

Select Committee for Children's Services – 15 November 2007

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 2011

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Committee on the progress towards a new Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 and to share with the Committee the emerging priorities and how these will 'fit' with the revised Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Background

2. The Children Act 2004 requires that we have an integrated strategy; this integrated strategy is the Children and Young People's Plan. Our first plan was written and agreed for 2006 – 2009 and was reviewed in June 2007 prior to our Annual Performance Assessment by Ofsted.
3. The review highlighted the need to develop a new Plan which would run from January 2008 to December 2011. The Plan would operate on a calendar year basis as opposed to the previous financial year basis, enabling agencies, including the Council to set their budgets and resource requirements to meet the agreed priorities.
4. A project plan was developed and agreed by the Children's Trust to enable a new Plan to be written, based on a rigorous needs analysis, and engaging stakeholders and partners and children and young people.
5. Our needs analysis is now nearing completion and will shortly be posted onto the Children's Trust website – www.dudleycyp.org.uk
6. We have held three successful conferences: one for stakeholders and partners; one for children; and one for young people. These conferences focused on the emerging needs from our analysis and discussed potential service design and delivery to meet those needs.
7. The emerging needs are:

- *From the LAA stretch targets –*
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Health promoting schools
 - Achievement at Key Stage 3
 - Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)

 - *Healthier lifestyles –*
 - Smoking
 - Alcohol and substance misuse
 - Obesity

 - *From the needs analysis and stakeholder/partner conference –*
 - Reducing the number of looked after children
 - Reducing the number of 'neglect' issues for children
 - Supporting children and young people with moderate disabilities towards independence
 - reducing the number of first time offenders
 - reducing the numbers of offenders re-offending
 - parenting support and our work with adult services

 - *From the children and young people's conferences –*
 - Positive images of children and young people
 - Perceptions of bullying and the fear of
 - Transport – free access
 - Things to do and places to go

 - *From the requirements to develop the Children's Trust*
 - Embed integrated processes
 - Embed integrated service delivery
 - Embed joint commissioning arrangements
 - Embed the involvement of children and young people
 - Complete and implement the parenting strategy
 - Complete and implement the workforce development strategy
8. In addition to those priorities ascertained above, we will need to include the seventeen education indicators as set out by the DCSF which will also be included within the new Local Area Agreement (LAA). In broad terms these cover the areas of achievement, exclusion and attendance.
9. The new LAA will be based upon the selection of no more than 35 indicators, plus the 17 mandatory ones outlined above. Progress is being made within the Community Partnership to firstly devise the outcomes we require to improve and then to agree the indicators to measure these from the overall basket of 200 which have been designed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

10. The emerging outcomes are:

- Economy and skills/jobs/investment
- Transport – access and infrastructure
- Image and perception; internal, external and individual
- A priority for children and young people addressing neglect and aspirations, through working with families
- Health – long term incapacity; obesity; substance misuse; and addressing health inequalities
- Quality of the physical environment
- Climate change, but with some further work on definitions

11. Through our discussions within the Community Partnership the Children's Trust will ensure that the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan will be reflected within the performance indicators for each of the emerging outcomes of the LAA.

12. The timescales for the LAA are to develop the first draft for the end of November 2007, with further revisions in January and a final draft in March 2008. The new LAA will run from April 2008 to March 2011, reflecting the financial years equivalence to the Children and Young People's Plan.

13. The timescales for the Children and Young People's Plan is for the draft to be published at the end of November with a four week consultation period on the completed document. Any revisions will take place in the first two weeks of January with publication by the end of January 2008.

Finance

14. There are no additional budget implications for the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan and all priorities will be met within existing resources.

15. The development and publication of a new Children and Young People's Plan will support the use of resources against our agreed priorities.

Law

16. The Children Act 2004 requires that the local authority leads on the development of a Children and Young People's Plan

Equality Impact

17. The Children and Young People's Plan addresses inequality as a central theme to its development and implementation.

18. Children and young people have been involved in the development of the priorities for the Plan and will again be involved in the design of the executive summary which will be given to every child and young person in the borough.

Recommendation

19. It is recommended that the Committee considers the emerging priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Area Agreement. The results of these discussions will further inform the drafting of the Plan.



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List of Background Papers

The Children Act 2004
Every Child Matters
DfES guidance 2005 and 2007
Children and Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009
The review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2007
Summary Needs Analysis 2007
Conference Reports (October 2007):

- Stakeholders and partners
- Children
- Young people