

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



please ask for Jonathon Partridge
direct line 0300 300 4634
date 05 June 2014

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 17 June 2014 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

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

Cllrs Mrs A Barker (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), D Bowater, Mrs G Clarke, Mrs R J Drinkwater, P A Duckett, P Hollick, D Jones, D McVicar and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

R D Berry, Mrs S A Goodchild, K Janes, B Saunders and N J Sheppard]

Co-optees: Mr Chapman (Parent Governor), Mr Court (Parent Governor), Mr Hodey (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), and Mr Morton (Church of England Diocese)

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 meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 07 May 2014 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest and of 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 decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

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

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	Executive Member Update To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	* verbal
10	Youth Audit Action Plan To receive an update on progress towards responding to the recommendations contained in the Youth Audit report.	* 13 - 40
11	Update on the usage of the disability hubs To receive a report outlining the social care actions which have taken place since the implementation of the Disability Hub and Spoke model.	* 41 - 52
12	Teaching school To receive a presentation regards progress in relation to the teaching school.	* verbal
13	Work Programme 2014/15 & Executive Forward Plan The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.	* 53 - 56

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Grove Theatre, Dunstable on Wednesday, 7 May 2014

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs A Barker (Chairman)

Councillors:	D Bowater P A Duckett P Hollick	Councillors:	D Jones D McVicar R B Pepworth
Parental Co-optees:	Mr J M A Chapman Mr S Court Mr T Hodey		
Church of England Co-optee:	J Reynolds		
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs Mrs G Clarke N B Costin Mrs R J Drinkwater Mrs F Image		
Substitutes:	Cllrs R D Berry (In place of Mrs R J Drinkwater)		
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs Mrs S Clark Mrs B Coleman A L Dodwell Mrs S A Goodchild C Hegley J Murray Mrs M Mustoe Miss A Sparrow R C Stay M A G Versallion N Warren J N Young	Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services and Community Services Executive Member for Social Care, Health & Housing Chairman of Licensing Committee Executive Member for External Affairs and Lead Member for Troubled Families Executive Member for Children's Services Executive Member for Regeneration	
Officers in Attendance:	Mrs P Everitt	Scrutiny Policy Adviser	

Mr R Parsons	Head of School Organisation and Capital Planning
Mr J Partridge	Corporate Policy Manager
Miss H Redding	Assistant Director School Improvement

Others in attendance 155 members of the public

CS/14/1. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 February 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/14/2. **Members' Interests**

Councillors declared the following interests in the business to be transacted:-

- Cllr Bowater as Chair of Governors at Leighton Buzzard Middle School;
- Cllr D Jones as Chair of Governors at Hawthorn Community Primary School;
- Cllr Pepworth as Chair of Governors at St. Augustine’s Academy and a member of the Ashton Foundation;
- Cllr Hollick as a governor of All Saints and a member of the Ashton Foundation;
- Cllr Duckett as a Governor at Maulden Lower School; and
- Mr J Reynolds as a Governor at All Saints Academy.

CS/14/3. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the Committee and outlined the process by which members of the public who had registered to speak would be invited to do so at the commencement of Item 9. The Chairman also advised those in attendance that filming and recording of the meeting was not permitted.

CS/14/4. **Petitions**

None.

CS/14/5. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

As previously advised the Chairman confirmed that eight members of the public and elected Members had registered to speak. Speakers would be invited to speak at the commencement of Item 9.

The Chairman also informed the Committee that two questions had been received from a parent relating to the criteria that would be used to make the final decision on school closures and whether the Council had any input or authority to reject a schools application for academy status. The Chairman

requested that the Executive Member respond to these questions when responding to others raised by public speakers.

CS/14/6. **Call-In**

None.

CS/14/7. **Requested Items**

None.

CS/14/8. **Statutory Consultations of Proposals**

At the commencement of this item the Chairman invited eight residents and elected Members to speak. The speakers raised issues that in summary related to the following:-

- Statements that reducing the number of surplus school places was not a priority.
- Additional information that had been circulated by Streetfield Community Middle School to Members and co-opted Members of the Committee.
- Concerns that the committee report contained inaccurate information which was misleading.
- The potential capacity to develop Streetfield Community Middle School as an alternative to closure.
- The lack of faith based information within the report.
- Concerns that several responses to the consultation had been omitted from the report
- Whether other schools in Dunstable would continue to be financially viable if these three were closed.
- The importance of providing children with the necessary skills to continue life-long learning outside of the classroom that included providing children with choices and the opportunity to become more confident before encountering older children.
- The difficulty of engaging children in science and the importance of teachers with the confidence to deliver a high class education.
- The importance of providing parents with choice over the schools that their children attend.
- Concerns regarding the way the budget had been set based on historical attendance numbers and a suggestion that the levels of funding should be reconsidered.
- Concerns regarding letters that had been sent to parents regarding the selection of sixth form places by a certain date, leading to confusion.
- The lack of funding for an identified number of students at Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School.
- Sustainable improvement that could be demonstrated at Brewers Hill Community Middle School over previous years, which had resulted in a good Ofsted inspection in 2013 and concerns that this would not be maintained elsewhere if the school was to close.
- The potential capacity for growth at Brewers Hill Community Middle School, which continued to attract students at all ages despite the age range changes.

- Changes in national government policy leading to a requirement to consider closing schools and the importance of listening to the responses received during public consultation.
- Concerns that the proposed closures would impact on all upper, middle and lower schools in the area who might be unprepared to respond to this challenge.
- The importance of providing appropriate support for children with special educational needs
- The importance of giving the schools an appropriate amount of time to address the challenges and work together before the Council made any final decisions.
- The importance of an effective education and ensuring that any decisions were taken in light of the best outcome for children and the need to provide continuity for children.
- The impact of the rising birth rate and the impact this would have in relation to increasing pressure on schools.

The Executive Member for Children's Services thanked the speakers and commented that he had listened to the concerns throughout the process and would continue to do so. The Committee were reminded that a decision would be taken at the Executive on 27 May 2014 and the Committee were asked to provide a recommendation to be considered at that meeting. In response to the issues raised Cllr Versallion commented that he was acutely aware of politics of this issue but this was a genuine discussion between members as to the best course of action in these schools in light of their financial situation. Whilst following the general election in 2010 the government had introduced academisation there had been no statement about two-tier or three-tier schools and the Executive Member himself had not developed a personal position. The perception that the closures were trying to remove the three-tier system was factually incorrect. The Council could not prevent academisation although it did have a statutory opportunity to comment on the academisation of a school and the Council had commented on other schools in the past.

The Executive Member outlined that the current position at these three schools was partially a consequence of other schools becoming academies or applying to change their age range. Changes to school age ranges was up to the parents of children in those schools and there had been up to 95% support for parents in those schools that had changed. Whilst there were implications of a school changing its age range the starting point was always the school coming to the Council to say they would like change. Schools could not be forced to agree to proposals, which had resulted in these current proposals.

In outlining the report the Executive Member highlighted that significant changes in the previous autumn had a profound effect on the remaining middle schools. There were anticipated to be low admissions from September 2014 and a more significant drop off in pupil numbers in the future. It was important that agreed proposals put the children's welfare at the centre. If the Council was to ignore the admissions numbers the schools would become financially bankrupt and would not be able to function as high-quality organisations, the situation for pupils in that circumstance would be far worse than the proposed closures. Whilst a recommendation was sought from the Committee to

Executive a final decision would not be taken until August 2014. Although it had been suggested this had been a truncated process it has actually commenced in February 2014 and teachers had known for several years that this challenge was emerging.

