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**Meeting:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 14 July 2009  
**Subject:** Children, Families and Learning Policy Development  
**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning

**Summary:** The report provides an introduction to the key issues and challenges facing the Council and an opportunity to discuss how we can work together to achieve the best results for residents.

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**Advising Officer:** Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children, Families and Learning  
**Contact Officer:** Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. that the report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children, Families and Learning be noted**
- 2. that members' views of the suggested Work Programme be shared, such that they can be reflected in future reports**

**Introduction to Children, Families and Learning Directorate**

1. This is the first meeting of the Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Central Bedfordshire Council. As such, it is an opportunity to discuss why and how we undertake the work that we do. It will illustrate the extent of the impact of these services on children, young people and their families.
2. As a new Unitary Council, Central Bedfordshire brings together a range of functions, some of which will be new to officers and members. Jointly developing a depth of knowledge and understanding will enable Overview and Scrutiny members to complement the work of the Executive by guiding policy and enhancing that impact.

3. The Children, Families and Learning Directorate comprises five teams led by Assistant Directors:
  - Children's Specialist Services – Martin Pratt
  - Learning and Schools – Patrick Shevlin
  - Culture and Community Services – Roy Waterfield
  - Integrated Services – Glen Denham
  - Policy, Planning and Commissioning – Sylvia Gibson (Interim)

### **The Directorate's aim**

4. We want every child to be safe, healthy and successful in education and employment and make a positive contribution to society. In particular, we will support children to be ambitious and have high aspirations. In doing this, the Directorate will contribute significantly to the achievement of the Council's Vision and the delivery of its priorities.

### **The Directorate Planning Framework**

5. The Policy Framework is referred to in Section 9.

There are two key plans: The Children and Young People's Plan and the Cultural Strategy.

### **The Directorate Priorities**

6. The remit of the Directorate is especially broad. It is therefore appropriate to establish high level service priorities. For 2009/10 these are:
  - Produce a Children and Young People's Plan that will respond to the needs of children, young people and their parents and carers.
  - Produce a Cultural Strategy.
  - Establish and develop our Children and Young People's Trust.
  - Produce a Strategy for Change to transform learning and raise achievement.
  - Produce a child poverty strategy.
  - Develop strategic joint commissioning, procurement, quality assurance and contract performance.
  - Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing smoking and childhood obesity and increasing physical activity and healthy eating.
  - Review and refocus our provision for pupils with special educational needs.
  - Continue to protect children and young people from harm by:
    - providing a co-ordinated and effective safeguarding process;
    - disaggregating the joint Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) with Bedford Borough and establishing an LSCB for Central Bedfordshire by April 2010.

- Improve early identification of and intervention with, vulnerable young people.
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.
- Increase opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being
- Develop locally based services to improve outcomes for children and their families
- Develop the workforce so that all staff working with children are able to develop their skills and work together to support families.
- Develop a locality approach to reducing the number of young people Not in Employment Education or training,
- Work with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities.

7. Our major projects are:

#### **Business Transformation**

- Transforming teaching and learning, i.e. BSF & Transformation of Learning
- Delivery of services in the locality
- The Children's Trust i.e. pooling resources and activity with partners

#### **Business Improvement**

- Accommodation – efficiency of use
- ICT and Governance – establishing good systems
- Workforce Development – meeting statutory responsibilities

#### **Strategic Context**

8. The Council's Vision is to improve the quality of life of all in Central Bedfordshire, and enhance the unique character of our communities and our environment. Children are one of the Council's top five corporate priorities.
9. The Children Act 2004 requires that all local authorities with a children's services responsibility should make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people in the area. Central Bedfordshire Children's Trust partners are working to create a vision for the new Children's Trust. It is already clear from early work with Trust partners that our shared focus is on educating, protecting, and providing opportunities for children and young people.

