals and feasibility reports for each site prior to the visits.
26. Members noted that there was a range of standard of facilities in Central Bedfordshire. One of the facilities that Members visited was not currently in use due to health and safety concerns and it was not deemed to be fit for purpose for providing youth services. Members were told that in some cases there were alternative groups, parish councils or schools that had registered an interest in renovating these facilities for alternative provision. The Council had assessed in many cases that the cost of refurbishing a building outweighed the value of that property. In some instances funding had been secured from alternative sources such as StreetCred Youth Opportunities to assist with developments.
27. Members discussed possible options for the presence of facilities in areas and noted that there was a greater level of demand for youth facility provision in some areas than others. It was considered important that there was sufficient provision of youth facilities relative to local need and that this might be informed by the outcomes of the Tellus Survey. The Council should ensure that there were appropriate mechanisms to assess the demands of local children and young people. These mechanisms would provide an explanation of people's aspirations, their skill sets and how the Council can support these children and young people to achieve what they want.
28. Members of the Task Force felt that it was important to ensure that local Town and parish Councillors and ward Councillors were consulted on feasible options for provision within their areas that could include the use of alternative facilities, where appropriate.

29. During the visits Members went to Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre and were particularly impressed with this facility, which offered a range of positive activities. The centre also worked in partnership with schools to run group mentoring projects for middle and upper schools based at the centre and staff from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Family Adolescent Support Team (FAST) also used the centre to meet with young people.
30. There were clear recognisable benefits for having purpose built youth centre facilities that enabled dedicated youth workers and Connexions and youth services to be based in one building. Members expressed a view that the Council needed to learn the positive lessons from the success of the youth centre at Leighton Buzzard and should encourage similar opportunities for partnership working to achieve similar positive outcomes elsewhere.
31. The Task Force felt that youth centres were an important means of enhancing the local youth offer and could minimise the number of children and young people who are NEET. The use of youth centres to enhance co-location of services and provide a joined-up approach to the delivery of support services to children and young people needed to be promoted.
32. In relation to property and assets the Task Force considered it was important that the Council had a full understanding of the range of facilities that were available in local areas that could be used to deliver youth services. As a result of financial constraints it was accepted that the Council did not have the funds to deliver new facilities or to undertake extensive renovation of facilities that were fit for purpose. The Task Force agreed therefore that the Executive should be asked to consider what could be achieved by working in partnership with other local agencies to renovate or deliver new facilities in areas of greatest need where the Council did not have any capital funds available. The Council needed to be specifically aware of other facilities that were already in use by other bodies in the local area for other purposes which could also be used to deliver youth services.

### **Working in Partnership**

33. In light of the current financial situation the importance of partnership working was greatly enhanced. The Task Force was informed that Integrated Youth Support Services had been involved at a much greater level in influencing commissioning of training. The Council had also been developing learning opportunities through the Future Jobs Fund in collaboration with Job Centre Plus and working with the Connexions service through the 14-19 strategy to develop careers guidance at an earlier stage. External funding had also been received in some cases to deliver additional IYSS programmes, such as the development of a Youth Parliament, although it was not clear the extent to which this funding would be available in light of the current national budgetary review.

34. The Task Force agreed that whilst there was a need for a wide range of universal services to be available in Central Bedfordshire and for targeted services locally these need not necessarily be provided by the Council. It was felt that the Council should investigate how these services could be provided in partnership or be commissioned from other local organisations. Promoting the Council's role as an 'enabler' of services was to become increasingly important whereby the Council preserves the services that they felt were more important and investigated opportunities for delivering other services in partnership with others. The development of 'think family' practice, making sure that the support provided by children's, adults' and family services is co-ordinated and focused on problems affecting the whole family needed to be promoted.

### **Conclusions and Next Steps**

35. This report provides recommendations for consideration in relation to targeted and integrated youth support services. Members are asked to comment on the contents of this report prior to it being submitted to a future meeting of the Executive.

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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 14 September 2010

**Subject:** Future of the Youth Service

**Report of:** Cllr Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

**Summary:** The report summarises the present situation regarding the provision of the youth service. It sets out background to the presentation to the Committee offering early thoughts on the way forward. The youth service policy will not be presented to the Executive until early next year as the new policy for the service will need to be informed by the direction given by the Government and the emergent budgetary situation nationally and locally. Members are asked for early views in the light of the work of their own task force.

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Contact Officer      Edwina Grant

Public/Exempt      Public

Wards Affected      All

Function of:      Council and Children's Trust statutory partners

**Financial:**

The aim of the provision for the youth service is to make proper provision for young people outside the formal curriculum of the school. The maintenance of an offer to young people of leisure time activities as far as is reasonably practical is based in current statute. However, how the authority provides this function is at its discretion. This decision will link with the financial resources made available and comment on current financial resources as contained within this paper.