The Executive Member encouraged Members to reflect their views so that they could be considered by the Executive. The committee report aimed to address many of the issues raised during the consultation and in public meetings and Cllr Versallion specifically drew attention to the following:-

- Concerns regarding the financial viability of the schools, the report did not form any views about the quality of the education at these schools. There were too few children at these schools and a surplus of places of 63% elsewhere.
- The substantial number of consultees that had been involved throughout the process to date.
- The consultation responses from all three schools that had been summarised in the report and the total number of consultation responses that had also been set out.
- The net difference in the pupil numbers that had been set out in detail in the report.
- Changes in the numbers of pupils to reflect the changes following the previous Executive report that had been provided in February 2014.
- Viable alternative options had not yet been received by the Council from the schools.

The Executive Member also requested that his thanks to local ward Members and Andrew Selous MP be recorded for their involvement in the process.

Cllr Duckett queried whether the impact on these schools in Dunstable was a result of other schools becoming academies. It was also queried why some facilities in Central Bedfordshire were being refurbished but the same was not taking place in these schools and why the number of surplus school places was so high in other areas of Central Bedfordshire. It was not clear whether there were other schools in the area that would be impacted by these proposals and whether the potential population growth in Dunstable had been taken into account. In response Cllr Versallion commented that although the Council was building new schools they would not be ready for a long period of time and certainly not before the financial crisis within these schools occurred. There was a policy that local schools should be provided for local communities and these three schools might not be best located for those children living in the areas of growth. In relation to the demographics of the area the Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning commented that Central Bedfordshire was a growth area and had witnessed an impact in light of the national increase in birth rate. The detail in relation to Dunstable and Houghton Regis had been reported in previous Executive reports, which set out that there was a significant over-supply in school places across Central Bedfordshire. Guidance from the Department for Education set out that reducing surplus places was not a priority but should be addressed by local authorities as much as possible. Whilst new homes were planned locally there was an immediate issue of financial viability that needed to be addressed. Previous reports also

set out the basis of admissions forecasts, which was the basis on which the budgets for the schools had been set.

Cllr Pepworth commented that the schools closures were a result of allowing the increase of academies and allowing all schools to change their age ranges. Cllr Pepworth had specific concerns in relation to the numbers of support teachers in Central Bedfordshire and the impact on middle schools as a result of primary schools changing their age ranges. The growth of competition between schools had been deeply divisive and rather than closing schools the Council should support schools to encourage the development of alternative proposals.

Mr J Reynolds suggested there were merits in both a two-tier and three-tier school system but it was important to understand what would work best for the children in this area. It was important that subjects were taught by specialists and issues relating to financial and educational viability in these schools needed to be addressed. Mr Reynolds commented that in his opinion the alternative proposals provided to date were not viable based on the projected figures that had been included and as such they could not be endorsed by the Committee.

Cllr Hollick commented on the importance of ensuring that schools were viable and being aware that in cases where schools had changed their age range or become an academy this was a direct result of the choice of parents with children at those schools. Any alternative proposals that were submitted to the Council should be considered but only if they were financially viable. It was not clear that appropriate conversations had taken place to date between schools so that viable proposals could be developed, and a lack of constructive co-operation appeared to be a contributing factor in this issue. However, communication between schools had commenced and there should be an opportunity to continue this.

Cllr McVicar commented on the impact of other schools becoming academies or changing their age range at the request of parents of children at these schools. It had been difficult to start conversations between the schools in Dunstable previously and as a result the alternative proposals that had been proposed were not currently viable. There were insufficient pupils from September 2014 to keep all three schools running and ultimately although the school buildings might close it was the teachers and pupils that really mattered. In response to a specific question the Executive Member confirmed that if talks continued the Council could revoke a decision that had been made. If any viable alternatives were presented to the Council the Council would reflect on them and act appropriately.

In response to a question the Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning commented that all of the figures detailed in the report and the previous report to the Executive in February 2014 were considered to be accurate. Although numbers would change over time the report to the Committee provided an update on pupil numbers to ensure they were as accurate and up to date as possible and made openly available.

Mr S Court commented on the importance of schools being financially viable and the importance of viability to ensure that standards of education did not fall. If the figures in the report were accurate it had to be accepted that the schools were not financially viable. However, if the three schools could demonstrate viable alternatives the Council should do everything it could to support them.

Cllr Bowater commented on school results in Leighton Buzzard where co-operation between four head teachers worked very effectively. Proposals to federate schools and share specialist staff and funding were currently being considered. Co-operation between schools was essential and it had been possible elsewhere to develop viable proposals to combine schools.

In conclusion the Committee commented on the importance of considering alternative viable proposals and the need for the Council to support schools in developing these alternatives in a timely manner. The Committee discussed whether it was feasible for proposals to be presented in time for the May 2014 Executive and suggested that a Special Executive might be necessary to consider the detailed business cases. In response it was commented that proposals needed to progress to statutory timescales. Although a decision was required at the Executive meeting in May 2014 the schools involved could still submit alternative proposals up to the Executive meeting in August 2014. Officers undertook to publish the lead in times for the August Executive to ensure that all parties were aware of the timescales. In light of the discussion the Committee did not feel that a Special Executive meeting was necessary.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the Executive agree to progress to the publication of statutory notices and final representation period to close Brewers Hill Community Middle School in Dunstable, phased from September 2015, with final implementation in August 2016.**
- 2. That the Executive agree to progress to the publication of statutory notices and final representation period to close Streetfield Community Middle School in Dunstable, phased from September 2015, with final implementation in August 2016.**
- 3. That the Executive agree to progress to the publication of statutory notices and final representation period to close Ashton Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School in Dunstable, phased from September 2015, with final implementation in August 2016.**
- 4. That there be further opportunity for schools either individually or in conjunction with another or other schools to bring forward a viable business plan with any appropriate assistance being provided by Council officers, which can be scrutinised at the May 2014 Executive if possible or August 2014 at the latest.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and concluded at 9.45 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 June 2014
Subject: Youth Audit Action Plan
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report provides an update on progress towards responding to the recommendations contained in the Youth Audit report.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships, Engagement and Youth Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Youth Audit Action Plan contributes to achieving the following CBC priorities:
 - Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
 - Improved educational attainment.
 - Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
 - Value for money – freezing council tax.

Financial:

2. All activities contained in this report are to be delivered through existing budgets.

Legal:

3. There are no legal implications associated with any of the actions in the plan.

Risk Management:

4. The key risks associated with non delivery of the actions will be that the voice of young people will not be heard. As well as damaging the reputation of the Council and its partners, it means that young people will not see the improvements to the way the Youth Offer is delivered they have asked for. This could also result in vulnerable young people not fully accessing the services available to them.

Health and safety matters are to be considered through existing arrangements within the Council, schools and commissioned providers.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. There are no considerations from a Human Resources perspective.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. National research highlights that:

- Many young people are unable to understand the breadth of ultimate job opportunities across the economy leading them to potentially identify unrealistic career aspirations
- Young people particularly value information on jobs and careers if obtained in a real workplace and through contacts with working people
- Being NEET for six months or more between ages 16 and 18 is the single most powerful predictor of unemployment at age 21
- Teenage parents and their children are at increased risk of living in poverty and experiencing poorer outcomes across a range of factors

The variety of actions identified in the Youth Audit Action Plan will help to address the above issues and ensure that all young people in Central Bedfordshire receive appropriate levels of advice and support and are better able to succeed in adult life.

Public Health

7. As a result of the audit the provision of Sexual and Relationship Education (SRE) services will be commissioned differently to meet the health and wellbeing needs of young people.

Community Safety:

8. There are no direct implications for community safety.

Sustainability:

9. There are no implications for sustainability

Procurement:

10. There are no specific implications for procurement; though this will depend on the course of action decided upon to develop a young persons' website.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to note and comment on progress against the Action Plan.

