

Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services and Advisory Panel 4 September 2008

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

Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2012: Consultation

Summary

1. This report seeks views from the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services and Advisory Panel on the priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2012.

Background

2. The statutory Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is *the* key planning document which sets the strategic priorities for all involved in children and young people's services. Responsibility for the plan rests with the YorOK (Children's Trust) Board which approved the first *Children and Young People's Plan* for York in 2005, the current for the 2007-10 period and has now agreed to develop a plan for the 2009-12 period. Progress against previous plans have been subject to close performance reporting to the Board. The *Children and Young People's Plan* is a partnership plan, which covers all of the services that are provided for children and young people in the city. 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.
3. The new plan will again be organised around the five outcome areas for children identified as national priorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and which over time have established a clear framework and shared language between partners. The CYPP is a high level strategic document which should and has impacted on the more detailed plans within other partnerships and single agencies. It has, for example, rightly exerted an important influence on the policies and service plans developed by the directorate of *Learning, Culture and Children's Services*. Although the current plan covers the period from 2007 – 2010, the pace of change over the last 2 years has been so rapid that it was felt there was a need to review the plan twelve months earlier than was originally anticipated. Historically CYPPs for the city have been approved by the YorOK Board and then endorsed by individual partners. A report will be taken to Executive for such endorsement by the local authority.

Consultation

4. York's previous planning was featured as a case study authority by the national Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and we are keen to build from that inclusive approach. NFER described:

"The extensive consultation and wide representation achieved by York ensured that everyone felt they had an opportunity to comment on the CYPP. Those involved included children and young people, parents, governors, and head teachers, as well as those within the local authority. This was achieved to a large extent through existing mechanisms that they were able to tap into for consultation as part of their overall 'participation strategy'." (Supporting the development of children and young people's plans July 2008)

5. A widespread process of consultation is described in the attached consultation document. The aim is to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, professionals, children and young people themselves and the wider community have opportunities to influence the priorities in the new plan.

Options

6. This is not a paper proposing particular options for the Executive Member and Advisory Panel. It does create an opportunity for members to influence the priorities in the plan either by comments made at the meeting itself or through later submissions on an individual basis.

Analysis

7. The Children and Young People's Plan for 2007 – 2010 will be a wide-ranging and comprehensive document, based on reliable statistical data and informed feedback from all interested partners. In the consultation document, a number of important issues have 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 and others 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 inspections conducted by regulators;
 - They have been identified through the process of agreeing the authority's Local Area Agreement (LAA);
 - They reflect growing national priorities as described in the government's Children Plan.
8. The consultation document outlines the key questions on the most important issues where fresh ideas and additional help might make a difference. The

document represents the most comprehensive set of consultation issues previously shared. As a result, it seeks to engage with all issues impacting upon children and young people's lives. Inevitably as a result it could be described by some as over wordy and overly detailed to the non professional reader. Simplified and children and young people's versions have been produced which will be used with appropriate forums and which are also accessible through the YorOK website (www.yor-ok.org.uk).

Corporate Priorities

9. This consultation is clearly in keeping with the direction statement in the corporate strategy which describes how "we will listen to communities and ensure that people have a greater say in deciding local priorities". More specifically the plan contributes to improvement priorities which seek to:
 - increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects;
 - improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose level of health are the poorest;
 - improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and their families in the city.

Implications

10. This report invites Members to comment on a consultation document. Any specific implications arising from the consultation will be identified in strategic and ensuing service plans. There are therefore no specific financial, human resources, crime and disorder, equalities, IT, property or other implications at this stage.
11. In producing a new plan the authority will meet the legal requirement enshrined in the Children Act 2004 which requires Children's Services Authorities to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan.

Risk Management

12. The production of a high quality Children and Young People's Plan for the city can minimise some significant risks facing all authorities. It meets the legislative requirement, meets the expectations of our regulators and thereby maintains council reputation. It assists in ensuring that resources available across partners are used effectively to tackle issues identified as priorities for York. In doing so it reduces the risk that opportunities will be missed to enhance the overall wellbeing of children and young people in the city. The process of producing the Plan is itself significant but to reduce risks further it will be matched by implementation activity and robust performance management arrangements.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to advise the Executive Member of the priorities they wish to see addressed through the 2009-12 Children and Young People's Plan for the city, and to comment as necessary on the consultation document.

Reason: To ensure the new CYPP reflects the views and priorities of Members.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 12/8/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1: Children and Young People's Plan: 2009 - 2012 - Consultation Document