**Legal:**

There is a legal framework of entitlement as outlined above that is enshrined in the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The delivery model is a matter for Council discretion. However, the Acts outline that the Local Authority must consult with young people about the activities and the provision of information and must publish information about activities.

**Risk Management:**

Young people are subject to personal and collective risk assessments by nature of being assessed for access to such provisions.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

There will be future staffing implications in any changes to the way provision is made available. Any consultation necessary will take place at the appropriate time.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

Equality issues will be picked up as part of implementing any changes in provision.

**Community Safety:**

None specifically

**Sustainability:**

None specifically

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **Overview and Scrutiny members are asked to share their views at this early stage with the Lead Member for Children's Services in the light of their own Task Force report elsewhere on this agenda**

**Reason for recommendations**

*This is an early paper brought to Overview and Scrutiny as the policy on the youth service is a matter for review during the current year. This covering paper contains the background to the current service and the presentation will set out some thoughts for discussion. It is anticipated that the policy paper will be presented to Executive in early 2011 when the Government's position on future delivery models is known. The Chairman of the Committee will be asked to consider placing the draft of this policy on the work plan after the comprehensive spending review and government task force views are known.*

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Councils vision is to improve the quality of life of all people in Central Bedfordshire, and enhance the unique character of our communities and our environment. One of our five strategic priorities is to educate, protect and provide opportunities for children and young people. The Youth Service contributes to all of the Children and Young People's Plan and other partnership priorities, including the following:
  - Improving prevention, early identification and intervention.
  - Increasing opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being.
  - Developing a locality based approach to delivering integrated services.
  - Developing the Family and Youth Information Service.
  - Reducing child poverty.
  - Developing the approaches to improve prevention and early intervention and strengthen and improve family relationships by encouraging positive parenting.



- Ensuring children and young people are able to make responsible decisions in relation to drugs, alcohol and sexual health.
- Reducing the incidence of and impact of bullying on children and young people.
- Raising achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances.
- Improving engagement and enjoyment for all children and young people.
- Developing and promoting children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.
- Reducing youth offending and anti-social behaviour.
- Promoting and providing activities and information for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activity.
- Developing a locality approach in reducing the number of NEET targeting those areas with the highest NEET levels.
- Working with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities.
- Inspiring 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.

The future of Children and Young People's Plans is to be subject to legislation. However, the Council must work according to current statute which requires a consultation on a new Plan with a view to the Plan being agreed by Council by April 2011 at the latest. The consultation on new priorities will suggest that fewer more focussed objectives are considered. In the second Plan for Central Bedfordshire Council the "how" we will deliver on our outcomes will need to be clearer as the Government has set aside some of the surveys and performance monitoring previously available to judge progress.

## **2. Principles**

2.1 The Youth Service within Central Bedfordshire is an integral part of an Integrated Youth Support Service providing a coordinated service to all young people aged 13-19 according to their needs (up to 25 for young people with disabilities or special needs). All local authorities in England and Wales were required to create an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) by April 2008 ensuring that the following key elements were in place:

- Empowering young people – ensuring they are engaged in shaping the Services they receive and providing more things to do, places to go and someone talk to.

- Making a contribution – encouraging more young people to volunteer and become involved in their communities.
- Supporting choices – providing better information, advice and guidance to help young people make more informed choices.
- Reforming targeted support – providing better and more personalised intensive support for those young people with the greatest need.

2.2 Local Authorities, along with partners, are expected to work together to adapt their approach to specific local circumstances. “Aiming high: a ten-year strategy for positive activities”, identified in more detail the improvements sought, including increasing the influence of young people in designing services and reforming the workforce so that it would operate in a more integrated manner. The aim was greater flexibility and coherence across services in each local area, with particular emphasis on:

- supporting the needs of vulnerable young people;
- improving the access of all young people to ‘positive activities’;
- commissioning an increasing range of services through the private, voluntary and community sectors, and from not-for-profit organisations as well as the public sector; and
- ensuring that young people are involved in developing their own services and in decision-making that affects them.

2.3 The coalition Government has not given a commitment to this approach continuing. They have set up working groups nationally to advise on how children’s services policy will be delivered. The Government’s ‘Big Society’ programme was launched in May 2010. The cross-government policy programme will create opportunities empowering local people and communities. One of the major cornerstones of the ‘Big Society’ agenda is to encourage people to take an active role in their communities. For young people much of this will be driven through the recently launched National Citizenship Service.