Background

11. The Positive for Youth Agenda, published late in 2011, combined all previous policies from nine government departments that focussed on young people. Two key elements of Positive for Youth were:
 - the requirement for local partnerships to publish a Youth Offer detailing all services available to young people; and
 - a much stronger emphasis on giving young people a voice in public policy and local services.
12. The Central Bedfordshire Youth Audit was the first in the country to examine the commissioned Youth Offer services, which are provided on behalf of and by Central Bedfordshire Council. In particular, the Youth Audit was asked to assess to what extent the Youth Offer translates from policy into practice.
13. A group of young people representing the local Youth Parliament, Young Inspectors and Youth Commissioners programmes were offered additional training and support to become Youth Auditors, as well as ongoing support from the British Youth Council.
14. The Youth Auditors met with senior Council officers including the Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive, elected members, commissioned providers, Council staff, partners and other young people. The Youth Audit report identified a total of 24 recommendations against nine key areas. These were presented to partners and representatives of the Children's Trust Board on 10th December 2013.
15. In response, a detailed action plan containing 43 separate actions was submitted to the Youth Audit on 31 March and progress was monitored at the Children's Trust Board on 13 May. A copy of the action plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
16. Central Bedfordshire Council is seen as a leader in the region in relation to Youth Engagement and other local authorities have asked us for copies of our work.

Progress

17. Progress against the actions has been assessed using a RAG rating where Green is on track/action completed, Amber is off track (the intended completion date may be missed) and Red means the completion date has passed. Progress is as follows:

- Green – 23 (62%)
- Amber – 5 (14%)
- Red – 9 (24%)

18. All of the actions rated as Red relate to two key themes:

- **IAG (Information, advice and guidance) minimum standards adopted in all middle and upper schools**
- **Developing a young persons website**

18.1 **IAG minimum standards** - Progress towards the development of minimum IAG standards for both Middle and Upper Schools was delayed due to the anticipation of new statutory guidance on IAG from the Department of Education and potential implications for the development and maintenance of minimum standards. This was not published until the end of April 2014.

18.1.1 There is commitment from partners who attend the NEET Strategy group to develop minimum IAG Standards with a working group to be convened in July. This group will support the implementation from the Autumn Term onwards and ensure appropriate links with all school support services. This work will be combined with the development of a coherent offer from local authority support for schools that would enhance IAG for Young People; including youth support, public health, employment and skills.

18.2 **Website development** – One of the general themes throughout the audit process was that whilst there were many opportunities for young people in Central Bedfordshire, in most cases there was a lack of promotion. The Youth Audit believed that young people would benefit from a youth-led, young persons website and social media.

18.2.1 The existing web presence for Youth Support Services in Central Bedfordshire has been identified as too corporate by young people and not engaging enough to meet their needs. It is disjointed, unfocussed and spread across multiple areas of the corporate site. The November 2013 'Website Inspection' carried out by young people found that; *'The Inspectors were disappointed that the home page of the Central Bedfordshire website does not include anything relevant to young people and does not have a clear message as far as young people are concerned. It was felt that the website was totally directed to adult services'*.

18.2.2 The challenge is to create something that appeals and engages young people whilst also effectively promoting youth service provision to partners. Following discussions with young people involved in the audit process, they have requested that a website and social media presence, designed with their needs in mind, be developed and maintained. Several options have been explored, including combining a site with those of other service teams and partner organisations. A business case has

been developed to establish a standalone website and social media presence for young people (aged 13-19) in Central Bedfordshire that:

- promotes the needs and interests of young people;
- provides an up-to-date picture of provision and services for young people; and
- provides a further opportunity for young people to be meaningfully engaged in influencing local service delivery.

Conclusion and Next Steps

19. The Youth Support Team will continue to work with schools, commissioned providers and internal teams to progress actions.
20. The Youth offer will be subject to a re-audit in the summer; dates to be confirmed.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Youth Audit Action Plan

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YOUTH AUDIT ACTION PLAN

May 2014

INTRODUCTION

While youth involvement and participation have been priorities for young people's Services for quite some time, more recently the government's 'Positive for Youth' approach has established the need for all local authorities to evidence the active involvement of young people in assessing the quality of local provision.

As part of this approach, the Government expects every local area to have a body of young people that is able to represent the views of local young people and audit the delivery and quality of local services.

The Central Bedfordshire Youth Audit was the first in the country to examine the commissioned Youth Offer services, which are provided on behalf of and by Central Bedfordshire Council. In particular, the Youth Audit was asked to assess to what extent the Youth Offer translates from policy into practice.

That they are the first to complete such efforts is testament to their abilities, as well as to CBC's commitment to making genuine youth involvement a reality.

The level of partnership attained is demonstrated by the commitment of the Council to respond to the findings of the Youth Audit in a timely manner, and this action plan is the first step towards not only realising the aspirations of the young people taking part, but also to lay the foundations for future and further participative efforts. The following actions highlight the intentions of CBC to work with its partners in response to the Youth Audit.

RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation One: Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) minimum standards adopted in all middle and upper schools

Issues:

- Current provision appears limited and needs to be more structured, preventative, uniformed and consistent..

Appendix 1

- The Council's response to NEETs is good but more work is needed to identify potential NEETs earlier and prevent young people from becoming NEET in the first place
 - 4YP is commissioned by CBC to deliver to post-16s when young people are already NEET
 - The pre-16 schools based (and schools-commissioned) provision is not universally delivered across all schools
 - The majority of people interviewed felt that IAG needed to be more structured, preventative, uniformed and consistent.

Actions

1. Develop the Youth Support Team (YST) website to provide information on IAG.
2. Promote schools responsibility to secure impartial IAG services in all middle and upper schools.
3. Promote the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) tool for use in all middle and upper schools
4. Engage all middle and upper schools and all relevant providers in establishing a minimum standard for IAG, based on DfE and Ofsted findings, particularly informed by the Inspiration Vision Statement.
5. Support all middle and upper schools to sign up to this minimum standard.
6. YST to work with the Economic Growth, Skills and Regeneration Team to coordinate efforts with schools and providers for the coinciding Careers Week and Apprenticeship Week and ensure activities and opportunities are effectively communicated to all stakeholders, including schools, young people and families

Recommendation Two: Expand the apprenticeship programme to be available to all young people

Issues:

- The targets that inform the efforts of schools often do not accommodate the efforts of the local authority – in particular, schools-based targets often focus on the attainment of GCSEs, while CBC is tasked with identifying those young people at risk of becoming NEET – which may result in CBC and schools applying their limited resources on different young people, which could work against a coordinated approach to the educational needs of the youth population.
- 60% of young people who are NEET reside in the Houghton Regis, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard areas (identified as NEET 'hotspots').
- Systems in place to identify and support young people who are NEET are generally effective. However, maintaining current performance criteria when compared to regional, statistic and national performance measures remains challenging

Actions

1. Develop the 14-19 Strategy Group to identify areas of commonality between the efforts of schools, CBC and other partners in order to better inform joined-up working for the universal benefit of school-aged young people

Appendix 1

2. YST to review the provision of services to young people in 'hotspot' areas – to ensure neighbourhood needs are being effectively identified and met.
3. YST to develop a NEET Improvement Plan that informs efforts around 'Intended Destinations', 'September Guarantee', and the 'Activity Survey' – and maintains a focus on performance improvement
4. Expand the LAC apprenticeship scheme to be more widely available to 16-24 year olds
5. Develop the YST website to promote apprenticeship opportunities to both young people and prospective employers
6. YST to be trained to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to schools and young people.
7. Develop the RONI tool to identify those pre-16 young people who may be reluctant to participate in academic opportunities post-16, and promote apprenticeships to these young people