10. The Children's Trust has endorsed the following Local Area Agreement indicators. These are key priorities for the Children and Young People Plan for which the Trust will be accountable to the Local Strategic Partnership:
  - a. NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services (Be Healthy Delivery Group);
  - b. NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 (Be Healthy Delivery Group);
  - c. NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities (Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group) ;
  - d. NI 115 Substance misuse by young people (Be Healthy Delivery Group); and
  - e. NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Achieve Economic Well-being Delivery Group).
11. The LAA targets are attached at Appendix A.
12. In addition, a high number of the indicators in the Government's National Indicator Set are the lead responsibility of the Children's Trust.
13. The Children Families and Learning Directorate is subject to a new Ofsted inspection regime. An Annual performance rating for children's services will contribute to the Comprehensive Area Assessment organisational assessment. There will be a new programme for inspecting safeguarding through annual unannounced inspections of contact, assessment and referral centres for children's social care, and three-yearly full inspections of safeguarding and services for looked after children. There will be a separate inspection of Youth Offending.
14. There will be a new performance profile of outcomes in the Council's area using Ofsted inspection outcomes, the National Indicator Set and direct observation of practice. It will be reviewed quarterly and be web based.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

15. In terms of our context, 49,200 of our children are under 16 (19.3% of the population); 26,800 (10.5%) are aged 16-24. By 2021 it is forecast that there will be about 2,000 more children aged under 16. 27% of children in Central Bedfordshire live in low income families and 12% live in workless families. We know that children from poorer backgrounds are doing less well.

16. The health of our children and young people compares well with the East of England, and to England as a whole. Children's social care performance is stable. Achievement across the age range from Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage 4 is above national averages. None of our schools is in an Ofsted category of concern. We are on track to have 100% of extended services in schools by 2010. The percentage of school leavers going on to higher education is above the regional and national average. NEET figures are positive at 5.9%. We have a high performing Youth Offending Service shared with Bedford Borough.
17. The Directorate priorities outlined in paragraph 3 above provide a clear view of what needs to be done to build on our baseline. A key challenge for us will be to demonstrate our achievement in relation to our statistical neighbours. Our closest demographic neighbours for Children's Services are:
  - Hampshire
  - West Berkshire
  - Essex
  - Hertfordshire
  - Cheshire East
  - Bracknell Forest
  - South Gloucestershire
  - Warwickshire
  - Leicestershire
  - Solihull

**Suggested Work Programme – Children, Families and Learning Overview :  
Scrutiny Committee**

18. The suggested Work Programme for Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix B) will reflect the Policy Framework. (Appendix C).
19. At this first meeting, members are invited to give direction to officers on the development of the Work Programme.

| <b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>  |
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| <p><b>Council Priorities:</b><br/>See the main report for details of how CFL Policy Development is expected to impact on Council priorities.</p> <p><b>Financial:</b><br/>None</p> <p><b>Legal:</b><br/>None</p> |

**Risk Management:**

None

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None

**Community Safety:**

None

**Sustainability:**

None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – LAA Targets

Appendix B – Suggested work programme for Overview and Scrutiny

Appendix C – Policy Framework for Children Families and Learning

## Appendix A: LAA Targets

| Indicator  | Baseline – 2007/8  | LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *) |         |         | Partners who have signed-up to the target   |
|--|--------------------|---|---------|---------|---|
| SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE   |                    | 2008/09   | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |   |
| <b>NI 51</b><br>Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services DCSF DSO      | 11                 | 13*   | 15*     | 16*     | NHS Bedfordshire<br>Central Bedfordshire Council<br>Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health Trust  |
| <b>Lead Partner:</b><br>NHS Bedfordshire   |                    |   |         |         |   |
| <b>NI 56</b><br>Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 DCSF DSO                       | 13.7%<br>(2006/07) | 13.6%*  | 13.5%*  | 13.4%*  | NHS Bedfordshire<br>Central Bedfordshire Council  |
| <b>Lead Partner:</b><br>NHS Bedfordshire   |                    |   |         |         |   |
| <b>NI 110</b><br>Young people's participation in positive activities PSA 14                        | 73.9%              | N/A   | 77.9*   | 82.9%*  | Central Bedfordshire Council<br>Bedfordshire Police<br>Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service                                   |
| <b>Lead Partner:</b><br>Central Bedfordshire Council   |                    |   |         |         |   |
| <b>NI 115</b><br>Substance misuse by young people  | 13.3%              | N/A   | 11.8%*  | 9.3%*   | Central Bedfordshire Council<br>NHS Bedfordshire<br>Bedfordshire Police   |
| <b>Lead Partner:</b><br>Central Bedfordshire Council   |                    |   |         |         |   |
| <b>NI 117</b><br>16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) PSA 14 | 6.1%               | 5.8%*<br>(countywide)   | 5.6%*   | 5.0%*   | Central Bedfordshire Council<br>Learning & Skills Council<br>Bedford College<br>Dunstable College<br>Education Business Partnership |
| <b>Lead Partner:</b><br>Central Bedfordshire Council   |                    |   |         |         |   |

