
**Meeting of Executive Members and Children's
Services Advisory Panel**

16 October 2006

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

Local Area Agreement: Children and Young People's Block

Summary

1. This report invites comments on the Children and Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement.

Background

2. Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are a new way of striking a deal between central Government, local authorities and major local delivery partners in an area. Based on Sustainable Community Strategies, LAAs cover a three year period and set out priorities for local areas. They are structured around four themes:
 - Children and young people
 - Safer and stronger communities
 - Healthier communities and older people
 - Economic development and enterprise (introduced from Round 2 onwards)
3. Government Offices have been given a leading role in negotiating LAAs, in order to provide local partners with a single point of contact with central Government, and respond to local issues.
4. The Local Area Agreement establishes clear targets and outcomes for local authorities and their partners, and offers them the freedom to decide locally how best to achieve them. In principle, the LAA also simplifies funding streams, allowing greater discretion over the use of funding, and reduces the bureaucracy attached to multiple funding streams.
5. To date, there have been two rounds of LAAs. York is in the third, and final round and approval will be required by March 2007.
6. The Children and Young People's block of the York LAA, which is attached at Annex A, has been prepared by a reference group of the YorOK (Children's Trust) Board which has included representation from the City Council, Selby and York PCT, the CVS and Connexions.

Consultation & Options

Not relevant to this report.

Analysis

7. In preparing the Children and Young People's Block of the LAA, the YorOK board has sought to align the priorities of all the partners delivering services for children and young people in the city, and to ensure continuity with existing plans such as the *Children and Young People's Plan 2005 – 2008*, and the *Children's Services Plan 2006 – 2009*.

Corporate Priorities

8. The Local Area Agreement is produced on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnership which has delegated responsibility for the Children's and Young People's Block to the YorOK (Children's Trust) Board. In the Council Plan, the authority identifies a number of corporate improvement statements, four of which are about 'improving our organisational effectiveness'. Of particular relevance to this report is Improvement Statement 12 which commits the council to 'improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people'..

Implications

9. This report invites members to comment on the LAA. Any implications arising from the LAA will be identified in strategic and service plans.
 - **Finance** – no implications
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – no implications
 - **Equalities** – no implications
 - **Legal** – no implications
 - **Crime and Disorder** – no implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – no implications
 - **Property** – no implications

Risk Management

10. Without an approved LAA, the authority runs the risk that central government will lose confidence in its ability to work in partnership to deliver key local priorities.

Recommendations

11. The Executive Member is recommended to comment on the outcomes and indicators in the Children and Young People's Block of the LAA.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 26/9/06

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

Annexes

Annex 1: Local Area Agreement – Children and Young People's Block