Recommendation Three: Positive Sexual and Relationship Education embedded from years 5/6

Issues:

- Facilities to promote Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) provision are becoming limited – particularly the work with young men
- A focus on early provision of emotional wellbeing support will encourage children and young people to increase their aspirations and contribute, and expect more from, their relationships
- Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) 'needs to be better' including from years 5/6 (Tier 1)
- Central Government have acknowledged the need for SRE provision to be updated and are happy for schools to engage with service providers ('experts') to develop services appropriate to their needs. In particular, the Sex Education Forum, the PSHE Association and Brook (a local provider in Central Bedfordshire) will soon be releasing new guidelines around teaching SRE
- As with many areas of preventative provision, it is difficult to definitively identify those young people at risk of being affected by teenage pregnancy (both as mothers and fathers). However, it is recognised that issues of low aspiration are common amongst those 'at risk'.
- It is felt that services are not delivered in a way that promotes confidentiality and this could increase the risk of teenage pregnancies
- Young people whose parents were themselves teenage parents are more likely to become teenage parents themselves

Actions

1. Review the priorities for SRE provision (YST and the Commissioning Team)
2. YST to work with Public Health to identify emotional wellbeing training for staff
3. YST to work with Public Health to secure emotional wellbeing support for children and young people, with a focus on the support and information needs of young men

Appendix 1

4. YST to work with young people to develop the YST website to promote services and advice for SRE
5. YST, the Commissioning Team, Public Health and schools to review current provision (the curriculum) of SRE and consider the forthcoming new recommendations
6. Develop the use of the YST Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) tool to target support to prevent teenage pregnancies – by identifying those young people with low aspirations.
7. YST and the Commissioning Team to work with Brook and schools to identify ways of promoting confidentiality in the delivery of SRE – this may include online booking systems for young people and improved signage/promotion.

Recommendation Four: Provide a wider variety of personalised and matched volunteering opportunities, including a balance of long term, short term and one day opportunities

Issues:

- The opportunity to volunteer should be better promoted to ensure the maximum number of young people are able to benefit from this positive activity

Actions

1. Gather testimonials of young people who have volunteered with the existing Volunteering providers – CVS in the north and VCA in the south of the Central Bedfordshire area.
2. Include a volunteering target in all new contracts (as applicable) with commissioned providers. For example, this could be a target of 3 young people per year involved in a substantive volunteering opportunity (e.g. V10 or V50); applicable contracts would include – not exclusively - youth work
3. Work with young people to develop the YST website to promote volunteering opportunities and successes

Recommendation Five: Improved and wider promotion of drug and alcohol services

Issues:

- There is a need to improve the promotion of provision in order to deliver better access to support and advice for those who need it.

Actions

1. YST to work with young people to develop the YST website to promote relevant services as well as healthy lifestyles and activities
2. Assess the quality and appropriateness of current promotional materials

Appendix 1

3. Work with the Commissioned Services team to review current provision

Recommendation Six: Increase in accessible housing for homeless young people

Issues:

- The availability of appropriate beds for young people at risk of homelessness is extremely limited
- Many young people who experience homelessness also lack the skills to live independently, such as budgeting and cooking
- The recent Homeless Link report – ‘Young and Homeless 2013’ established that:
 - a. The main cause of homelessness (nearly 50%) amongst young people is family breakdown to the point that parents no longer want the child at home
 - b. Around half of homeless young people are NEET
 - c. The needs of young homeless people are becoming increasingly complex – increasing the case for early intervention and prevention of family breakdown and young people becoming NEET – particularly in an environment of increasingly scarce resources

Actions

1. Establish a youth homelessness working group to explore opportunities for increased joined-up working to meet the complex vulnerabilities experienced by young people at risk/experiencing homelessness
 - a. This working group should involve relevant CBC services, public sector partners, VCS agencies and faith groups
2. Explore the pooling of resources across YST/CSC/Early Intervention to develop an independent living project to cater for children at risk of homelessness, as well as Looked After Children (LAC)
3. Explore the development of systemic models of practice in relevant CBC (including YST) and partner services to prevent family breakdown leading to youth homelessness
4. Explore Partnership Triage options for early partnership responses, information sharing and joint allocation of resources, before initial incidents (substance use / domestic violence / conflict / etc) escalate to family breakdown
5. Review Children’s Services (YST/Early Intervention/CSC) & Housing provision for 16 - 19 year olds deemed vulnerable
 - a. Can we define ‘sofa surfers’ as vulnerable?
 - b. Understand their education, training and employment needs and identify / define their barriers to participation and feed these into joint plans
 - c. Identify and track all homeless young people (including ‘sofa surfers’) and assess needs through YST – make referrals to commissioned providers / CSC / Troubled Families as appropriate. If developed, make referral through Partnership Triage (above) as a universal referral pathway that eradicates duplication / gaps in provision.
6. Raise awareness of the Bedfordshire Housing Link ‘Night Owl project’ street-based support offer to 18/19 year olds.

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Recommendation Seven: Improved promotion of Youth Work and Positive Activities

Issues:

- The offer is good but poorly promoted
- Provision is focussed on the younger age group (12-14)
- Issues with poor behaviour

Actions

1. Establish a design and implement group with young people to develop the YST website that effectively promotes provision in an engaging, youth appropriate manner
2. Design, alongside young people, consistent signage and promotional material, as well as a name, for youth work – develop a brand identity
3. Behaviour protocols to be developed and agreed by YST/providers and young people
4. Continue the roll out of ICT facilities at youth centres
5. Implement a building maintenance programme to encourage high quality provision and improve the esteem of services
6. Implement the 'In Defence of Youth Work' evidencing model* in future contracts.
7. In considerations for new commissioning models, YST to retain responsibility for defining and monitoring quality of provision in new contracts with youth service providers.
8. YST to develop a quality framework to be used in future delivery models
9. YST to support the formal relationship between the Youth Parliament, LAC's Children in Care Council, and other youth participation bodies in the Central Bedfordshire area

*In Defence of Youth Work is a UK Government backed model that enables the subjective nature of youth work to be evidenced over time by storyboarding the relationships, engagements and interactions between youth workers and the young people they support. In so doing, the 'distance travelled' by young people can be evidenced in ways that a strictly outcomes-based model of evaluation may not be able to accommodate.

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ACTION PLAN

The action plan below sets our response to each of the recommendations raised in the youth audit. There is also an additional recommendation that outlines the actions required in order to:

- Inform future Commissioning of services for young people
- Deliver a sustainable approach to the delivery of the youth audit in future years

The plan is monitored on a regular basis by the Youth Services Team and progress reported as requested to the appropriate groups.