### **3. Youth Service Budget**

3.1 The current Youth Service budget is £1,032,796. There is separate funding in 2010/2011 via Area Based Grant of £1,878,228, for Connexions and then a further £98k for Connexions Workforce Development. This has been reduced in total by the sum of £473,617 in-year as a result of the Area Based Grant not being paid in the final quarter. In addition, the Area Based Grant contained a sum of £66,272 reduced by £15,882 in the same way. The youth service also accessed a share of Education Health Partnership monies spent via Health partnerships which has had the effect of reducing access to a further £29,368. The Service also manages the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Funds, allocated by young people for young people, although both have now been “de-ring fenced” and have an uncertain future. We are awaiting further Government announcements.

The working assumption should be that none of the Grants are secure. The Area Based Grants have already been subject to a Council decision to stop the activity in the area where it was funded, which impacts upon Connexions and Positive Activities for young people. The Children's Trust commissioning group was consulted upon the implementation of this change. As stated above, other Grants are not secure and information will be available from October onwards. The Council funding set out above will in itself be subject to discussion as the Council develops its budget proposals and responds to its medium term financial planning.

**4. Performance and future delivery models**

- 4.1 Performance compares favourably with statistical neighbours and will be discussed in the presentation.

The emergent thinking about next steps will also be discussed in the presentation and the views of Members of the Committee will be sought.

**Appendices: None**

**Background Papers:**

Education Act 1996

Education and Inspection Act 2006

Aiming High – a 10 year strategy on positive activities D.F.E. ( Then DCSF)

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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 14 September 2010

**Subject:** Children and Young People's Plan: Overview and Scrutiny Comments

**Report of:** Cllr Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

**Summary:** This report provides the previous comments of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Every Child Matters outcome areas. The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an opportunity to inform the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

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**Advising Officer:** Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

**Contact Officer:** Bernard Carter, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (0300 300 8000)

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Council Priorities:**

None

**Financial:**

None

**Legal:**

None

**Risk Management:**

None

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None

**Community Safety:**

None

**Sustainability:**

none

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. **That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the report and recommends to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services any comments it feels should be taken into consideration with regard to the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.**

**Background**

1. At its meeting on 11 August 2009 the former Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire. The Committee raised comments and agreed recommendations in relation to the draft plan that were submitted to the Executive prior to the approval of the plan.
2. At the meeting the Committee also agreed to continue to scrutinise the work of each of the Every Child Matters Outcome Delivery Groups. The Committee agreed to review each priority area in turn with a view to providing comments and recommendations that would be presented to officers as part of the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.
3. The Priority areas were added to the work programme and were considered by the Committee as follows:-

<b>Outcome Area:</b>	<b>Date of Committee Meeting</b>
Enjoy and Achieve	5 January 2010
Achieve Economic Well-Being	30 March 2010
Staying Safe	27 April 2010
Making a Positive Contribution	29 June 2010
Be Healthy	29 June 2010

4. On each occasion the Committee received a report detailing the strategic actions that had been undertaken, the relevant priorities contained in the Children and Young People's Plan and progress in relation to the delivery of the outcome area.
5. This report details the recommendations and comments of the Committee with regard to each of the outcome areas and draws attention to some of the points raised by the Committee.

## Enjoy and Achieve

6. Members received a report (Minute CFL/09/69 refers) that outlined the current position in relation to standards in Central Bedfordshire's schools and provided an overview of the progress made with the priorities within the Enjoy and Achieve Plan.
7. The Committee raised the following comments:-
  - that there needed to be more extensive debate regarding the manner in which improvement in school results might be achieved. It was commented that the report did not propose many actions for improving school performance.
  - the importance of communication between the Council and schools as a means of enhancing trust and the level of cooperation between partners, and the importance of effective challenge of poor leadership and governance in order to develop improvements in the school system
  - the importance of being able to challenge schools effectively on performance and using data to develop principles that will lead to transformation
  - Members were disappointed with the current standards in schools and were keen to see improvements in performance.
8. The Committee resolved to '*note*' the report. In addition to noting the report the Committee requested the presentation of a further report on the education vision for Central Bedfordshire. The Committee stated that they would make further comments regarding this outcome area during their consideration of the education vision. With regards to the report on the education vision Members raised the following comments:-
  - Members raised concerns regarding the number of transition points in schools and the negative effect that this might have on levels of attainment. The number of transition points between schools needed to be reduced where possible and this should be a key principle for the educational vision.
  - Members discussed the differences between Trusts and Federations. Members were advised that it was a school's decision to become a member of a Trust. If a school became part of a trust the school and land would be handed over to the Trust. If the Trust was no longer in existence these assets would be handed back to the Council. There were opportunities for schools to work in partnership, which could provide collaborative benefits to schools, but a view was presented that there needed to be a fuller debate around the development of trusts, federations and partnerships and their potential benefits.
  - Members also raised the 2-tier and 3-tier education system and the education of children in the 0-19 age range to ensure that there is a 'one-phase' approach to learning.

