
Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 23 April 2013
Subject: Review of the Children and Young People's Plan
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out the position reached on the development of the revised Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2013-2015).

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The revised Children and Young People's Plan 2013–15 is proposing the following four priorities:

- Improved educational attainment
- Protecting vulnerable children
- Early help and improving life chances
- Being healthy and positive

These support the delivery of the following Council priorities:

- Improved educational attainment
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable

Financial:

2. Working with partners to deliver services in a more integrated way, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, is a key driver of the Plan which also aims to deliver efficiencies.

Legal:

3. The Children and Young People's Plan is a key mechanism to enable the Council and partners to demonstrate how they are meeting the 'duty to co-operate' under section 10 of the Children Act 2004.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 amended the Children Act 2004 by adding new sections. These sections came into force on or before 1 April 2010 and included The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) Regulations 2010 SI 2010/0591. This regulation required Children's Trust Boards to prepare, consult upon, publish and review a Children and Young People's Plan.

Following the election of the Coalition Government a new regulation laid before Parliament on 2 September 2010 (SI 2010/2129) for commencement on 31 October revoked the following:

- The duty for Children's Trust Boards in England to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan.

There remains nonetheless a requirement in the Children Act 2004 that all local authorities with a children's services responsibility should make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people in the area. The Act establishes the Local Authority as the lead and accountable partner in such arrangements. Each children's services authority in England must make arrangements to promote co-operation between:

- the authority
- each of the authority's relevant partners
- such other persons or bodies as the authority considers appropriate, being persons or bodies of any nature who exercise functions or are engaged in activities in relation to children in the authority's area.

The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area relating to:

- physical and mental and emotional well-being
- protection from harm and neglect
- education, training and recreation
- the contribution made by them to society
- social and economic well-being.

Within The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 which added new sections to the Children Act 2004, there remains a requirement to establish a Children's Trust Board.

Risk Management:

4. Risk management is embedded through the processes of delivery planning and quarterly performance monitoring.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. There are no staffing implications directly linked to these proposals, however maintaining a skilled workforce to ensure the delivery of the plan is a key priority for the Council and its partners.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. The priorities and objectives identify children and young people who are not achieving, who are excluded or are in vulnerable circumstances. An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out to inform the last Children and Young People's Plan and this has been reviewed and updated.

Public Health:

7. Children's health is a priority in the new Children and Young People's Plan and this contributes to delivering key outcomes relevant to public health, including ensuring that children and young people get the best start in life and developing lifelong healthy lifestyles.

Community Safety:

8. 'Protecting vulnerable children' is a priority proposed in the new Children and Young People's Plan which contributes to delivering safer communities. Aims, outcomes and measures have been prepared on this key theme.

Sustainability:

9. Not applicable.

Procurement:

10. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the progress made on the review of the Children and Young people's Plan and provides comment on any further areas for partners to consider.

Background

11. Central Bedfordshire Children's Trust was set up in April 2009.
12. The first Children and Young People's plan was agreed in September 2009. This was superseded by the Children and Young People's Plan 2011–14 (current) which was produced in response to significant international, national and local change and the need to find ways of delivering services to young people and their families with less money.
13. At its meeting of 11 September 2012, the Children's Trust Board agreed to review the 2011–14 Plan.

Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14

14. The review of the Children and Young People's Plan has been taking place since October 2012 and the review milestones and actions are set out below:

- 15.
- Reviewed key documents to inform the new plan. These included the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, new inspection frameworks, inspection findings and national reviews of key policy areas
 - Trust Board Delivery Groups reviewed priorities and objectives and considered how these could be reframed in a simplified framework; (Nov/Dec 2012)
 - Trust Board Delivery Group leads fed back the outcomes of these sessions to the stakeholders in delivery groups and ask for feedback; (January 2013)
 - Youth Parliament survey findings fed into the review and a focus group with young people arranged to get qualitative feedback on the priorities (January 2013)
 - Headteachers were consulted on proposed outcomes at Headteacher meetings (January 2013)
 - Governors consulted on proposed outcomes through Governor Essentials newsletter (January 2013)
 - Draft outcomes framework considered by the Children's Trust Board (February 2013)
 - Feedback from Children's Trust Board to Trust Board Delivery Groups (March 2013)
 - Consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee (April 2013)
 - Final changes made to Outcomes Framework and plan (April/May 2013)
 - Plan and outcomes framework agreed by the Children's Trust Board (May 2013)
 - Endorsed by Executive Committee (June 2013)
16. Children's Trust Board members considered a first draft of the revised Children and Young People's Plan at a meeting on the 25 February 2013.
17. Children's Trust Board members asked that the Trust Board Delivery groups work on building the following issues into the final plan and these issues have been included in the second draft which is attached at Appendix A:
- Early careers advice for young people so that they can make informed decisions about options
 - Public sector commitment to apprenticeships for young people
 - Measuring the attainment of pupils who qualify for the pupil premium and are eligible for free school meals as this has been highlighted as a key health inequality
 - Bullying
 - The importance of reviewing and developing partners' approach to domestic abuse and an integrated strategy
 - Reviewing the 'Early Help' priority and to include a measure in relation to the rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by injuries as these are significantly higher among children living in deprived areas
 - Reviewing the 'Being Health and Happy' priority as it was felt that more work was needed in relation to 'being happy' and this section needed further refinement

18. The draft plan also includes priorities informed by evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and feedback from the focus group with young people. The feedback from young people has been attached at Appendix B.

Conclusion and Next Steps

19. The revised Children and Young People's Plan (2013-2015) is a high level document setting out the key priorities of the partners in a simplified outcomes framework. Comments received from Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reviewed by partners and inform the further development of the Plan.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Second Draft of the revised Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2015
Appendix B – Feedback from the focus group with young people

Background Papers: Children's Trust Board report 25 February 2013, Item 8, 'Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2013)

Location of papers: Central Bedfordshire Council's website