Key;

YA – This action is to be presented to the Youth Auditors in response to their recommendations

Op – This action is to contribute to the operational work programme in the development of YST activities

Strat – This action is to inform the strategic activity of the Directorate and/or partnership

Recommendation 1	IAG minimum standards adopted in all middle and upper schools Youth Offer Theme – Information, Advice and Guidance			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Develop the YST website to provide information on IAG YA / Op / Strat	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	April 2014	YST met on 18/02/14 to progress work on the corporate youth site. However, ICT do not currently have capacity to deliver training that would enable the YST to update the CBC web pages. In addition, young people have stated they desire a standalone website. The challenge is to create something that appeals and engages young people, while also effectively promoting the work of YST / CBC to partners. A business case has been drafted to develop a ‘standalone’ website and other options have been explored, including a	Red

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			<p>joint site with the Children in Care Council.</p> <p>A clear case and plan for the website will be agreed by the end of May.</p>	
<p>Promote schools responsibility to secure impartial IAG services in all middle and upper schools YA / Op / Strat</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Rachel Felton / Peter Fraser / Schools</p>	<p>Sept 2014 (upper schools)</p>	<p>YST are working on the development of a 'Single Offer to Schools' from all partners that will include IAG, Public Health led PSHE and Economic Development. This work was delayed in line with anticipation of new statutory guidance on IAG from DfE.</p> <p>Promotion of the new Statutory Guidance (April 2014) has been delivered through the NEET Strategy Group (May 2014) and will be disseminated to all schools via the minutes. The work will now need to be prioritised by the revised 14-19 Strategy Group that will lead to partners in the development of a consistent approach to IAG and NEET provision.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Promote the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) tool for use in all middle and upper schools YA / Op</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Rachel Felton / Alex Szumski / Schools</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	<p>All Upper schools are aware of the RONI and it has been piloted in five Upper schools so far. All Upper schools will have received sample RONI reports by 31/03/14. So far feedback is mixed, with some schools clear that they have their own systems in place, while others see the RONI as adding something positive to their efforts</p> <p>All Upper Schools are now aware of the RONI and are utilising its potential to varying extents.</p> <p>It will be necessary to expand this to all Middle schools as this has been identified, locally, as a gap that misses out years 7/8 – this could then inform more tailored careers advice to these age groups. Contact is now underway</p>	<p>Green</p>

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<p>Engage all middle and upper schools and all relevant providers in establishing a minimum standard for IAG, based on DfE and Ofsted findings, particularly informed by the DfE Inspiration Vision Statement YA / Op / Strat</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Peter Fraser / Schools</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>Through the NEET Strategy Group, the YST has now identified partners to form a working group. This will build on efforts begun to build a universal/single offer to schools, and will engage schools in the development and maintenance of IAG minimum standards.</p> <p>Draft minimum standards have now been drawn up by YST in anticipation of a starting point for discussions with schools.</p>	<p>Red</p>
<p>Support all middle and upper schools to actively sign up to this minimum standard.</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Peter Fraser / Schools</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>Please see above</p>	<p>Red</p>
<p>YST to work with the Economic Growth, Skills and Regeneration Team to coordinate efforts with schools and providers for the coinciding Careers Week and Apprenticeship Week and ensure activities and opportunities are effectively communicated to all stakeholders, including schools, young people and families Op / Strat</p>	<p>YST/EGSR / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Peter Fraser / Lynn Davison / Donna Wilkinson</p>	<p>March 2014</p>	<p>This action was successfully delivered by all partners</p> <p>4 Road Show events were held during National Careers Week, coinciding with National Apprenticeship Week, across the county, highlighting opportunities and pathways</p> <p>Focussed events were held at Sandy, Redbourne, Vandyke, Samuel Whitbread, Harlington and Robert Broomfield Schools</p> <p>4YP and Groundwork delivered themed activities in youth clubs throughout the week to engage young people in considerations of career pathways</p>	<p>Green</p>

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Recommendation 2	Expand the apprenticeship programme to be available to all young people Youth Offer Theme – Information, Advice and Guidance			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Expand the LAC apprenticeship scheme to be more widely available to 16-24 year olds YA	Workforce Development / 4YP	Sept 2014	YST have met with Barbie Calvert in May 2014 and established that a Level 2 apprenticeship will become available in September 2014. This opportunity will not require GCSE English and Maths for entry.	Green
Develop the YST website to promote apprenticeship opportunities to both young people and prospective employers YA / Op / Strat	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	April 2014	As outlined in response to Recommendation 1	Red
Develop the RONI tool to identify those pre-16 young people who may be reluctant to participate in academic opportunities post-16, and promote apprenticeships to these young people YA / Op	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Rachel Felton / Alex Szumski / Schools / 4YP	June 2014	As outlined in response to Recommendation 1	Green
Develop the 14-19 Strategy Group to identify areas of commonality between the efforts of schools, CBC and partners in order to better inform joined-up working for the universal benefit of school-aged young people YA / Op / Strat	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Peter Fraser	Sept 2014	Draft Terms of Reference have been written and the Strategy Group is expected to meet in the Autumn Term. A date for the Strategy Group is yet to be agreed	Green

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YST to review the provision of services to young people in 'hotspot' areas – to ensure neighbourhood needs are being effectively identified and met Op	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Jason Roth-Witty / Lisa Wright	June 2014	This action will be met through a broader 'mapping' exercise looking into the 'offer' to schools / the spread of learning and training providers / the provision of youth work across the county. Work has already begun on these three strands and stakeholders have been contacted Part of these strategies is expected to call for neighbourhood profiles for each area in which commissioned services are required. These profiles will inform commissioning decisions	Amber
YST to be trained to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to schools and young people Op	Jackie Squire/ Rachel Felton	January 2014	Completed – YST Officers have attended this training and it is now being implemented in practice	Green
YST to develop a NEET Improvement Plan that informs efforts around 'Intended Destinations', 'September Guarantee', and the 'Activity Survey' – and maintains a focus on performance improvement Op	YST / Jackie Squire / Tracey Smith	February 2014	NEET Improvement Plan is in place and is being regularly reviewed and monitored.	Green

Recommendation 3	Positive Sexual and Relationship Education embedded from years 5/6 Youth Offer Theme – Thematic Youth Support			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
YST to work with Public Health to identify emotional wellbeing training for staff YA / Op	Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Public Health	June 2014	Children's Services commission a service from CHUMS to deliver tier 1 awareness raising and training. An e-learning training package is provided by Central Beds LSCB. However, staff have not yet been able to access training and	Amber