**Appendix B – Suggested Work Programme for Children Families & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2009 - 2010**

| <b>Ref</b> | <b>Report Title</b>  | <b>Issue to be considered</b>   | <b>Indicative Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Dates</b> | <b>Contact and Closing Date</b>            |
|------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1          | Director's Overview  | Item for information to give an overview of the functions, issues and performance of Children Families and Learning Directorate for members   | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2009                            | Director of Children Families and Learning |
| 2          | LSCB Governance Arrangements   | To provide members with an overview of the governance arrangements for the Local Safeguarding Children Board  | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2009                            | AD Specialist Services                     |
| 3          | Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Transforming Teaching and Learning in Central Bedfordshire | This report sets out the background to the BSF programme and outlines the early stages of the work of the Learning Transformation Board. It also outlines initial arrangements for gathering information and views from headteachers and chairs of governors about improving the way we organise school places; develop innovative curricula; manage transition and ensure that schools are at the centre of communities in Central Bedfordshire. | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2009                            | AD Learning and Schools                    |
| 4          | Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership Trust report  | Presentation on the future configuration of the Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership Trust.   | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2009                            | Director of Children Families and Learning |
| 5          | Children and Young People's Plan   | The CYPP sets the strategic vision and commissioning framework within which partners will, together or individually, ensure delivery of services which improve outcomes for children and young people and families in the area. Members will receive a report on the priorities and the priorities within the plan for their comments.  | 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2009                          | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning       |
| 6          | Performance report Q1  | The quarterly performance report  | 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2009                          | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning       |
| 7          | Social Care item   |   | 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009                        | AD Specialist Services                     |
| 8          | Safeguarding update  |   | 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009                        | AD Specialist Services                     |



| Ref | Report Title  | Issue to be considered   | Indicative Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Dates | Contact and Closing Date             |
|-----|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 9   | JSNA  | Update on the progress of the JSNA   | 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2009                 | AD Specialist Services               |
| 10  | Lord Laming Action Plan including non-regulated safeguarding policies | This report sets out the how Central Bedfordshire is responding to the recommendations set out within the Lord Laming report including the arrangements for safeguarding within non-regulated functions. Members will be asked for comments. | 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2009                   | AD Specialist Services               |
| 11  | Commissioning Policy  | This policy informs how the authority will undertake Strategic Commissioning and sets out the framework for strategic Commissioning  | 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2009                   | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |
| 12  | Performance report Q2   | The quarterly performance report   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |
| 13  | Children's Workforce Development Strategy                             | This strategy sets out how we are going to develop the children's workforce locally to create a world-class workforce  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Learning and Schools              |
| 14  | Eligibility for payments policy                                       | This policy sets out eligibility criteria for payments to foster carers, RO, SGO and AA allowances, S17 and S23 payments, payments to Care Leavers and Direct Payments.  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |
| 15  | Raising Achievement Policy  | This policy outlines how resources within the council will be targeted to improve provision in schools and early years settings and raise achievement especially that of children and young people in vulnerable circumstances               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Learning and School Support       |
| 16  | Social Care item  |  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Specialist Services               |
| 17  | Safeguarding update   |  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009                  | AD Specialist Services               |

