
Meeting: Executive
Date: 25 June 2013
Subject: Children and Young People's Plan 2013 - 2015
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out the key outcomes for children and young people that partners are proposing to work together to achieve through the Children's Trust Board and as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan. Executive is asked to endorse the Plan.

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: Executive
Key Decision Yes

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

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:

1. 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. All priorities set out in the plan will be delivered within partners' agreed financial resources.

Legal:

2. 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 wellbeing 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 wellbeing of children in the authority's area relating to:

- physical and mental and emotional wellbeing
- 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:

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

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. There are no staffing implications directly linked to these proposals, however maintaining a skilled children's workforce is key to delivering good outcomes for children and young people.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out to inform the previous Children and Young People's Plan and this has been reviewed and updated. A summary of ongoing equalities issues from this review are highlighted below and are based on local data, and in line with good practice where this is not available national data has been drawn on:
 - Local professionals working with Gypsy / Traveller families have highlighted 'readiness for school' ('school readiness') as a key area of need, suggesting support for parents to prepare their children for starting school.
 - Local data shows that there are inequality gaps in achievement in 2012 for the following groups across Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, and Key Stage 4: White and Black Caribbean, Traveller of Irish Heritage and Gypsy / Roma, White Irish, those eligible for Free School Meals and those with Special Education Needs.
 - Locally, there is an achievement gap in respect of 5 A*-C GCSEs between White British boys eligible for Free School Meals and White British Boys who are not.
 - Locally Black and Minority Ethnic participation within parenting support programmes is low.
 - In the majority of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police women are the victims and nationally it has been reported that 66% of victims in their dataset had children living in or visiting the home where domestic abuse was taking place.
 - Central Bedfordshire has 12.8% of its children living in poverty and this can result in inequalities in outcomes for young people in relation to health and wellbeing.
 - Local data suggests inequalities among the 20% most deprived compared with the 80% least deprived for: babies living with a smoker; breastfeeding rates; child obesity at age 11; injuries to children and young people; teenage conceptions and educational attainment at Key Stage 4 5 A*-C including English and maths (20112 results).

The vision in Central Bedfordshire is for every child to enjoy their childhood and have the best possible start in life, so importantly this plan includes measures to assess progress towards reducing inequalities and therefore how well we improve outcomes for all children.

Public Health:

6. 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:

7. '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:

8. Not applicable.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny:

10. This matter was considered by Overview and Scrutiny on 23 April 2013. Feedback from Committee members included:

- that the vision contained in the draft should refer to 'every child to do well in education' and not just to those in school; and
- that the plan should refer to specific dates for the period that it relates to.

The committee noted the progress made on the review of the Children and Young People's Plan and requested that the comments be considered as part of the review of the Plan. Comments have been addressed in the final Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:**The Executive is asked to:**

- **to endorse the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan.**

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that Central Bedfordshire Council meets its statutory duty as set out in the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation with partners to improve the wellbeing of children in the authority's area.

Executive Summary

This report presents the revised Children and Young People's Plan (June 2013 - March 2015) for Central Bedfordshire. Partners have indicated their support for the ongoing development of partnership working within the framework of the Children's Trust and for a Children and Young People's Plan. The plan has been developed following consultation with children, young people and stakeholders.

Background

11. Central Bedfordshire Children's Trust was set up in April 2009. 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 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 resources.
12. At its meeting of 11 September 2012, the Children's Trust Board agreed to review the 2011–14 Plan with a clearer focus on outcomes for children and young people.

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

13. The review has been rigorous and has encompassed the following:
 - (a) 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.
 - (b) Trust Board Delivery Groups reviewed priorities and objectives and considered how these could be reframed in a simplified framework (December 2012).
 - (c) Trust Board Delivery Group leads fed back the outcomes of these sessions to the stakeholders in delivery groups and ask for feedback (January 2013).
 - (d) Youth Parliament survey findings fed into the review and a focus group with young people was held (January 2013).
 - (e) Headteachers were consulted on proposed outcomes at Headteacher meetings (January 2013).
 - (f) Governors consulted on proposed outcomes through Governor Essentials newsletter (January 2013).
 - (g) Draft outcomes framework considered by the Trust Board (February 2013).
 - (h) Feedback from Children's Trust Board to Trust Board Delivery Groups (March 2013).
 - (i) Consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee (April 2013).
 - (k) Plan and outcomes framework agreed by the Children's Trust Board (May 2013).
14. Attached at Appendix A is the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2015 and Appendix B contains detailed information about the measures of success that have been chosen, including current performance where available.

Conclusion and Next Steps

15. Central Bedfordshire Council and partner organisations will continue to work together to deliver on the outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Children and Young People's Plan June 2013- March 2015

Appendix B – Additional information about measures of success

Background Papers:

- Executive Report, 15 September 2009: The Children and Young People's Plan (2009- 2011).
- Executive Report 15 March 2011, Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2014)
- Children's Trust Board report 25 February 2013, Item 8, 'Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2013)
- Children's Trust Board report 23 May 2013, Children and Young People's Plan 2013 -2015
- Equality impact assessment.