9. In light of these comments Members may like to consider recommending to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that the Children and Young People's Plan should prioritise actions for improving school performance. The Committee might also recommend that the Plan proposes specific actions for enhancing trust and cooperation between the Council and schools in order to promote a more effective means of challenge and accountability.

### **Achieve Economic Well-Being**

10. Members received a report (Minute CFL/09/20 refers) that set out an overview of the progress made with the priorities within the Achieve Economic Well Being Plan. Members discussed the three priorities of the Achieve Economic Well Being Plan and in particular:-
  - debated the provisions for excluded children including the provision of an in-house service within upper schools to assist those children who might be excluded. The Retreat in Sandy Upper School to manage children's behavioural problems was an example of what could be done within schools;
  - further details were sought on the Sandy Pinnacle. A Member requested that information be provided regarding activities underway in this area;
  - Discussed the layout of the report and how the information was presented to Members including where the data source came from and the date of collection to enable this data to be used as a benchmark in the future; and
  - suggested that Central Bedfordshire monitor the progress of a new Studio School, that was part of Barnfield College in Luton that was working towards enterprise training as it may be a possible option in the future.
11. The Committee resolved to '*note*' the progress made with the priorities in the Achieve Economic Well Being Plan.
12. In light of these comments Members may like to consider recommending to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that the Children and Young People's Plan should include an action to develop an in-house service within upper schools to assist excluded children. The Committee might also ask how the Children and Young People's Plan will promote the consideration of other examples of best practice in other local authority areas so that the Council can reflect these in their own working practices.

### **Staying Safe**

13. Members considered a report (Minute CS/10/9 refers) regarding the priorities within the Stay Safe aspect of the Children and Young People's Plan. Members raised the following comments:-



- Members commented that the report had insufficient information on the outcomes and performance to enable in-depth scrutiny. Members requested that in future the progress reports on the Children and Young People's Plan needed to contain detailed information.
- A comment was made about the efficiencies and effectiveness of the current structure of all the different Boards and Delivery Groups.

14. The Committee resolved to '*note*' the report

### **Making a Positive Contribution**

15. Members considered a report (Minute CS/10/19 refers) regarding the priorities within the Making a Positive Contribution aspect of the Children & Young People's Plan. Members were also advised that the Tell Us survey had been undertaken to collect data on positive activities undertaken by children and young people
16. Members discussed the removal of funding by the Government to provide free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds as this contributed to a range of priorities including reducing obesity and children and young people taking part in activities. The committee agreed to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the issue and explore proposals for potential local funding of this initiative. This review could include discussions with partner organisations, such as NHS Bedfordshire, who is understood to have specific funding to tackle obesity.
17. The Committee resolved that notwithstanding the budget pressures, that Officers write on behalf of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting that they consider the funding for free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds.

### **Be Healthy**

18. The Committee considered a report (Minute CS/10/20 refers) that provided Members with the progress made with the priorities within the Be Healthy aspect of the Children & Young People's Plan. Members discussed the following:-
- the red performance indicator NI 56 obesity among primary school children in Year 6. Members reiterated their concern over the removal of funding for free swimming for the under 16 and over 60 year olds as this might have an adverse impact on the number of children being obese.
  - With regard to short break places for disabled children, although Members were pleased to note the increase in places provided, they requested further information regarding the number of places available.
19. The Committee resolved to '*note*' the report

20. In light of these comments Members may like to consider recommending to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that the Children and Young People's Plan should include specific actions, developed with the NHS, aimed at addressing performance in relation to NI 56.

### **Conclusions and Way Forward**

21. The Committee are asked to consider the comments that have been raised in their previous meetings relating to the Every Child Matters outcome delivery areas as detailed in this report. Members will be aware that officers have responded to questions relating to these matters in previous meetings and the purpose of this report is not to discuss these issues again.
22. Members are asked to raise any specific comments that they would like taken into account regarding priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan 2011/12.

**Background Papers:** n/a

**Location of papers:** n/a

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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 14 September 2010  
**Subject:** Children Excluded from School  
**Report of:** Cllr Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services  
**Summary:** The report summarises the present situation regarding provision for children excluded from school.