| Ref | Report Title   | Issue to be considered  | Indicative Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Dates | Contact and Closing Date                                      |
|-----|--|---|--|---|
| 18  | Cultural Strategy  | The Cultural Strategy encapsulates the vision for cultural entitlement for all citizens in Central Bedfordshire moving to a strategic commissioning and entitlement model and recognises the cross cutting nature of cultural entitlement.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009                  | AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries & Adult and Community Learning |
| 19  | Work of the Children's Trust   | Presentation for information then onto Executive for comments   | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009                  | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning                          |
| 20  | <b>Lord Laming Action plan including non-regulated safeguarding policy</b> | This plan sets out the response to the Lord Laming Action Plan and also covers the duties of the local authority in relation to safeguarding covering issues such as vetting and barring, allegations against staff and those coming into to contact or working with children and young people. | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2009                  | AD Specialist Services  |
| 21  | Play Strategy  | To improve the lives of children and young people by delivering high quality and innovative play opportunities and experiences across Central Bedfordshire  | 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2010                   | AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries & Adult and Community Learning |
| 22  | Social Care item   |   | 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2010                   | AD Specialist Services  |
| 23  | Safeguarding update  |   | 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2010                   | AD Specialist Services  |
| 22  | BUDGET   | BUDGET  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010                  |   |
| 27  | Fostering Policy   | This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children who become looked after to an in-house foster carer.  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010                  | AD Specialist Services  |
| 28  | Adoption Policy  | This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children to suitable prospective adopters.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010                  | AD Specialist Services  |
| 29  | Private Fostering Policy   | This statutory policy sets out how we will safeguard children who are in Private Fostering Placements.  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010                  | AD Specialist Services  |

| <b>Ref</b> | <b>Report Title</b>                           | <b>Issue to be considered</b>  | <b>Indicative Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Dates</b> | <b>Contact and Closing Date</b>      |
|------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 23         | Performance report Q3                         | The quarterly performance report   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010                            | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |
| 24         | Safeguarding Policy                           | This policy sets out the statutory duties of the authority and how we will work with partner agencies locally to ensure that children are safe. (Comes under LSCB)   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010                            | AD Specialist Services               |
| 25         | Child in Need Policy                          | This policy sets out the eligibility criteria for services based on the levels of need of children and their families. It responds to the statutory duties to support children in need.  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010                            | AD Specialist Services               |
| 26         | Looked After Children and Young People Policy | The Looked after children and young people policy responds to the statutory duties for the local authority in line with the Children Act 1989 the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Leaving Care Act 2000.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010                            | AD Specialist Services               |
| 30         | Home to School Transport Policy               | This policy sets out how the authority will respond to the Home to School Transport requirements within the Education Act 1996 and the Educational Inspections Act 2006  | 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2010                           | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |
| 31         | Post 16 Home to School Transport Policy       | The Local Authority has a duty to prepare and publish an annual Transport Policy Statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the Authority considers it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at schools, colleges or any establishment funded by the Learning and Skills Council. | 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2010                           | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning |

| Ref | Report Title                      | Issue to be considered  | Indicative Overview and Scrutiny Meeting Dates | Contact and Closing Date       |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 32  | Transition Policy                 | This policy sets out how the Local Authority will work with children transferring from Children's Specialist Services either to service provision within Adult Social Care or to independent adult life to ensure that they are given the support necessary to as they move into adulthood. | 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2010                    | AD Specialist Services         |
| 33  | Inclusion Policy                  | This policy sets out the intentions of the local authority to enhance the inclusion of all vulnerable groups of children including through participation and service design and delivery and is underpinned by the principles of Children's Rights.   | 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2010                    | AD Specialist Services         |
| 34  | Children Missing Education Policy | This policy is designed to help the local authority meet its statutory duties relating to the provision of education and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.   | 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2010                    | AD Learning and School Support |

