

Agenda Item No. 14

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

DATE	16 th December 2014
TITLE OF REPORT	Children and Young People – Draft Plan
Organisation and Author	Dudley MBC Directorate of Children’s Services
Purpose of the report	<p>To develop the knowledge and understanding of Board members about the content of the draft Children and Young People’s Plan (2015/17), and the rationale for the priority that has been chosen.</p> <p>To gain the endorsement of the Health and Well Being Board for a Children and Young People’s Plan that contains a single priority which is to improve the effectiveness of Early Help and Support Services.</p>
Key points to note	<p>The Children and Young People’s Partnership is in the process of developing a revised, draft Children and Young People’s Plan based upon a single priority of improving our Early Help and Support Strategy.</p> <p>The Children and Young People’s Partnership is seeking the approval and support of the Health and Well Being Board for this course of action.</p>
Recommendations for the Board	<p>To note the proposals for a revised Children and Young People’s Plan focussed on improving our Early Help and Support Strategy and Offer.</p> <p>To endorse the proposals for the development of this draft plan and for agencies in membership of the HWB to provide all possible support</p>
Item type	Information, discussion and strategy
H&WB Strategy Priority Area	Services, children, mental wellbeing, health inequalities

DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE: 16th December 2014

REPORT OF: Interim Director of Children's Services

TITLE OF REPORT: Proposals for the Content of the Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2017

1.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY PRIORITY

- 1.1 This report explains to Board members the proposed content of our revised, draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The main priority in the plan will be for all agencies to improve the coherence and effectiveness of our Early Help and Support offer. This will make a significant contribution to ensuring that the following priority in the borough's joint Health and Well Being Strategy is achieved:

Making our children healthy by supporting children and their families at all stages, but especially the early years, keeping them safe from harm and neglect, supporting the development of effective parenting skills and educating young people to avoid taking risks that may affect their health in the future.

2.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To develop the knowledge and understanding of Board members about the content of the draft Children and Young People's Plan (2015/17), and the rationale for the priority that has been chosen.
- 2.2 To gain the endorsement of the Health and Well Being Board for a Children and Young People's Plan that contains a single priority which is to improve the effectiveness of Early Help and Support Services.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part of the role of the Board of the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) in Dudley is to coordinate services for children and young people, ensuring that effective use is made of available resources, and that the needs of the borough in this respect are met.
- 3.2 The Strategic Commissioning Group of the Board is charged with analysing the needs of children and young people in the borough, drawing upon the information contained within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and other intelligence, in order to establish the priorities to be contained in the plan. As part of the process of identifying appropriate priorities, the Commissioning Group also consults with service providers and young people.

- 3.3 During the latter months of 2014 members of the CYPP have been working on the identification of a single priority for the next version of the plan. It is felt that if one common priority can be agreed, which is of mutual concern to all partners and agencies, it will have a helpful unifying effect on the efforts of the Partnership to provide effective, coherent services.
- 3.4 It is now the case that the CYPP has agreed that concentrating upon Early Help and Support Services should be our single priority for 2015 – 17. The main reasons for this are as follows:
- (a) Providing high quality universal services as early as possible in the lives of all children and young people will help them to optimise their potential and to live healthy lives in the future.
 - (b) Providing effective targeted and specialist early help and support to vulnerable children and young people and their families will help to reduce the risks which this group face of suffering harm, neglect and poor health, with all the negative consequences of such experiences for educational attainment and social and economic well being.
 - (c) Children's Social Care Services in Dudley receive a very high number of contacts from other agencies, requesting services in respect of young persons. The rate of contacts is so high that it is handicapping the district teams in their efforts to deal with children and families who truly need a service. The number has risen from 9,901 in 2008-9 to 15,358 in 2013-14. However a relatively small proportion of these (approximately 1 in 4) go on to become a "referral" requiring specific action by Social Care. In other words a high proportion of the contacts are not really necessary and could have been dealt with by other agencies without reference to Children's Social Care. If we can make our early help and support services more effective it should reduce the number of inappropriate contacts and benefit the lives of the young persons in question by preventing any problems from escalating further.

4.0 THE MAIN ITEM/S OF THE REPORT

- 4.1 In order to achieve an effective CYP Plan based upon a single priority of Early Help and Support the Partnership is engaged in the following activities to ensure that all agencies are fully contributing to our goal;
- 4.2 Establishment of strategic and operational task and finish groups (meeting on a monthly basis) to drive forward the initiative.
- 4.3 Consultation with managers and teams across a range of agencies on current arrangements.
- 4.4 Visits and consultation with services in other local authorities to identify potential service models and design options.

- 4.5 Identification of good practice from e.g. OfSTED inspection reports, including Derbyshire which is one of our statistical neighbours.
- 4.6 Developing options for Dudley's "front door" to Children's Services in order to ensure that Early Help and Support is delivered by all agencies, including a co-located multi agency team to receive referrals and make a decision regarding the most appropriate response.
- 4.7 Identification of any changes required to remit of social work teams in order to progress social care cases once referred from the new arrangement.
- 4.8 Develop an operating model for the identification of families, the effective use of the early help assessment and ensuring robust step up and step down arrangements with Social Care teams.
- 4.9 Re-design of some Early Help services to improve coherence and better meet need.
- 4.10 Detailed design and formal consultation moving to implementation from 1st April 2015.

5.0 FINANCE

- 5.1 The course of action set out in this report will be managed from within the existing budgets of relevant agencies. It should, if successful, reduce the costs of dealing with problems associated with poor health and well being by addressing their causes sooner rather than later.

6.0 LAW

- 6.1 The course of action set out in this report is in accordance with all legal requirements placed upon the Health and Well Being Board and the agencies working to promote the interests of children and young people in the borough.

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT

- 7.1 It is intended that the course of action set out in this report will have a beneficial impact upon equality by improving the circumstances, achievement, health and well being of vulnerable children e.g. those at risk of harm and neglect, disabled young people, and those living in deprived households.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To note the proposals for a revised Children and Young People's Plan focussed on improving our Early Help and Support Strategy and Offer.

8.2 To endorse the proposals for the development of this draft plan and for agencies in membership of the Health & Well Being Board to provide all possible support.

Signature of author/s



.....
Pauline Sharratt
Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Ian McGuff
Assistant Director – Quality & Partnership
Telephone: 01384 814387
Email: ian.mcguff@dudley.gov.uk