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**Contact Officer:** Edwina Grant  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council and Children's Trust statutory partners

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

The report relates to the second of the Council's key priorities::

- Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

### **Financial:**

The aim of the provision for excluded pupils is to make proper provision according to statutory entitlement within the efficient use of resources.

### **Legal:**

There is a legal framework of entitlement for excluded pupils.

### **Risk Management:**

Vulnerable pupils are subject to personal and collective risk assessments by nature of being assessed for a provision that is different to that of their peers.

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

There will be future staffing implications in any changes to the way provision is made available. Any consultation necessary will take place at the appropriate time.

### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

Equality issues will be picked up as part of implementing any changes in provision.

### **Community Safety:**

None specifically

**Sustainability:**

None specifically

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Overview and Scrutiny are asked to share their views with the lead member for Children's Services.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 At the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2010 Members asked for an update on the provision for children excluded from school to be presented at this meeting. It was agreed that a brief report on the position would be developed.
- 1.2 On the 10 August 2009 a Service Level Agreement (SLA) was agreed on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council for Bedford Borough Council to provide for provision via Greys Education Centre Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) for the provision of education for pupils of statutory school age unable to access education due to permanent exclusion, pregnancy or the difficulties of being a young mother, long term illnesses or other temporary difficulties which arrive in people's lives and make access to school very difficult.
- 1.3 The charging of this service is on the basis of actual costs which will vary from year to year , 53% Central Bedfordshire Council and 47% Bedford Borough Council.
- 1.4 The term of the agreement was agreed from 1 April 2009 until March 2011. Provision was made in the agreement, subject to review, if both parties wished to continue beyond the review.
- 1.5 Officer discussions have taken place at various times by way of monitoring and review. However, more recently officer discussion turned to whether or not it is sensible to continue this arrangement.
- 1.6 The decision on whether or not to maintain Greys Education Centre in its present shape and form is for Bedford Borough Council in terms of its overall governance of the provision.
- 1.7 Whilst it is acknowledged that the Ofsted report on the PRU was good, concerns have been raised by the Director of Children's Services for Central Bedfordshire Council during the period of the operation of the SLA. These concerns relate to the unit cost in terms of efficient use of resources and the quality of provision for Central Bedfordshire pupils in terms of the number of pupils educated in libraries and the travel time required.
- 1.8 The Director of Children's Services also took soundings on the views of Central Bedfordshire headteachers at meetings during the year.

- 1.9 Discussions were held informally with both the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Bedford Borough Council regarding this proposal. Bedford Borough Council confirmed that they were also planning to review the provision. Subsequent to the meeting, the Lead Member agreed that as a courtesy, a letter giving notice of termination would be sent even though the governance of the SLA did not require it.
- 1.10 The Commissioning sub-group of the Children's Trust were asked to take a view on the suitable shape of future provision. They are required to take a view in accordance with the Council's Commissioning Framework agreed by the Executive on 13 October 2009.

## **2. Principles**

- 2.1 Any revision of the provision for excluded pupils needs to take into account the authority's statutory responsibilities for providing for children who are excluded from school.
- 2.2 The base legislation for the authority's requirement to make provision is contained within the Education Act 1996, which was amended by the Apprenticeships Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, which brought an amendment to require PRUs (now renamed short stay schools) to have a management committee and to require any closure to be subject to a consultation with the Secretary of State in specified circumstances.
- 2.3 The above provisions apply to Bedford Borough Council who set up and maintain the PRU and arranged for the management committee. The duties on Central Bedfordshire Council, is to arrange provision for Central Bedfordshire pupils. For this purpose the current SLA suffices.
- 2.4 The advice from the Director of Children's Services / Deputy Chief Executive is that for some children, provision currently offered by the PRU off-site in Central Bedfordshire libraries and the number of young people who do not access the PRU site directly is not sustainable in the longer term as a suitable response to duties to set up provision.
- 2.5 The view of the Commissioning sub-group of the Children's Trust is as the minute of their meeting of 19 July below:

### The PRU

*The Group agreed:*

- 1. That that the PRU should be de-commissioned in its current form and provision re-commissioned for April 2012.*
- 2. That interim arrangements should be made with schools for PRU/Short Stay School provision from April 2011 until March 2012.*

- 2.5 This group is part of the formal governance arrangements for the Children's Trust and therefore are acknowledged representatives. However, as the PRU is funded out of the Direct School Grant (DSG), it will be necessary to put a financial proposal to the Schools Forum regarding the allocation of any money currently given to Greys PRU to be reallocated elsewhere.