**Appendix C - Children Families and Learning Policy Framework**

| <b>Key Strategic Plans</b>              | <b>Description</b>   | <b>AD Responsible</b>                                     | <b>AD Supporting</b> | <b>Date for Exec Fwd Plan</b>   |
|---|--|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Children and Young People's Plan</b> | The CYPP sets the strategic vision and commissioning framework within which partners will, together or individually, ensure delivery of services which improve outcomes for children and young people and families in the area.            | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning                      | ALL                  | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2009 |
| <b>Cultural Strategy</b>                | The Cultural Strategy encapsulates the vision for cultural entitlement for all citizens in Central Bedfordshire moving to a strategic commissioning and entitlement model and recognises the cross cutting nature of cultural entitlement. | AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries & Adult Community Learning |                      | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2010       |

## Policies

| <b>Policy</b>                                  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>AD Responsible</b>                | <b>AD Supporting</b>        | <b>Date for Exec Fwd Plan</b> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Educational Visits and Journeys Policy</b>  | This policy sets out clear guidance on all issues relating to educational visits and journeys for schools, youth services and representatives of professional associations.  | AD Learning and Schools              | AD Integrated Services 0-19 | June 2010                     |
| <b>Home to School Transport Policy</b>         | This policy sets out how the authority will respond to the Home to School Transport requirements within the Education Act 1996 and the Educational Inspections Act 2006  | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning | AD Learning and Schools     | 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2010      |
| <b>Post 16 Home to School Transport Policy</b> | The Local Authority has a duty to prepare and publish an annual Transport Policy Statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the Authority considers it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at schools, colleges or any establishment funded by the Learning and Skills Council. | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning | AD Learning and Schools     | 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2010      |
| <b>Inclusion Policy</b>                        | This policy sets out the intentions of the local authority to enhance the inclusion of all vulnerable groups of children including through participation and service design and delivery and is underpinned by the principles of Children's Rights.  | AD Specialist Services               | AD Learning and Schools     | June 2010                     |

| <b>Policy</b>                          | <b>Description</b>   | <b>AD Responsible</b>                | <b>AD Supporting</b>                                      | <b>Date for Exec Fwd Plan</b>  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Raising Achievement Policy</b>      | This policy outlines how resources within the council will be targeted to improve provision in schools and early years settings and raise achievement especially that of children and young people in vulnerable circumstances   | AD Learning and Schools              | AD Specialist Services                                    | 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2009  |
| <b>Eligibility for payments policy</b> | This policy sets out eligibility criteria for payments to foster carers, RO, SGO and AA allowances, S17 and S23 payments, payments to Care Leavers and Direct Payments.  | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning | AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries & Adult Community Learning | 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2009  |
| <b>Commissioning Policy</b>            | The Commissioning Policy keeps the primary focus on the needs of service users and their carers, unclouded by the considerations of providers. It also sets out a framework for deciding how best to deploy resources strategically and tactically in order to achieve objectives, making best use of the strengths of the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. | AD Policy Planning and Commissioning | AD Specialist Services                                    | 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 |
| <b>Child Employment Policy</b>         | This policy sets out the requirements to allow children To be employed in any kind of work, a child must have a work permit. Whenever a child starts new employment, the child's parent or carer and the prospective employer are both responsible for making sure that an application form is completed.  | AD Integrated Services 0-19          | AD Learning and Schools                                   | To be advised                  |
| <b>Transitions Policy</b>              | This policy sets out how the Local Authority will work with children transferring from Children's Specialist Services either to service provision within Adult Social Care or to independent adult   | AD Specialist Services               | AD Learning and Schools                                   | March 2010                     |

| Policy  | Description  | AD Responsible              | AD Supporting           | Date for Exec Fwd Plan |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|   | life to ensure that they are given the support necessary to as they move into adulthood.   |                             |                         |                        |
| <b>Early childhood intervention and prevention policy</b> | This policy outlines how resources will be used to improve the outcomes of all children, especially the most disadvantaged, by enabling, developing and supporting universal and targeted services, delivered by a range of partners | AD Integrated Services 0-19 | AD Learning and Schools | To be advised          |