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			<p>there is a lack of clarity re access requirements.</p> <p>There is also a CAMHS strategy currently being developed to identify clear pathways to access services for professionals, parents and young people.</p>	
<p>Review the priorities for SRE and positive relationship education provision (YST and the Commissioning Team) YA / Op</p>	<p>YST / Commissioning Team / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Paula Fleming</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>Provision for years 5 and 6 is not compulsory and so delivery is inconsistent and patchy – with some schools not delivering this at all to this age group.</p> <p>Public Health chaired a meeting of the PSHE Network on 26/02/14 to develop SRE / PSHE in schools. A launch event is planned for June 2014 and this network aims to improve provision across the county</p> <p>The Sex Education Forum has developed a template that is currently being disseminated to all schools which will inform provision</p> <p>Public Health meeting with Schools on 26/06/14 to recommend the use of the Sexual Health Forum curriculum</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>YST to work with Public Health to secure emotional wellbeing support for children and young people, with a focus on the support and information needs of young men YA / Op</p>	<p>Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Public Health</p>	<p>Sept 2014</p>	<p>The CHUMS and Talk Time services are based on self-referrals and delivered through commissioned providers (Relate and Sorted)</p> <p>However, there is an acknowledgement that work is needed to promote these services to target young men specifically – who may be less inclined to access support of this nature.</p> <p>Aspire is commissioned by Early Help and Public Health to deliver intensive programmes that promote emotional wellbeing and aim to help young people reach their potential through improved educational attainment and attendance. The programmes aim to build the self esteem and confidence of young people across years 8 and 9 and are targeted at</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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			<p>'hotspot' areas such as Houghton Regis and Dunstable</p> <p>Significantly, a conscious decision has been made to deliver separate provision for boys and girls</p>	
<p>YST to work with young people to develop the YST website to promote services and advice for SRE YA / Op</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Young People</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>As outlined in response to Recommendation 1</p> <p>YST have met with Public Health in order to improve young people's input into commissioning</p> <p>A new website on sexual health for young people was launched on 01/03/14 with new branding called 'Sex in Beds'</p> <p>Young people have informed the development of this online information service</p> <p>Promotion will be tied into a re-launch of the 'C-Card' access to contraception facility</p>	<p>Red</p>
<p>YST, the Commissioning Team, Public Health and schools to review current provision (the curriculum) of SRE and consider the forthcoming new recommendations from The Sex Education Forum, the PSHE Association and Brook – when published YA / Op</p>	<p>YST / Commissioning Team / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Paula Fleming / Public Health / Schools</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	<p>This work is ongoing and is part of a national agenda to have local provision informed by 'experts'.</p> <p>In addition, last year, Public Health reviewed and audited PSHE and SRE provision across middle and upper schools to check consistency and quality. A Steering Group for this PSHE Network has been established and Terms of Reference drafted in order to improve support to schools and map provision</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Develop the use of the YST Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) tool to target support and identify those young people at</p>	<p>YST / Youth Commissioning Manager / Alex Szumski /</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	<p>As outlined in response to Recommendation 1</p> <p>On Hold – the priority within YST is to establish the RONI as a NEET preventative tool. Further work will be required to</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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<p>risk of being affected by teenage pregnancies – by identifying those young people with low aspirations. YA / Op</p>	<p>Jackie Squire / Paula Fleming</p>		<p>establish its use as a more general prevention tool – or indeed to explore broader approaches to prevention</p> <p>There is a Teenage Pregnancy Risk Assessment Tool which Paul Olaitan will distribute to YST</p>	
<p>YST and the Commissioning Team to work with Brook to identify ways of promoting confidentiality in the delivery of SRE – this may include online booking systems for young people and improved signage/promotion YA / Op</p>	<p>YST / Commissioning Team / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Paula Fleming / Brook / Public Health</p>	<p>June 2014</p>	<p>There is an acknowledgement by Brook that confidentiality is a challenge in their school-based drop in centres, as capacity does not allow for provision during break times, so children have to ask to be excused during lesson times.</p> <p>However, other Brook provision delivered in non-school spaces are confidential – more publicity is needed to promote these services</p> <p>There is also an acknowledgement that services should continue to be delivered in schools as this makes them accessible to some of the most vulnerable young people who could perhaps struggle to access off-site services (perhaps due to transport or other issues). This is also seen as a way of challenging the stigma often associated with SRE services – an attempt to keep them mainstream</p> <p>So a mix of school-based and off-site provision is required to meet the diverse needs of young people</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>Recommendation 4</p>	<p>Provide a wider variety of personalised and matched volunteering opportunities, including a balance of long term, short term and one day opportunities Youth Offer Theme – Youth Work and Positive Activities</p>			
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>Deadline</p>	<p>Progress to date and next steps</p>	<p>RAG rating</p>
<p>Work with young people to develop the YST website to</p>	<p>YST / Youth Services</p>	<p>April 2014</p>	<p>As outlined in response to Recommendation 1</p>	<p>Red</p>

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promote volunteering opportunities and successes YA / Op	Commissioning Manager / Young People			
Include a volunteering target in all new contracts (as applicable) with commissioned providers. For example, this could be a target of 3 young people per year involved in a substantive volunteering opportunity (e.g. V10 or V50); applicable contracts would include – not exclusively - youth work YA / Op	YST / CVS / VCA	March 2015	To be considered in the new commissioning/procurement programme currently being developed by YST	Green
Gather testimonials of young people who have volunteered with the existing Volunteering providers – CVS in the north and VCA in the south of the Central Bedfordshire area YA / Op	YST / CVS / VCA	Sept 2014	Case studies are already provided as part of the quarterly monitoring process. Information from these can be integrated into the new YST website (when completed) to assist with the promotion of volunteering in Central Bedfordshire	Green

Recommendation 5	Improved and wider promotion of drug and alcohol services Youth Offer Theme – Thematic Youth Support			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress to Date and Next Steps	RAG Rating
YST to work with young people to develop the YST website to promote relevant services as well as healthy lifestyles and	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	April 2014	As outlined in response to Recommendation 1	Red

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activities				
YA / Op				
Assess the quality and appropriateness of current promotional materials	Young people / YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Commissioning Team ./ Providers	Sept 2014	The main drugs and alcohol commission has been awarded to Plan B with a re-focus on Tier 1 delivery in schools to promote preventative education. This includes a requirement to develop new promotional materials.	Green
YA / Op				
Work with Commissioned Services to review current provision	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Commissioning Team / Paula Fleming / Providers including Plan B	Sept 2014	The main drugs and alcohol commission has been awarded to Plan B with a re-focus on Tier 1 delivery in schools to promote preventative education. This commission will be monitored through a new performance management schedule that will look at, for example, the numbers of young people who have received an assembly in school YST Senior Youth Workers have met with Public Health to look into commissioning priorities for substance misuse provision	Green
YA / Op				

Recommendation 6	Increase in accessible housing for homeless young people Youth Offer Theme – Targeted Youth Support			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Explore the pooling of resources across YST/CSC/Early Intervention to develop an independent living project to cater for children at risk of homelessness, as well	Peter Fraser / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / CSC	March 2015	Work yet to begin	N/A

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as Looked After Children (LAC) Strat				
Establish a youth homelessness working group to explore opportunities for increased joined-up working to meet the complex vulnerabilities experienced by young people at risk of/experiencing homelessness - This working group should involve relevant CBC services, public sector partners, VCS agencies and faith groups Strat	Peter Fraser/ Youth Services Commissioning Manager	March 2015	Work yet to begin	N/A
Explore the development of systemic models of practice in relevant CBC (including YST) and partner services to prevent family breakdown leading to youth homelessness Strat	Peter Fraser / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	March 2015	Work yet to begin	N/A
Explore Partnership Triage options for early partnership responses, information sharing and joint allocation of resources, before initial incidents (substance use / domestic violence / conflict / etc) escalate to family breakdown	Peter Fraser / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	March 2015	Work yet to begin	N/A

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Strat				
<p>Review Children’s Services (YST/Early Intervention/CSC) & Housing provision for 16 - 19 year olds deemed vulnerable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we define ‘sofa surfers’ as vulnerable? • Understand their education, training and employment needs and identify / define their barriers to participation and feed these into joint plans • Identify and track all homeless young people (including ‘sofa surfers’) and assess needs N/A through YST – make referrals to commissioned providers / CSC / Supported Families as appropriate. If developed, make referrals through Partnership Triage (‘The Hub’) (above) as a universal referral pathway that eradicates duplication / gaps in provision 	<p>Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Peter Fraser / Fiona Side / Sacha Rymell</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	<p>Work yet to begin</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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YA / Strat				
Raise awareness of the Bedfordshire Housing Link 'Night Owl project' street-based support offer to 18/19 year olds. Op (HPU)	Homeless Persons' Unit	April 2014	YST have discussed this with Housing on 26/02/14 and emailed this action, as requested on 26/02/14	Green

Recommendation 7	Improved promotion of Youth Work and Positive Activities Youth Offer Theme – Youth Work and Positive Activities			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress to Date and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Establish a design and implement group with young people to develop the YST website that effectively promotes provision in an engaging, youth appropriate manner – this work to mirror the efforts being made through the Children in Care Council website project YA / Op	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Young People	April 2014	As outlined in response to Recommendation 1	Red
Design, alongside young people, consistent signage and promotional material, as well as a name, for youth work – develop a brand identity Op	Corporate Comms / YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Jason Roth-Witty / Lisa Wright	March 2015	Please see response to Recommendation 1 – The approach will need consistency with the website development	Red
Behaviour protocols to be developed and agreed by YST/providers and young	YST / Youth Services Commissioning	Sept 2014	Providers have now developed behaviour protocols. However, there remain issues of consistency which YST will continue to monitor through the inspection and monitoring	Green