### **3. Future Work**

- 3.1 The Committee is advised that this work is on-going. More work is yet required in consultation with Central Bedfordshire schools, the Schools Forum, Bedford Borough Council and any other partners before formal proposals can be made.

### **4. Governance**

- 4.1 The original SLA was developed arising out of a list of services that the Shadow Transition Task Force agreed as suitable for joint working with Bedford Borough Council under the Local Government (Structural Changes) Order 2008 under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 4.2 As the SLA would end in March 2011 if continuation was not agreed, there is no formal governance required according to the requirement of the Constitution under a key decision. Decisions need to be made in the first instance through the governance of the Children's Trust and the Schools Forum.
- 4.3 As this is a significant change however, it would be proper under the broader provisions of the Constitution to bring a report to Executive when the views of the Children's Trust and the School Forum are known and when Bedford Borough Council have advised of their proposals for on-going provision. This is likely to be planned for some time as yet to be agreed in early 2011.

### **Appendices: Nil**

### **Background Papers:**

Service Level Agreement between Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council No. BBC 018

Children's Trust Commissioning sub-group minutes – 19 July 2010

Central Bedfordshire Executive Committee –

Apprenticeship Skills and Learning Act 2009

Education Act 1996

**Location of papers:** Priory House, Chicksands

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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 14 September 2010  
**Subject:** Work Programme 2010 – 2011 & Executive Forward Plan  
**Report of:** Chief Executive  
**Summary:** The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

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**Contact Officer:** Bernard Carter, Overview & Scrutiny Manager  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

## CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

### **Council Priorities:**

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities.

### **Financial:**

n/a

### **Legal:**

n/a

### **Risk Management:**

n/a

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

n/a

### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

n/a

### **Community Safety:**

n/a

### **Sustainability:**

n/a

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
  - (a) **considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
  - (b) **considers the Executive Forward Plan; and**
  - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.**

**Work Programme**

1. Attached at Appendix A is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. Also attached at Appendix B is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in light grey.
3. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

**Task Forces**

4. In addition to consideration 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**

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



## Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2010 - 2011

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
1.	14 September 2010	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
2.		Task Force Report on Youth Facility Provision	To receive the final report of the Task Force, which will outline the aims, process and key findings of the review	
3.		The Youth Agenda	To receive a report and presentation covering the Council's approach and objectives regarding its youth agenda	
4.		Summary of O&S Comments regarding the 5 Outcome Areas of the Children & Young People's Plan Reviewed during 2010/11	This report will summarise the comments made by the Committee during 2010/11 regarding the 5 outcome areas of the Children & Young People's Plan, which will inform production of the new Plan	
5.		Excluded Children	To receive a briefing paper covering the Council's current practice on the provision for excluded children	
6.	19 October 2010 <b>(R)</b>	Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the first quarter of 2010/11.	

NB: - **(R)** denotes a 'reserve' meeting

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
7.	23 November 2010	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
8.		Budget 2011/12	To receive directorate proposals regarding the draft revenue budget 2011/12	
9.		Quarter 2 Budget Information	To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the second quarter of 2010/11.	
10.	21 December 2010 <b>(R)</b>	Child Poverty	To receive a presentation and consider current thinking regarding child poverty and its impact on Central Bedfordshire, which will inform Member consideration of the Council's own, early draft, Child Poverty Strategy	
11.		Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2010/11.	
12.	25 January 2011	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	TO BE CONFIRMED – completion of these early proposals cannot be accurately dated as yet
13.		Review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis	To consider proposals in light of early consultation regarding the review of School Places in Dunstable & Houghton Regis	
14.	01 March 2011 <b>(R)</b>			

NB: - **(R)** denotes a 'reserve' meeting

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
15.	29 March 2011	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	
16.		Children and Young People's Plan: New Plan for 2011/12	To receive and consider the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2011/12	
17.		Child Poverty Strategy	To receive and consider the Council's draft Strategy following consideration of child poverty generally at the November 2010 meeting.	
18.		Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 20010/11.	
19.		Quarter 3 Budget Information	To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 20010/11.	
20.	14 June 2011	Portfolio Holder Update	To receive a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder regarding current issues within Children's Services	New Municipal Year – this item to be confirmed
21.		Children and Young People's Plan: Achieve Economic Well-Being		
22.		Children's Trust Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Children's Trust	

NB: - (R) denotes a 'reserve' meeting

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
23.		LSCB Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board	As above
24.		Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring	To receive performance monitoring information for the final quarter of 20010/11	As above
25.		Quarter 4 Budget Information	To receive the directorate's budget monitoring information for the final quarter of 20010/11	As above