## Safeguarding Policies – Regulated Services

| <b>Policy</b>  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>AD Responsible</b>  | <b>AD Supporting</b> | <b>Date for Exec Fwd Plan</b> |
|--|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Safeguarding Policy</b>                           | This policy sets out the statutory duties of the authority and how we will work with partner agencies locally to ensure that children are safe. (Comes under LSCB)   | AD Specialist Services |                      | March 2010                    |
| <b>Child in Need Policy</b>                          | This policy sets out the eligibility criteria for services based on the levels of need of children and their families. It responds to the statutory duties to support children in need.  | AD Specialist Services |                      | March 2010                    |
| <b>Children with Disabilities Policy</b>             | In line with the Aiming High for Disabled Children paper, this policy sets out the vision to transform the experiences of disabled children, their parents, carers and siblings through commissioning a range of services and activities specific to their needs | AD Specialist Services |                      | December 2009                 |
| <b>Looked After Children and Young People Policy</b> | The Looked after children and young people policy responds to the statutory duties for the local authority in line with the Children Act 1989 the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Leaving Care Act 2000.   | AD Specialist Services |                      | March 2010                    |
| <b>Fostering Policy</b>                              | This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children who become looked after to an in-house foster carer.   | AD Specialist Services |                      | March 2010                    |

|  |   |                         |                        |                                |
|--|---|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Adoption Policy</b>   | This statutory policy sets out what as an authority we intend to do to ensure as far as possible that we match children to suitable prospective adopters.   | AD Specialist Services  |                        | March 2010                     |
| <b>Private Fostering Policy</b>  | This statutory policy sets out how we will safeguard children who are in Private Fostering Placements.  | AD Specialist Services  |                        | March 2010                     |
| <b>Children Missing Education Policy</b>                                   | This policy is designed to help the local authority meet its statutory duties relating to the provision of education and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.   | AD Learning and Schools | AD Specialist Services | March 2010                     |
| <b>Lord Laming Action plan including non-regulated safeguarding policy</b> | This plan sets out the response to the Lord Laming Action Plan and also covers the duties of the local authority in relation to safeguarding covering issues such as vetting and barring, allegations against staff and those coming into to contact or working with children and young people. | AD Specialist Services  | Human Resources        | 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 |

## Strategies

| Strategy                                  | Description   | AD Responsible   | AD Supporting                  | Date for Exec Fwd Plan  |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Child Poverty Strategy</b>             | <p>The new Child Poverty Bill will place duties on Local Authorities and its partners to reduce child poverty by 2020. This will include 4 targets (relative low income, material deprivation absolute poverty and persistent poverty). This will require 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</p>  | <p>AD Integrated Services 0-19</p>                                   |                                | <p>June 2010 (however date could change depending on legislation)</p> |
| <b>Literacy Strategy</b>                  | <p>This strategy ensures that all citizens who live, work or who are educated in Central Bedfordshire are functionally literate as far as is possible, from very young children through to the oldest residents and would involve all Directorates within the Authority working together to develop and maintain the strategy. The strategy has an impact not just on learning and education but on economic development (a literate workforce etc), sustainable communities (people enabled to participate etc), service older people (independent living, access to information etc).</p> | <p>AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries &amp; Adult Community Learning</p> | <p>AD Learning and Schools</p> | <p>To be advised</p>  |
| <b>Recreation and Open Space Strategy</b> | <p>The (ROSS) is a framework document for the Council and Open Space providers, and the central source of information for all bodies who use, manage or provide open spaces for local people, to confirm open space needs in their areas and to allow them to plan ahead to provide them</p>  | <p>AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries &amp; Adult Community Learning</p> |                                | <p>September 2010</p>   |

| Strategy   | Description  | AD Responsible  | AD Supporting               | Date for Exec Fwd Plan        |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Play Strategy</b>                             | To improve the lives of children and young people by delivering high quality and innovative play opportunities and experiences across Central Bedfordshire | AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries & Adult Community Learning |                             | February 2010                 |
| <b>Children's Workforce Development Strategy</b> | This strategy sets out how we are going to develop the children's workforce locally to create a world-class workforce                                      | AD Learning and Schools                                   | AD Integrated Services 0-19 | 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 |

