

Children and Young People's Plan: 2007 - 2010 Consultation document

Background

The *Children and Young People's Plan* is a partnership plan, produced every two or three years, which covers all of the services that are provided for children and young people in the city. That means it is about the services, such as schools, that are provided for everybody, as well as the services that are targeted on particular groups of young people that may need special attention.

The first *Children and Young People's Plan* for the city was produced in 2005, and was organised around the five outcomes for children identified as national priorities by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). These are:

- Being healthy,
- Staying safe,
- Enjoying and achieving,
- Making a positive contribution,
- Achieving economic well-being.

Although the outcomes were nationally determined, the activity in the plan was locally decided and the same approach is proposed this time. Running through everything in the plan are some important principles, all of which are about removing the barriers to progress that leave some young people struggling whilst their peers move on with increasing confidence. These principles are that:

- Inclusion is not a luxury, it is what the services provided for children and young people are all about,
- Work on equalities is about encouraging and developing talent that might otherwise be overlooked,
- Early intervention gives some children and young people a first chance,
- Nothing will last unless it is sustainable, both financially and environmentally.

Some of this is captured in the vision statement for the Children's Trust that remains unchanged from the first plan.

In York we recognise that our children are our future. We want to help children achieve their potential and enjoy life as active participating citizens free from poverty, ignorance, neglect, crime, harm, abuse and distress. This is part of the wider vision of the City Council and its partner agencies' commitment to creating a future for the people of York that ensures that everyone has the opportunity to lead a full, healthy and satisfying life. We share a long-term vision, led by the YorOK Board, to make York a place where:

- children and their families live in safe, secure communities, empowered to have the skills and knowledge to be protected from abuse, harassment, exploitation and neglect;
- families develop the confidence and capability to love, protect and care for their members;
- the needs of the most vulnerable and socially excluded children and families are met in a timely and effective way;
- families know how and where to get help when they need it;
- services share a common understanding and commitment to our preventative strategy so that children and families can get help promptly to deal with difficulties when they first arise;
- trusting, flexible and innovative partnerships develop between the statutory and independent sector and local communities;
- information, methods and responsibilities are shared, for example, for managing risk or assessing the impact of services;
- multi-disciplinary and cross organisational working enhances the range of skills, experience and expertise of individual workers, as well as valuing the contribution of different practitioner groups; and
- children, young people, their families and communities are involved in the development of preventative services.

A lot has happened since the first plan was agreed. The Partnership Board responsible for the Plan (called *YorOK* or the Children's Trust) has increased its membership to embrace a wider range of partners and a new directorate of Children's Services has been established by the City Council, with responsibility, amongst other things, for leading the production of the *Children and Young People's Plan* on behalf of the Board. The DfES has introduced a system of 'Annual Performance Assessment' (APA) to monitor the progress that is being made locally in improving the outcomes for children and young people and the Local Strategic Partnership ('Without Walls') is producing a Local Area Agreement (LAA) which has children and young people as one of the top four priorities. In order to cope with this explosion of activity, the new CYC directorate also produced its own Children's Services Plan.

All of this work will inform the Children and Young People's Plan for 2007 – 2010, which will be a wide-ranging and comprehensive document. The Board is keen that the plan does not simply gather dust on shelves but is used to make real improvements for children and young people. To achieve this, it needs to be based on reliable statistical data and informed feedback from all interested partners. However, the Board is not starting from a blank sheet of paper. A number of important issues have already been identified about which further advice and guidance is being sought.

These issues have emerged as particularly important for one or more of a number of reasons:

- They are what children and young people have been saying is important to them,
- They are what the data we collect is saying about where there is room for improvement,
- They are what has been identified as needing further attention in the Annual Performance Assessment.

This consultation document outlines the nine most important issues where fresh ideas and additional help might make a difference. All ideas are welcome, but particularly those that don't need more resources than are currently available! The intention is that the local authority and all its partners should be smarter about the way in which existing resources are used.

The consultation

The deadline for responses to the consultation is Friday 27th October. During September and October, there will be a number of events to gather views from as wide a range of people as possible. A form is also provided with the consultation document for written responses. A parallel consultation is taking place with children and young people, asking them to say how well their needs are met in York. Comments have been invited on postcards, through the "Schools Out" newspaper, and through specially arranged events. A DVD will also be published alongside the Plan in which children and young people will have the opportunity to speak for themselves about the issues that matter to them most.

Date	Activity
Wed 13 Sept	YorOK Board discussion
Wed 13 Sept	Briefing for Chairs of School Governing Bodies
Wed 20 Sept	Headteacher briefing
Sat 7 Oct	CVS Children and Young People's Conference
Wed 11 Oct	Public Open meeting
Wed 11 Oct	CYC Staff consultation event
Mon 16 Oct	LCCS: Service and Group Managers Meeting
Mon 16 Oct	Children's Services EMAP
Tue 17 Oct	Governors' Viewpoint: special event
Wed 18 Oct	Joint Consultative Group (JCG)
Fri 15 Sept	PCT – Start of consultation process
Fri 15 Sept	Acute Trust Consultation – Start of consultation process

Please find the time, either to attend one of these meetings, or to write in to the Children's Trust using the consultation response form.

