
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 29 June 2010
Subject: Children and Young People's Plan – Make a positive contribution
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: The report provides an overview of the progress made with the priorities within the Make a Positive Contribution aspect of the Children & Young People's Plan

Contact Officer: Martin Pratt
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Make a Positive Contribution plan is one of the five outcome plans which supports delivery of the Central Bedfordshire Children & Young People's Plan (2009-11). It also relates to the second of the Council's key priorities:

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

Financial:

Working with partners to deliver services together in a more integrated way, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, is a key driver of the Children and Young People's Plan and through pooling and aligning resources will deliver efficiencies.

Legal:

The Children's Trust and the Children and Young People's Plan enable the Council and its partners to exercise the 'duty to co-operate' under sections 10 & 11 of the Children's Act 2004.

Risk Management:

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

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

During the development of the plan equalities issues and impacts were considered and included in the priorities are a number of strategic actions which identify children and young people who are in vulnerable circumstances.

Community Safety:

Safeguarding Children is a fundamental aspect of community safety and public protection. Through delivery of the plan partners are actively contributing to improving community safety in order to engage children and young people in positive activities, thereby reducing anti-social behaviour and youth offending.

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee comments on the progress made with the priorities in the Make a Positive Contribution aspects of the Children & Young People's Plan.

Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Plan

1. Make a Positive Contribution is one of the five outcomes which make up the Children's and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire.
2. The plan has been established by :
 - analysing evidence and consulting with children and young people;
 - holding workshops with key stakeholders to consider the evidence and identifying priorities for the plan;
 - consulting on the emerging priorities; and
 - finalising the draft plan at Delivery Group meetings and considering the analysis of feedback from the consultation, partner agencies and Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
3. The Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group is responsible for four of the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan:

Priority 12 – Develop and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.

Priority 13 – Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour.

Priority 14 – Promote and provide activities and information for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activities.

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

Strategic Actions

4. The following strategic actions have been developed for each of the priorities in the Plan:
5. **Priority 12** – Develop and promote children and young people’s positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.
 - Develop a positive image campaign to promote and champion children and young people’s achievement and contribution to their communities.
 - Offer and promote positive activities for children and young people at key times including Friday evenings and weekends.
 - Create opportunities for young people to engage in volunteering.
 - Improve access to a range of high quality outdoor formal and natural play spaces.
6. **Priority 13** – Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour.
 - Reduce re-offending rates amongst young people.
 - Reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System.
 - Reduce the high level of custodial sentences.
7. **Priority 14** – Promote and provide activities and information for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activities.
 - Increase children and young people’s participation in positive activities.
 - Enhance and further develop accessible information, advice and guidance provision for children, young people and families and the professionals who work with them, through the design and development of the Central Bedfordshire Family and Youth Information Service.
 - Ensure the quality of information provision through the development of a comprehensive, informative, advice and guidance strategy which meets national standards.
 - Develop integrated working between providers to enhance existing opportunities for children, young people and families as part of the leisure and culture strategy.

- Develop and promote play, leisure, sport and cultural opportunities for children and young people of all ages and in particular those aged 8-12.
 - Shape and deliver services in our youth and leisure centres, creating a welcoming and inclusive approach for children and young people with disabilities and special needs.
8. **Priority 15** – Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting.
- Strengthen communities through innovative family and community involvement.
 - Implementing Think Family reforms across Children, Health and Adult services, developing protocols across Children’s Health and Adult services for identifying, referring and planning how the needs of other family members can be met alongside those of their client.
 - Delivery of Parenting Early Intervention Programme.
 - Support and maintain existing parenting support services.
 - Delivery of the strengthening families 10-14 and Triple P parenting programmes across Central Bedfordshire.
 - Start up and delivery of the Family and Intervention Project, project intensive support to families in the greatest difficulty with children at risk of offending.

Progress with the Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Plan

9. The priority to **develop and promote children and young people’s positive contribution to communities** is progressing well and the Youth Parliament is now in place and a positive image campaign has been developed with young people and will be launched in June 2010.
10. The priority to **strengthen and improve relationships within families** is on track and a number of parenting and strengthening families programmes have been delivered alongside work to embed the ‘Think Family’ approach with partners.
11. Performance on the priority to **reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour** has over the year shown a mixed picture. Data shows that targets for the number of young people receiving custodial sentences and re-offending rates are both on track. However the number of first Time Entrants has been a concern. In quarter 3 the number of first time entrants fell significantly in comparison to quarters 1 and 2 and exceeded the target.