**Central Bedfordshire Council  
Forward Plan of Key Decisions  
1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011**

- 1) During the period from **1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011**, 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	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Performance
Cllr Mrs Rita Drinkwater	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health
Cllr Maurice Jones	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People
Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services
Cllr Steve Male	Portfolio Holder for Customers, Systems and Assets
Cllr Ken Matthews	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Skills and Regeneration
Cllr David McVicar	Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles
Cllr Tom Nicols	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development

- 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
08 June 2010	27 May 2010
13 July 2010	24 June 2010
17 August 2010	05 August 2010
28 September 2010	16 September 2010
02 November 2010	21 October 2010
07 December 2010	25 November 2010
11 January 2011	23 December 2010
8 February 2011	27 January 2011
15 March 2011	3 March 2011
5 April 2011	24 March 2011
31 May 2011	19 May 2011

# Central Bedfordshire Council

## Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011

### Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 13 August 2010

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	Annual Report of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Adult Safeguarding Board -	To consider the Annual Report.	28 September 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Ed Thompson, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Email: ed.thompson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel:01582 818060
2.	Transforming People's Lives - Progress Report -	To consider a strategy for implementing the Transformation Programme including a new customer pathway.	28 September 2010	Various stakeholder events have been held supported by leaflets & questionnaires.	Report	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 07/08/10 to Contact Officer: David Jones, Transformation Project Director Email: david.jones3@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel:0300 300 6190

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
3.	Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010 - Draft for Consultation -	The Executive are asked to approve the draft strategy and the detailed action plan as the basis for consultation.	28 September 2010	15 January 2010: Key Stakeholders and Partners 28 January 2010: members consultation event Web based consultation December 2009 - February 2010	The Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Zoe Cox, Housing Research & Policy Officer Email zoe.cox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4479
4.	Policy for Charging for Non-Residential Social Care Services -	To approve the revised Policy.	28 September 2010	Overview and Scrutiny Task Group (dates tba) Public Consultation (April - July 2010)	Report and Policy	Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Tim Hoyle, Head of Business Systems Email tim.hoyle@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 3065



Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
5.	Visible Presence -	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.	28 September 2010	Relevant Portfolio Holders Key Stakeholders	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection Email: jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441
6.	CCTV Service Options -	To consider options available to move to a common approach to the provision of a CCTV service within Central Bedfordshire.	28 September 2010	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Key Stakeholders Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – May 2010	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection Email jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
7.	Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document for Submission -	To agree the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document for Submission.  This relates to the LDF North area.	28 September 2010	Stakeholders Members of the public Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report and draft document	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 31/08/010 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan Email richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
8.	Carbon Management Plan -	Adoption of the Carbon Management Plan to set out how the Council will reduce it's carbon footprint, identify the opportunities and projects this will involve and strategy for funding this.	28 September 2010	Executive consulted at May meeting. Consultation with the Portfolio holder on-going.	Draft Carbon Management Plan and supporting documents. The Council's Climate Change Strategy	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan Email richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
9.	Tenant Service Authority Annual Report -	To consider the Annual Report.	28 September 2010	Portfolio Holder for Housing Executive Consultees Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report with TSA Annual Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 27/08/10 to Contact Officer: Carol Rooker, Head of Housing Management Email carol.rooker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5249

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
10.	Central Bedfordshire Housing & Council Tax Benefit Anti Fraud Policy and Strategy, and Housing & Council Tax Benefit Prosecutions and Sanctions Policy -	To approve the policies and strategies	28 September 2010	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 31/08/10 to Contact Officer: Gary Muskett, Revenues Manager Email gary.muskett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4097
11.	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central Bedfordshire Council & Milton Keynes Council -	To consider the options and way forward in respect of the MoU	28 September 2010		Report	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 01/09/10 to Contact Officer:: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan Email richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
12.	First Quarter Review of the 2010/11 Capital Programme -	To review the first quarter of the 2010/11 Capital Programme.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 02/10/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
13.	Draft Budget 2011/12 -	To approve the draft 2011/12 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme for consultation.	2 November 2010	Portfolio Holders Overview & Scrutiny Committees	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel 0300 300 6147
14.	Central Bedfordshire Empty Homes Strategy -	To consider a Empty Homes Strategy for Central Bedfordshire.	2 November 2010	Portfolio Holder for Housing Executive Consultees Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report with proposed Empty Homes Strategy	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Nick Costin, Head Private Sector Housing Email nick.costin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5219

