

Council – 2nd July 2007

Children and Young People's Plan 2007-10

Portfolio: Councillor Zahid Ali – Children's Services

Service Area: Children's Services

Wards: All

Summary of report

All Councils with children's services responsibilities are required to publish a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). As this plan supersedes the Children's Services Plan, which is listed in the Councils constitution as part of the policy framework, the plan needs to be approved by full council. Council approved the first CYPP in April 2006, and this revised plan is for the period 2007-10. Each year an annual review is undertaken and the plan is revised, making it a rolling 3 year plan. The production of the plan has enabled the council and partners to assess the significant achievements and remaining challenges during 2006/07. Overall, outcomes for children and young people are good and improving with particular successes identified in enabling children and families to receive help and support at an early stage thereby reducing the numbers of children needing to be looked after away from home.

The CYPP is the single, strategic, overarching plan for all children's services in the local area that are commissioned and delivered by the local authority and its relevant partners. The plan has been developed by the Walsall Children and Young People's Partnership in response to the government's Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda and is in line with the outcomes for children specified by the Children Act 2004.

The CYPP provides strategic direction for all services that affect children and young people and will contribute to the development of Children's Trust and partnership arrangements in Walsall. The CYPP replaces the requirement for numerous separate strategic plans such as the Education Development Plan, Teenage Pregnancy strategy, and the Adoption Services Plan.

A copy of the CYPP is attached to this report. A full set of supporting documents are available in the group leaders/group rooms, they are also available at our new partnership website www.walsallchildrensplan.org.uk

Recommendations

That Council approve the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2007-10

Resource and legal considerations

The children and young people's directorate has a crucial role to play in ensuring robust resources are in place and strong focussed leadership supports the delivery of the plan. The Executive Director for children's services will ensure council directorates and partner agencies are coordinated and that adequate evaluation and monitoring arrangements are in place to demonstrate continued improvement in outcomes for children.

The Statutory Guidance on the role and responsibilities of the Directors of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead member for Children's services states that the DCS -

'Will build and lead robust partnership arrangements to ensure public, private, voluntary and community organisations, including culture, sport and play organisations, work together to improve outcomes for children and young people and align appropriate resources of all partner agencies against agreed priorities. The DCS, through local children's trust arrangements, will ensure that partners' plans deliver locally agreed targets and priorities

This broad remit requires the Council to ensure appropriate resourcing and support to allow the DCS to deliver their statutory responsibilities.

Citizen impact

The CYPP provides an opportunity to transform the way that services for children and young people are planned and delivered. It does this by focussing on outcomes for children and young people rather than structures and agencies. The 5 outcomes are-

- Being Healthy,
- Staying Safe,
- Enjoying & achieving,
- Making a Positive contribution,
- Achieving economic well-being

This focus on outcomes will require a range of new approaches, from increasing cooperation and collaboration to more effective partnership to develop integrated and efficient services that promote social inclusion and provide appropriate services to our culturally diverse community.

Environmental impact

The plan requires local areas to ensure children are kept safe from accidental injury and death by promoting safe environments such as 'safe routes to schools' and increasing the numbers of schools which have travel published travel plans, thereby encouraging pupils to walk to school and so reduce congestion and pollution.

It also sets out plans to reduce offending behaviour and ensuring young people make a positive contribution to their communities.

Performance and risk management issues

The CYPP is a key component of the children's services improvement agenda, set out in *Every Child Matters: Change for Children*, (ECM) meeting the requirement to integrate planning for children's services. Partners have ensured that the plan is consistent with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) by incorporating the LAA targets into the CYPP.

All partners are committed to the performance management of the CYPP to ensure the delivery of our improvement targets. During the year the performance leads from each agency worked closely together to populate our 'ECM scorecard' which provides quarterly reporting, where possible, on all the indicators. This has resulted in close scrutiny on progress and the agreement of corrective actions where required. For example; waiting times for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) were

of concern and corrective action turned round performance from 16 weeks to 10 weeks and hit our target. Similarly, concern about the education achievement of looked after children lead to action that enabled us to maintain our good performance in this area. The council's service planning and performance framework ensures our service plans align to the overarching CYPP; risks are identified to ensure services will improve outcomes for children. The Children and Young People's Executive Group (CHEG) will coordinate performance management of the CYPP across partner agencies while the council will retain final accountability.

Equality implications

The CYPP strives to ensure that 'Every Child Matters' in Walsall and that those children and young people who are most excluded will receive additional support to fulfil their potential thereby closing the gap between those that achieve and those that do not, and enabling them to contribute positively to society. The plan will ensure that children's cultural and heritage needs are met.

Consultation

The plan takes account of the views of children and young people expressed through consultation and participation during the previous year and in particular through our first lifestyle survey in May 2007. Key stakeholders such as head teachers, tPCT staff and schools have been consulted through several 'Locality Partnership Events'. A wide mailing of the draft report in May resulted in changes to the plan.

Vision 2008

The CYPP will contribute to the Council's Vision by addressing a number of priorities, in particular; ensuring all children are safe and secure, make our schools great and making Walsall a healthy and caring place.

Background papers

Guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan DfES 2005
The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 1st September 2005
Report to Council 'CYPP 2006-9 6th March 2006

Contact officer

Pauline Pilkington Assistant Director (Children's Services) pilkingtonp@walsall.gov.uk
Phone 652756
Darrell Harman, Strategy & Governance Manager (Children's Services)
harmand@walsall.gov.uk
Phone 652701

Signed



Executive Director: David Brown

Signed



Lead Member: Councillor Zahid Ali

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