## Additional Plans

| Plans  | Description  | AD Responsible   | AD Supporting | Date for Exec Fwd Plan |
|--|--|--|---------------|------------------------|
| <b>Adult and Community Learning Development Plan</b> | <p>This document links to the Adult and Community Learning Self Assessment Report 2007/08, the Quality Improvement Plan 2008/09 the Learning and Skills Council Bedfordshire and Luton Annual Plan 2009-10 and the Strategic Plans of both Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. It sets out the vision of Bedfordshire Adult &amp; Community learning to work with local communities and partners to promote a range of high quality learning opportunities for adults that support family, employment and improve the quality of life and enhance the character of our communities</p> | <p>AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries &amp; Adult Community Learning</p> |               | <p>To be advised</p>   |
| <b>Outdoor Access Improvement Plan</b>               | <p>The Outdoor Access Improvement Plan is a 10 year programme of activity to improve access to the countryside to meet the current and future needs of the residents of Bedfordshire and visitors to the county.</p>   | <p>AD Leisure, Culture, Libraries &amp; Adult Community Learning</p> |               | <p>2011</p>            |

## Legislation

| Legislation  | Description   | Progress of Bill  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill</b> | <p>The Bill introduces a wide range of measures covering apprenticeships, learning and skills and educational provision.</p> <p><b>Key areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for a statutory framework for apprenticeships and creates a right to an apprenticeship for suitably qualified 16-18 year olds</li> <li>- Introduces a right for employees to request time away from their duties to undertake training, and places a corresponding duty on employers to consider such requests seriously and to be able to refuse them only for specified business reasons</li> <li>- Dissolves the Learning and Skills Council</li> <li>- Transfers the responsibility for funding education and training for 16-18-year-olds to local authorities</li> <li>- Makes provisions with respect to the education of offenders</li> <li>- Creates the Young Person's Learning Agency, the Skills Funding Agency, a new regulatory body for qualifications (Ofqual), and a new agency to carry out the non-regulatory functions currently performed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority</li> <li>- Strengthens the accountability of children's services</li> <li>- Amends intervention powers in respect of schools which are causing concern</li> <li>- Establishes a new parental complaints service</li> <li>- Changes the school inspection arrangements</li> <li>- Creates a new negotiating body for pay and conditions for school support staff</li> <li>- Makes provisions in respect of pupil and student behaviour.</li> </ul> | <p>Currently at Committee Stage within the House of Lords</p> |

| Legislation  | Description   | Progress of Bill  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Autism Bill</b>                                   | Following amendments in a Public Bill Committee, which debates and examines the Bill clause by clause, the Bill would require the Secretary of State for Health to publish an adult autism strategy and to issue associated statutory guidance. It would also place a duty on local authorities and NHS bodies to act under this guidance.  | Second Reading in the House of Lords 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2009                     |
| <b>Child Poverty Bill</b>                            | <p>The Bill would provide a statutory basis to the commitment made by the Government in 1999 to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Its stated purpose is to give new impetus to the Government's commitment, and to drive action across departments. It also aims to define success in eradicating child poverty and create a framework to monitor progress at a national and local level.</p> <p><b>Key areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• places a duty on the Secretary of State to meet four United Kingdom-wide income poverty targets by the end of the financial year 2020</li> <li>• places a duty on the Secretary of State to publish a child poverty strategy evaluating progress towards the four income targets and setting out future action. The strategy, which is to be revised every three years, may make reference to measures that the devolved administrations propose to take to tackle child poverty.</li> </ul> | First reading 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 no date set as yet for the second reading. |
| <b>Children in Care (Custody) Bill</b>               | A Bill to make provision about the services provided by local authorities in relation to the care of children in care in custody; and for connected purposes.   | Second reading 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2009  |
| <b>Community Amateur Sports Clubs (Support) Bill</b> | To make provision in respect of Community Amateur Sports Clubs; and for connected purposes.   | Committee stage (yet to be scheduled)   |