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
15.	Award of the Gas Maintenance Contract to Council Housing Properties south of the District -	To award the contract	2 November 2010		Report  Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5202
16.	Local Investment Plan -	To approve the Plan for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency.	2 November 2010		Report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 05/10/10 to Contact Officer: Jon Cliff, Head of Growth Programme Email jon.cliff@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4373
17.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 2 -	To consider the Quarter 2 Budget Management report.	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 07/11/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
18.	Local Economic Assessment -	To approve the Central Bedfordshire Local Economic Assessment.	7 December 2010		Draft final Local Economic Assessment	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 16/11/10 to Contact Officer: James Cushing, Head of Economic Policy Email james.cushing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4984
19.	Review of Fees and Charges -	To review Fees and Charges for 2011/12	11 January 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 11/12/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
20.	Treasury Management Strategy -	To consider the Treasury Management Strategy	11 January 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 15/12/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
21.	Budget Management Report - Quarter 3 -	To consider the Quarter 3 Budget Management Report.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 15/02/11 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centabedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
22.	Draft Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme for 2011/12 -	To recommend the draft Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme 2011/12 to 2015/16 to Council on 24 February 2011 for approval.	8 February 2011	Portfolio Holders Overview & Scrutiny Committees	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 05/01/11 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Finance Email matt.bowmer@centabedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
23.	Local Transport Plan 3 -	To consider the LTP3 for recommending onto Council for approval.	8 February 2011	<p>Members, Stakeholders &amp; General Public (01 February 2010 – 31 October 2010).</p> <p>Channels of engagement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview &amp; Scrutiny Cttee (18/01/2011)</li> <li>• Taskforce</li> <li>• Local member &amp; district councillor workshops/meetings</li> <li>• Stakeholder workshops</li> <li>• Householder surveys</li> <li>• On-line presence (myjourney website)</li> <li>• Public exhibitions</li> <li>• Internal briefings</li> <li>• Cross border liaison meetings</li> <li>• Hard copy information distribution to hard to reach groups</li> </ul> <p>Press releases</p>	Report	<p>Cllr Tom Nicols</p> <p>Comments by 05/01/11 to Contact Officer: Paul Cook, Head of Transport Strategy</p> <p>Email paul.cook@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 6999</p>



Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
24.	Child Poverty Strategy -	To agree the strategy which sets out how the Local Authority and its partners intend to reduce child poverty by 2020. This includes 4 targets (relative low income, material deprivation, absolute poverty and persistent poverty). This also includes a needs assessment to describe the characteristics of child and family within Central Bedfordshire and a joint child poverty strategy which will outline the steps and accountability for the Local Authority and partners.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 05/02/11 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services Email martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4392

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
25.	Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan -	To consider and formally adopt the Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan as a supplementary planning document.	15 March 2011	<p>Non statutory consultation – July 2009 comprising public exhibition</p> <p>Non statutory consultation – 3 July to 27 August 2010, 4 public exhibitions in addition to web and print consultation methods</p> <p>Formal statutory consultation – Early November 2010 for a period of four to six weeks</p>	Biggleswade town centre strategy and masterplan	<p>Cllr Ken C Matthews, Cllr Tom Nicols</p> <p>Comments to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 6288</p>

## NON KEY DECISIONS

26.	Quarter 1 Performance Report -	To highlight the key Quarter 1 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	28 September 2010		Report	<p>Cllr Richard Stay</p> <p>Comments by 01/09/10 to Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Head of Performance</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:iain.melville@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">iain.melville@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Tel: 0300 300 6024</p>
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Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
27.	Quarter 2 Performance Report -	To highlight the key Quarter 2 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council	7 December 2010		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/11/10 to Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Head of Performance Email: iain.melville@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6024
28.	Quarter 3 Performance Report -	To highlight the key Quarter 3 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	15 March 2011		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/02/11 to Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Head of Performance Email: iain.melville@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6024
29.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To highlight key Quarter 4 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council.	31 May 2011		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 01/05/11 to Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Head of Performance Email: iain.melville@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6024

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

For the Municipal Year 2010/11 the Forward Plan will be published on the fifteenth day of each month or, where the fifteenth day is not a working day, the working day immediately proceeding the fifteenth day, or in February 2011 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Period of Plan</b>
14.05.10	1 June 2010 – 31 May 2011
15.06.10	1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
15.07.10	1 August 2010 – 31 July 2011
13.08.10	1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011
15.09.10	1 October 2010 – 30 September 2011
15.10.09	1 November 2010 – 31 October 2011
15.11.10	1 December 2010 – 30 November 2011
15.12.10	1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011
14.01.11	1 February 2011 – 31 January 2012
14.02.11	1 March 2011 – 28 February 2012
15.03.11	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012
15.04.11	1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012