12. The milestones to deliver the priority **to promote and provide activities and information for children, young people and their families** are all on track. Good progress has been made in:

- ensuring a strong infrastructure is in place to accurately measure young people's involvement in positive activities across Central Bedfordshire;
- mapping existing opportunities publicising these widely to children, young people and their families to maximise take-up;
- recognising young people's achievements through positive activities with accredited awards; and
- ensuring a greater focus on awarding youth opportunity funds when young people are most likely to take part, namely Friday evenings and weekends. Additionally, the youth service has increased the service available to 13-19 year olds on Friday evenings.

However this priority is measured by an indicator collected through the Tell Us survey and the results show that 69% of young people consulted participated in positive activities. Although our performance is in the upper-middle quartile of our statistical neighbours and is seen as good performance, we have missed our target of 77.9% for this year and it is unlikely that we will achieve the Local Area Agreement target of 82.9% for 2011/2012. It is important to note that the sample of data used in Bedfordshire to determine the baseline (73%) was not robust and the Tell Us survey has been revised this year so comparisons with previous years are not possible.

13. Work to deliver the cross cutting priorities **to increase opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being** and **to develop the Family and Youth Information Service** are also making good progress. Young people have allocated £260,000 worth of funding for 40 projects and the Young Inspectors programme is up and running.

14. The priority **to develop a locality based approach to delivering integrated services** is now making progress. This programme is now called 'Team around the child and family' and in order to understand the types of services and teams needed, a profile of the following four areas is being developed. These are closely linked to the natural clusters of upper, middle and lower schools:

- Dunstable and Houghton Regis
- Leighton Buzzard
- Sandy and Biggleswade
- Rural Central Bedfordshire.

15. A review of how other Children's Trusts are bringing multi-disciplinary teams together is being done and will contribute to the development of the Children's Trust's understanding of models of integrated working. A number of opportunities to pilot models of co-located or co-delivered multi-disciplinary service in different work contexts have also been identified. Evaluation of these Pathfinder Pilots will inform and develop the learning of the Trust as it moves forward with the Team around the Child and Family programme.

Performance

16. There are six performance indicators relating to Make a Positive Contribution, three of which are critical indicators and are also LAA indicators (see Appendix A). These are:

NI 19 – Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
NI 110 – Young People's Participation in positive activities
NI 111 – First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17.
17. NI 19 – Re-offending performance is measured by tracking a cohort of young people entering the criminal justice system in Jan – March 2009. The national target is to reduce the rate of proven re-offending by 10% by 2011, compared to the baseline set in 2008/09. The method of measurement has changed; whilst it is not possible to compare like for like, Central Bedfordshire Council continues to show a reduction and we are on track to meet the target. However, we have some concerns that the rate of reduction has slowed across both unitary authorities. The Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service Chief Officers agreed to convene a multi-agency sub group to investigate and monitor performance in this area and to identify barriers and propose solutions.
18. NI110 – The Tell Us survey reported that we achieved 69% of young people consulted participated in positive activities - putting us in the upper middle quartile of statistical neighbours. We have participated in a national audit of positive activity for which results have not yet been released. Central Bedfordshire's Youth Parliament is now in place and has identified the following areas as some of the priorities for their campaign: Transport, Financial advice within schools, improved careers guidance, improved sexual health education in schools, positive images for young people and affordable access to the right positive activities.
19. In addition to the youth parliament, young people have been recruited and trained to be involved in the following initiatives for this financial year: Street Cred- Young Opportunities/Youth Capital Fund grants allocation group; Young Inspectors.
20. Friday and weekend provision is in place in parts of the authority and will be rolled out further in the coming months. The positive images campaign is being developed and young people have been consulted on the design. This is due to be launched in June 2010.

21. NI 111 - The number of first Time Entrants in quarter 3 fell significantly in comparison with quarter 1 & 2 and exceeds the target. Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service is not yet in a position to confirm quarter 4 figures for First Time Entrants. Data will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for validation on 30th April 2010. Validated figures will be available by the end of May.

Conclusion

22. The Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group will continue to coordinate work on the priorities described in this paper ensuring a strong alignment between the work of the PCT and Health Partners, the Schools, the Council, and the Children's Trust partners.
23. A cycle of meetings has been established with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have reports from each outcome group which contributes to the review of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Appendix A

Performance Information

Priority	Indicator Ref	Title	Good is	Outturn			Target 09/10	Year End	RAG
				National 09/10	Group 08/09	CBC 08/09			
13	NI19	Re-offending Performance	Low	1.03	0.78%	0.93%	NT	Validated data not available.	Not available
12 and 14	NI110	Young people's participation in positive activities	High	65.8%	69.90%	Revised	77.9%	69%	Red
13	NI111	The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system. Aged 10-17.	Low	-18.7%	-23.6%	-15.6%	-5%	-11.60%	Green