| Legislation                                       | Description   | Progress of Bill   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Disabled Persons (Independent Living) Bill</b> | To impose duties upon certain persons and bodies in respect of disabled persons; to confer certain rights upon disabled persons for independent living; to amend the Mental Health Act 1983; to amend the Health and Social Care Act 2008; and for connected purposes.  | Second reading in the House of Commons 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2009   |
| <b>Equality Bill</b>                              | Make provision to require Ministers of the Crown and others when making strategic decisions about the exercise of their functions to have regard to the desirability of reducing socio-economic inequalities; to reform and harmonise equality law and restate the greater part of the enactments relating to discrimination and harassment related to certain personal characteristics; to enable certain employers to be required to publish information about the differences in pay between male and female employees; to prohibit victimisation in certain circumstances; to require the exercise of certain functions to be with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other prohibited conduct; to enable duties to be imposed in relation to the exercise of public procurement functions; to increase equality of opportunity; and for connected purposes | The Bill received its Second Reading debate on 11 May 2009 and was committed to a Public Bill Committee. It is due to complete its committee consideration by 7 July 2009. |
| <b>Health Bill</b>                                | <p>The Bill aims to improve the quality of NHS care and services and to improve public health.</p> <p><b>Key areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Places a duty on providers and commissioners of NHS services to have regard to a new NHS Constitution, which will set out the responsibilities of patients and staff</li> <li>• introduces direct payments for health services with the intention of giving patients greater control over the health care services they receive</li> <li>• introduces quality accounts, which would provide information on quality for patients, clinicians and managers, with the aim of improving local accountability for services</li> <li>• makes provisions to protect children and young people from the harm caused by smoking. These provisions relate particularly to advertising</li> </ul>                     | The Bill has been considered by a Public Bill Committee which completed its consideration on 26 June 2009 and is now at report stage.                                      |



| Legislation   | Description   | Progress of Bill   |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p>and sales from vending machines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extends the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to consider complaints from people who have arranged their own adult social care</li> <li>• introduces a scheme by which prizes for innovation in health service provision may be awarded.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Protection of Children (Publicity) Bill</b>        | A Bill to prevent the exploitation by parents of their children by means of seeking publicity, primarily for the purpose of financial gain, in respect of the actions of such children; and for connected purposes.   | This Bill was due to be on the Order Paper for the Second Reading debate on the 26 June 2009.    |
| <b>School Bus (Safety) Bill</b>                       | A Bill to make requirements relating to the design and operation of school buses; to make provision about road safety training for drivers and users of school buses; to establish a School Bus Safety Council; and for connected purposes  | This Bill was due to be on the Order Paper for the Second Reading debate on the 16 October 2009. |
| <b>Sports Grounds Safety Authority Bill</b>           | To confer further powers on the Football Licensing Authority and to amend its name; and for connected purposes.   | Second reading yet to be scheduled   |
| <b>Young People Leaving Care (Accommodation) Bill</b> | A Bill to make provision for minimum standards in respect of accommodation for young people leaving care; to impose a duty on local authorities to ensure that such standards are met; and for connected purposes.  | Scheduled for second reading 16 October 2009   |

| <b>Legislation</b>   | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Progress of Bill</b>     |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <p><b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools:<br/>A world class<br/>education for every<br/>child</b></p> | <p>The Children's Plan sets out the Government's ambition to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. World class schools, and world class standards for every community, are central to realising this ambition.</p> <p>Schools rightly see their central purpose as preparing children and young people for life. An excellent 21st century school will be driven by the determination to do the best for every child and deliver excellent personalised education and development.</p> <p>This document describes how the entire school system will need to change, and how individual schools will need to look beyond traditional boundaries, be outwards facing and work in close partnership with young people, parents, other schools, colleges, universities and with other children's services.</p> <p>Schools are encouraged to take part in the consultation, and can respond by visiting the link below to give their views on what changes are needed in order to deliver this vision.</p> | <p>Current Consultation</p> |
| <p><b>Green Paper on<br/>Families</b></p>  |  | <p>Due Autumn 2009</p>      |