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people YA / Op	Manager / Jason Roth- Witty / Lisa Wright / commissioned youth work providers		systems	
Continue the roll out of ICT facilities at youth centres Op	YST / Jackie Squire	June 2014	Ongoing - Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard youth clubs have now been fitted with Broadband - Arlesey, Sandy and Bedford Square are in the process of being fitted New Computer equipment has been ordered for all of these centres.	Green
Implement a building maintenance programme to encourage high quality provision and improve the esteem of services Op	Peter Fraser / Jackie Squire	March 2015	Work no yet underway	N/A
Implement the 'In Defence of Youth Work' evidencing model in future contracts* http://indefenceofyouthwork.com/the-stories-project/ http://indefenceofyouthwork.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/20252-youth-stories-report-2011_4th-1.pdf	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Providers / Jason Roth-Witty / Lisa Wright	March 2015	New commissioning strategies are currently being developed	Green

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Op				
In consideration for new commissioning models, YST to retain responsibility for defining and monitoring quality of provision in new contracts with youth service providers Op	Peter Fraser / Youth Services Commissioning Manager	March 2015	New commissioning strategies are currently being developed	Green
YST to develop a quality framework to be used in future delivery models Op	YST / Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Jason Roth-Witty / Lisa Wright	March 2015	This is being developed within the new commissioning strategy currently being completed by YST	Green
YST to support the formal relationship between the Youth Parliament, LAC's Children in Care Council, and other youth participation bodies in the Central Bedfordshire area Op	Youth Services Commissioning Manager / Jason Roth-Witty / Lisa Wright / Paul Andrews	Sept 2014	A model integrating all youth participation bodies has been developed by YST. This model will now need be formalised with the Youth Parliament and promoted across Central Bedfordshire	Amber

Recommendation	To ensure that findings of the youth audit influence future commissioning of services for young people			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Youth Audit recommendations and report to be sent out to prospective tenders during the commissioning cycle	YST	March 2015	To be included in the tendering process for new contracts beginning in April 2015	Green

Recommendation	To ensure that there is a sustainable approach to deliver future audits of the youth offer			
Actions	Lead	Deadline	Progress and Next Steps	RAG Rating
Interview skills and probing	YST / Lisa	Sept 2014	Current and on-going	Green

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techniques to form the basis of future Youth Parliament training Strat	Wright / Jason Roth-Witty			
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Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 June 2014

Subject: Update on the usage of the Disability Hubs

Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services

Summary: This report sets out the social care actions which have taken place since the implementation of the Disability Hub and Spoke model.

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

Contact Officer: Ken Harvey, Head of Service – Children with Disabilities

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Protecting Vulnerable Children

- Early help and improving life chances

Financial:

1. There are no new financial implications identified at this stage. The potential costs of the transformation to meet the new requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 (SEND) are not clear. Efficiencies of £200k are identified for the service in the 2014/15. These will be met by the planned increase in use of local provision and a reduction in short break transport costs.

Legal:

2. There are no Legal issues arising from the report.

Risk Management:

3. There are issues with the parking capacity on the East Hub site which is limiting the potential of what can be achieved. This has been raised through the Opportunities in Biggleswade work. In the short term a discussion has taken place with Property and Assets which identified the risks that the parking pose and an action plan is being taken forward to address these.
4. Costs for the implementation of the new legislation are not clear and therefore have not been included in 2014/2015 CWD forecast. The social care element of the single plan will be enforceable. This has been raised as a budget pressure.
5. The implementation of the new legislation reaches beyond the Children with Disabilities Service to all Children's Services operational teams and to Adult Services in Health and Social Care. There will also be an implication for Leisure Services and Corporate Services in that their services are in the offer being placed on the Council's website

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. There may be implications for changed roles of some staff in the proposed changes to the short break services and in the wider agenda of the SEND reforms

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. There are no Equalities/Human Rights issues arising from the report.

Community Safety:

8. There are no Community Safety issues arising from the report.

Sustainability:

9. There are no sustainability issues arising from the report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report.

Background

10. The independent review of services for Children with Disabilities commissioned in July 2011, reported on its findings, made recommendations and proposals about how services could be better coordinated and delivered in the future.
11. In January 2012 the Council's Executive agreed the implementation of a hub and Spoke Model for the Children with Disabilities Service. A reminder of the vision for the hubs is outlined in Appendix B.
12. The reconfiguration of social work service delivery through the hub and spoke model highlighted the need for the existing children with disabilities social care services to be remodelled/relocated to support the hub and spoke functions
13. The Children with Disabilities service has to be appropriately positioned with partner agencies to enable the delivery of the single assessment and single plan by September 2014.

Ivel Valley Hub – Biggleswade

14. Construction work on the East Hub (Biggleswade) was completed in September 2012. The hub was designed to accommodate social work staff, training and support facilities for families and activities for children and young people. There is a joint working agreement in place with Ivel Valley School with a focus on integrated approaches.
15. To date the working arrangements have been successful in delivering some integrated working for individual children and families, a range of training to parents and joint training with social care staff (see Appendix A).
16. There has been improved practice in seamless care planning for children attending Ivel Valley School. This has been achieved as the relationships between the school and social care staff develop and through an understanding of how the children function in different environments.
17. Welfare benefits advice is available to parents during the school day once a month.
18. Health colleagues are considering the possible transfer of clinics from Bedford to the Hub. This will reduce travelling time for parents and the time children spend out of school. Monthly service planning meetings are taking place between the Head of Service for Children with Disabilities and a Children's Commissioning Manager from the Health Service Clinical Commissioning Group

19. A monthly drop in clinic takes place at the East Hub. Parents and carers of disabled children (0 -19) are able to attend without an appointment to discuss seek advice, information and support on matter arising from sleep, behaviour, toileting and Early Support. Discussions are taking place to ensure that the same service will be available from the South Hub from September 2014

Chiltern Hub - Dunstable

20. In November 2012 the design and planning was undertaken for the South Hub (Dunstable). There were some delays in the project being taken forward. Construction work began in May 2103 with a completion date of 1 September 2013.
21. The social work team and the Community Support Team moved in to the premises in January 2014. The activities have been transferred from Poppies and the building at Aspley Guise has been released back to Aragon Housing.
22. The site offers the opportunity to work with the Home Start Team, Early Years Support Service (managed by Chiltern School) and the Downside Neighbourhood Centre.
23. A plan is being developed to ensure that children and families are well supported throughout the summer holiday period through a range of activities for disabled children, siblings and parents. This will give parents and carers the opportunity to drop in for informal support at a time when the pressures are high for many families. The planning was informed by parent feedback following a Chocolate Tea Party run by the South Hub team for families as part of a recent charity event.
24. Learning from the development of the East Hub is being incorporated into the planning of the South Hub activities
25. More detail on the activity of the Hubs is in Appendix A.

Governance and Consultation

26. On completion of the Disability Review the work was transferred to be incorporated into the work of the Support and Aspiration Group. This officer and partner group plans the implementation of the Children and Family Act, the provision of which starts to come into law from September 2014.
27. The development of the services is also governed by the regulations set out in Ofsted minimum standards and framework schedules.

