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## Meeting of Executive Member for Children's Services and Advisory Panel

16 May 2006

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

### Service Plans 2006/2007

#### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Service Plans for council services that are wholly or partially funded from the children's services budget.

#### Background

2. The planning process this year for the new Directorate of *Learning, Culture and Children's Services* has evolved in response to a number of new expectations, both local and national. Locally, changes in the corporate standard have required all service managers to provide a corporate compliance statement covering the following cross-cutting issues:
  - equalities,
  - safer city,
  - operational risk,
  - gershon efficiency and
  - competitiveness.
3. Changes in national policy have been equally far reaching. The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to produce a Children and Young People's Plan, and Ofsted has introduced the requirement for local authorities to undertake an Annual Performance Assessment (APA) shortly after the end of each financial year. Local authorities are required to submit a self evaluation statement by the end of May to be followed by a visit from Ofsted and CSCI in July before the publication of the APA letter in September. On the basis of this letter, grades are awarded for inclusion in the authority's CPA rating published in December.
4. In York, this has been translated into a planning cycle which starts in September when the Departmental Management Team (DMT) begins the process of building a budget for the following year on the basis of priorities identified in the strategic plans and the APA statement. Between September and December, strategic priorities are finalised in the *Children and Young People's Plan* and the *Children's Services Plan*. Following agreement about the budget in January, service and group managers are required to review their performance as part of the annual

service planning exercise and to produce plans for the year ahead. Once the new financial year has started, the service review is up-dated as part of the next year's Annual Performance Assessment.

5. The approach to service planning that has evolved from this is significantly more detailed than in previous years. An annual review statement has been incorporated in the service plan itself, and the number of sections in the plan has increased to take account of corporate requirements. As a consequence, it is no longer realistic to publish all of the plans in hard copy. The plans are available on the CYC website and for viewing at the Guildhall. A number of printed copies will be available at the meeting, and a full set of plans is available in the members' library and on the members' drive. Please see the end of this report for further details.
6. The Service Plans recommended for approval at this meeting are broadly similar to last year, but include the Youth Service, which, under the new constitutional arrangements will report to the EMAP for Children's Service, and Continuing Professional Development which is now considered sufficiently significant to warrant a discrete service plan of its own. The full list of service plans is as follows:

**1 School Improvement and Staff Development**

- 1.1 Education Development Service
- 1.2 Continuing Professional Development
- 1.3 School Governance Service

**2 Access and Inclusion**

- 2.1 Access
- 2.2 Special Educational Needs
- 2.3 The Youth Service

**3 Children and Families**

- 3.1 Children and Families

**4 Lifelong Learning and Leisure**

- 4.1 Arts and Culture
- 4.2 Sport and Active Leisure
- 4.3 Early Years, Extended Schools and Community
- 4.4 Adult and Community Education

**5 Resource Management**

- 5.1 Finance
- 5.2 Planning and Resources
- 5.3 Information Technology
- 5.4 Human Resources
- 5.5 Management Information Service

## Human Resources (HR) and other implications

7. Whilst there are no direct implications for HR arising from this report, it should be noted that the planning demands on Assistant Directors and Service Managers are increasing.

## Financial Implications

8. Service Plans have been produced on a timescale that ensures they reflect the budget settlement for 2006/07.

## Legal Implications

9. There is no statutory requirement for the production of service plans, though there is a strong expectation by District Audit and by inspection regimes such as Ofsted that they will be produced in order to support effective Performance Management.

## Recommendation

10. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the Service Plans attached to this report.

Legal	
Financial	
Human Resources	
Crime and Disorder	
Sustainability	
Equalities	
Other	

### Contact Details

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**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

**Annex: Service Plans**

This Annex is available at [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) (see meetings). A paper copy is available for viewing at the Guildhall, York. Please contact Rowan Hindley on 01904 552062 or [rowan.hindley@york.gov.uk](mailto:rowan.hindley@york.gov.uk). Copies will be available at the meeting.

Members will be able to view the Service Plans in the Members' Library and on the Members' drive.