

Report from the Assistant Director, Integrated Commissioning

Towards the next Children and Young People's Plan

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Group that work is about to start on the next Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for York, to run from the Autumn of this year until 2016. In particular, we are now starting to plan for a consultation process that ensures that children, young people and parents are informed, consulted and involved as much as is possible in the development of the plan.

Background

2. The present CYPP was launched in April 2009 to run until 2012. Board Members who want to refresh their memories can view the Plan at <http://www.york.org.uk/Workforce/About%20YorOK/children-young-peoples-plan.html>. The 25 Priorities that emerged from this planning process are attached as an Appendix in two formats: that used for members of the workforce, and the version produced by and for young people.
3. The Plan has served us well. It has been widely praised for its clarity and its coherence. Copies of the priorities still adorn the walls of many Headteachers, doctors' surgeries, children's centres, CYC staff and elsewhere. The Plan has created a strategic environment in which outcomes for children and young people have been very successful in almost all areas. In particular the last three years have seen sustained improvements in health and educational outcomes, a discernible "narrowing of the gap", the creation and maintenance of a network of children's centres, and very low rates of NEET, teenage pregnancy, youth offending and other such outcomes. York's children's services have been consistently marked as "outstanding" by Ofsted throughout this period.
4. The exceptions to this picture have been the increase in the number of Looked After Children (to some extent a national phenomenon),

educational outcomes for this group, post-16 opportunities for those with learning difficulties or disabilities, and persistent child poverty. These would arguably need to be at the heart of a renewed set of priorities for the next planning period.

5. The Plan is formally owned by the YorOK Board (the local name for York's Children's Trust). The last government legislated to make such Trusts, and such Plans, a statutory requirement. However, the present government is in the process of removing this requirement. The line from government now is that it still considers partnership working to be a priority, but that it is up to local areas to decide how best to work together, and whether to produce a single Plan. The YorOK Board is expected to confirm – at a meeting which also takes place on 16 January – that it sees great value in continuing to operate as a strategic partnership, and within the context of a jointly-owned strategic plan. The remainder of this paper assumes that this decision has been confirmed.

Consultation

6. Officers will discuss with the Group their first thoughts on ways of consulting children, young people and their families on what they would like to see in the next Plan. This will reflect the views of the YorOK Involvement Group. YPWG Members' own views about this would be welcome.

Options and Analysis

7. The remainder of this paper offers some preliminary thoughts about the structure and content of the new Plan, to allow the Group to have an initial discussion. These thoughts are simply the views of the report Author, and are of course not intended to pre-judge the outcome of the consultation process.
8. One initial question is whether we want more explicitly to make the next Plan a document which covers services for *families*, as well as for Children and Young People. This could be reflected in the very title – eg, we could go for a snappier main title such as “Investing in York's Future” with a subsidiary title such as “The YorOK Commissioning Plan for Children, Young People and their Families for 2013-16”.
9. A further initial question is how to structure any new Plan. The last two Plans have been structured around the five “Every Child Matters” outcomes. These have become something of a common currency across the YorOK workforce and have served us well. However they

are no longer part of official government policy, and the time may have come to move on. We did, it must be said; sometimes struggle to delineate some of the five outcomes.

10. For the sake of debate, therefore, we propose that the new Plan is structured around four headings as follows:

Keeping you healthy, happy and safe

(including health outcomes, emotional wellbeing and safeguarding, work to combat bullying and exploitation)

Great education and training, great opportunities

(bringing together material on schools, transitions, IAG and economic wellbeing, environment, voice and influence)

Extra help for those who need it

(targeted work, preventative work, LAC, narrowing the gap, disabled, minorities)

Things to do and places to go

(positive contribution, culture, youth charter, youth cafe, transport issues, young people's standing in the community)

These suggestions are not intended to stifle debate, rather to provoke it. *The Group's comments are invited.*

11. When it comes to the new priorities themselves, it might be preferable to end up with fewer than the 25 we had last time, and distinguish more clearly the work we need to do to *maintain progress* (eg around NEET, teenage pregnancy, safeguarding etc) from the work we need to do to achieve a quantum *shift in outcomes*. Again, for the purposes of debate, we might expect to see explicit priorities around these issues:

- relentless pressure to narrow gaps in outcomes, wherever they might occur, and whether they be health-related or educational, eg:
 - between geographic communities
 - between LAC children and others
 - between children on Free School Meals and others
 - between other minority groups and others;
- a particular focus on reducing child poverty and its impact;
- a sustained programme to reduce the LAC population;
- a fresh emphasis on mental health services for young people;
- better long-term opportunities for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities;
- better support for young carers.

The Group's comments are invited.

12. Finally, it is suggested that whatever the content, the drafting of the Plan retains those elements of the last Plan which were most successful, ie:

- clear, simple language with no acronyms;
- all proposals to be based on clear evidence;
- all priorities to be based around clear outcomes.

Council Plan 2011-15

13. The contents of this paper are potentially relevant to all aspects of the Council Plan, but in particular to the priorities around:

- Creating communities where young people can flourish
- Supporting families
- Creating a culture of enterprise.

Implications

Financial implications: none at this stage.

Human Resources implications: none immediately.

There are no, **Equalities, Crime and Disorder, IT or Property** implications.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

13. That the Young People's Working Group notes the contents of this report and comment as appropriate on the issues raised around consultation and content.

Reason: To ensure young people's views are taken into account in Council decision-making.

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Report
Approved



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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

Posters setting out the priorities from the 2009-2012 Children and Young People's Plan