28. The transformation of services contributes to the Children and Families Act 2014 (SEND) where a local authority must ensure integration promotes the well being of children or young people in its area who have SEND. The service will also contribute to the single assessment/planning process (Education, Health and Care plan). The transformation will contribute to the work of 'The (0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice'

Next Steps

- 29.
- June 2014: Consultation with Short Break staff.
 - June 2014: Redesign of short break programme in partnership with disabled children, young people, their parents and carers. This will be partly informed by the questionnaire completed by parents in preparation for the Council's Local Offer within the SEND reforms
 - May - March 2014: Improve the data to evidence use and costs of service and inform future commissioning for disabled children and their families
 - May – September 2014: Develop the workforce and services to enable delivery of the single assessment/single plan from September 2014.
 - May – September 2014: Implement the actions arising from the 7 Support and Aspiration workstreams (See Appendix C
30. Other development work in progress:
- Participation in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Learning Disability Review to improve the early intervention and help for children and families
 - Discussion with the Area Special Schools on the future development of integrated hubs to support disabled children and their families.
 - Integration of the 'No Limits' sport programme in to the short breaks offer.
 - Working with Social Care, Health and Housing to discuss how we improve transition processes through the hub model

Appendices:

Appendix A – East Hub Activities delivered in February 2013 – May 2014

Appendix B – Vision for the Hubs

Appendix C – Support and Aspiration Workstreams

Background Papers:

Children and Families Act 2014

Indicative Draft (The 0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2013

Concordat: Programme of action (Winterbourne Review 2012)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Central Bedfordshire Children's Services Social Care Quality Assurance Framework 2013

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

Appendix A

East Hub Activities delivered in Feb 2013 – May 2014.

The facility has allowed regular meetings / liaison between CWD and Ivel Valley resulting in close inter-agency working. Where appropriate the services are offered via the school curriculum/outreach so as to promote the universal approach.

Meetings:

- Support LAC / CIN meetings or CAMHS Learning Disability Team input

Parent / carer support:

- Ivel Valley Parent / Carer Forum established - stakeholder meeting held.
- Joint monthly coffee mornings for parents/pre-school children established with Carers in Beds. The meetings offer advice, support and relaxation for families
- Link established with The Avenue, an independent support group for parents and carers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders based in Biggleswade
- Drop in clinics supported by Health (SEPT)
- Playgroup for parents who have a preschool child with cerebral palsy

Parent / carer training:

- Parent Puzzle (The Lawns Nursery)
- Behaviour workshop (1,2,3 magic)
- Signalong training
- Early Years Support Service (EYSS) Parent Workshops
- Joint Autism training pilot for parents / carers/ social workers between Ivel Valley & CWD planned for summer term 2014

Training opportunities for professionals:

- Team Teach - basic & advanced training
- Signalong - joint approach with teachers and social care staff
- MOVE training for school staff + some health staff - The MOVE Programme is an integrated, multi-agency (Education, Health, Social Care) approach for children and adults with physical disabilities and/or complex needs.
- Autism awareness training (local schools)
- Early Years Support Service Workshops
- School inset day attended by the Social Work Team, CAMH Learning Disability Clinical Counselling Psychologist and Local Authority Designated Officer. The day included the revisiting of the vision for joint working and improving outcomes
- Residential and Social work staff training on the engagement and involvement of disabled children and young people in decisions which affect their lives.

Community projects / events:

- McMillan coffee morning
- Children in Need events
- Comic Relief Day
- 'Santa's Grotto' – community project by Stratton School pupils
- Maythorn/Community Support Christmas party
- Various school events

South Hub development Jan – May14:

- Further development of services previously delivered from Poppies
- Discussion with Carers in Beds to deliver Carer Support from the Hub from September 2014
- Drop in clinics from September 2014
- Joint Management meetings with Chiltern School team
- Support and activity programme for the summer holiday 2014

Appendix **B**

Vision for the Hubs

- To deliver holistic services to disabled children, young people and their families linked to the Area Special Schools.
- Engage partners in the vision/working together to make a difference.
- Form strong partnerships which harness the skills of knowledge of the whole workforce
- Plan and develop services in co – production with children, young people and their families
- Provide specialist advice and information service to professionals, parents / carers, young people, local communities and support groups
- Increase the range of activities to support disabled children and their families
- Links to universal provision, e.g. leisure and social opportunities, extended schools, youth work / clubs etc.
- Improved links with health services.
- Avoid duplication and promote efficient ways of working

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Appendix C

Support and Aspiration Workstreams

The following workstreams support the Councils response to the Children and Families Act 2014 regarding the SEND reforms set out in Chapter 3:

1. Engagement and Involvement of parent/carers in co-production of ways of working and the development of a strategy for SEN that achieves the aims of the project into the future
2. Engagement and Involvement of children and young people
3. Improving outcomes for all (Early Identification, Intervention and Prevention) and developing the Single Assessment and Plan (Education, Health and Care Plan).
4. Develop the Local Offer
5. Transition from childhood to adulthood
6. Develop an approach to joint commissioning
7. Integration of Health.

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 June 2014
Subject: Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Richard Carr, Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be detailed in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

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 relevant items of 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.**

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. Appended is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

3. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish 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.

Executive Forward Plan

4. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee’s terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive’s Forward Plan to ensure Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. The full Executive Forward plan can be viewed on the Council’s website at the link at the end of this report.

Ref	Issue	Indicative Exec Meeting date
1.	Children’s Homes Contract	15 July 2014
2.	Considerations of representations received to statutory notices published for proposals to close Brewers Hill Community Middle School, Streetfield Community Middle School and Ashton CofE VA Middle Schools in August 2016	19 August 2014
3.	Developing the early intervention offer	23 September 2014

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. 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.

Appendix – Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Background reports:

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council’s website) at the following link:-

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

Appendix A: Children's Services OSC Work Programme (2014/15)

OSC date	Report Title	Description
07 May 2014	Schools in Dunstable	To receive a presentation regarding the proposals to change schools in Dunstable prior to Executive on 27 May 2014
17 June 2014	Youth Audit/Action Plan	To receive feedback in relation to progress of implementing the plan
17 June 2014	Teaching School	To receive a progress report in relation to the teaching school
17 June 2014	Disability Hubs	To receive feedback on usage of the Disability Hubs
22 July 2014	Schools in Dunstable	To consider the outcome of consultation in relation to proposals for three Dunstable schools.
22 July 2014	Update on schools curriculum including maths and English	In light of a previous Member request to receive an update in relation to the schools curriculum.
22 July 2014	Children's Trust Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Children's Trust
22 July 2014	Q4 Performance reporting	To consider performance monitoring information for the fourth quarter of 2013/14
22 July 2014	Q4 Budget reporting	To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the fourth quarter of 2013/14
16 September 2014	Adoption, Fostering and Private Fostering Annual Reports	To receive the annual report of the Adoption, Fostering and Private Fostering Panels
16 September 2014	Impact on children of living in family circumstances of domestic abuse/ domestic violence	To receive an update on the Committee's previously agreed recommendations in relation to this topic.
16 September 2014	Schools Exclusions	To consider a review of the Council's policies in relation to school exclusions
11 November 2014	LSCB Annual Report	To receive the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board
11 November 2014	Annual Resilience Report	To receive the annual report of the schools resilience forum
11 November 2014	Customer Feedback Annual Report	To receive an annual report regarding customer feedback in relation to the Children's Services directorate
11 November 2014	Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the first quarter of 2014/15
11 November 2014	Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring	To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the first quarter of 2014/15
12 December 2014	Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2014/15
12 December 2014	Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring	To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the second quarter of 2014/15
20 January 2015	Council's Admission Arrangements for 2016/17	To consider the Council's arrangements for 2016/17
20 January 2015	Draft Capital Programme – 2015/16 to 2018/19	To receive the directorate's relevant budget information.
20 January 2015	Draft Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19	To receive the directorate's relevant budget information.
20 January 2015	Draft Fees and Charges	To receive the directorate's relevant fees and charges information.
10 March 2015	Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2014/15
10 March 2015	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	To receive a presentation regarding the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2014/15

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