

Executive

31 March 2009

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

The New Children and Young People's Plan for the City of York : 2009-12

Summary

- 1 This report provides a briefing for the Executive on the partnership work completed to produce a new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 for the city. The report seeks Executive's endorsement and support of that plan.

Background

- 2 The production of a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a statutory requirement, introduced by the 2004 Children Act, placed upon all local authorities. It is *the* key planning document which sets the strategic priorities for all involved in children and young people's services. National guidance has been produced describing the purpose, recommended structure and overall expectations of the plan but local flexibilities do exist to shape the document to best impact locally. Responsibility for the plan locally 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 agreed to develop and has now approved a plan for the 2009-12 period. 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 ultimate aim of our plan is to make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in the city by improving outcomes for them. As a result, we achieve improvements for the city as a whole both now and in the future. It is encouraging to report that in the current Children and Young People's Plan 2007-10, of 17 Key Performance Indicators where a trend can be identified, 14 have improved, which is over 82%. In short, focused strategic attention led by an effective partnership contributes to real improvement, even on the most challenging issues. The Plan must also be viewed in the context of the wider Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for the city. The YorOK Board is a key delivery vehicle for that strategy and the work of the wider Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and as a result the CYPP priorities are fully consistent with SCS and LSP ambitions.

Analysis

- 4 The consultation undertaken emphasized the importance of a clear vision, a clear inspirational description of our ambition. The Board as a result agreed to update its existing vision and replace in the new plan with the following

“York is a city making history and its children are our future. Every child and young person in York deserves the chance to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We will stretch the most able, support those who start at a disadvantage, and protect and nurture the most vulnerable.”

- 5 As indicated earlier, however well produced plans of this nature are, what really matters is the impact they have. The priorities in the new plan are already being used to influence the priorities and commissioning decisions of all key partners. For example, the 2009/10 Service Plans for the Directorate of Learning Culture and Children’s Services are structured around the priorities of the new CYPP. In addition, the YorOK Board has a significant ongoing performance management role in respect of the plan. The Plan contains a scorecard of key performance indicators which will be reported at least three times a year to the Board. All relevant indicators which feature in the Local Area Agreement are automatically included in the new scorecard. In reporting to the Board we will provide not only performance figures but also analysis of what the figures are saying. Most importantly we will also be expected to provide more detailed analysis and new proposals for situations where performance is not making the required progress. Such situations may result in expectations from the Board of more frequent reporting or for thematic Board level discussions or workshops.
- 9 The Plan will be formally launched at an event 12-2 on the **1 April 2009** at the Hospitium in Museum Gardens. Copies of the new plan will be distributed to Executive Members in advance of the Executive meeting but attached to this paper (**Annex 1**) is the poster version of the Plan, which forms a useful summary of both the principles underpinning our work but also the 25 key priorities the plan contains.

Options

- 10 This report is primarily for information. The Executive Member and her Shadow are active members of the YorOK Board and the Children and Young People’s EMAP were formally consulted during the consultation phase.

Consultation

- 11 The new Plan is the end product of a very widespread consultation process. We recognised that strong engagement of local stakeholders, parents and children and young people themselves, was essential if we were to ensure that the plan was to truly address the issues faced by local citizens. We also realised that rich consultation feedback was available already and hence we produced a consultation document which was based on issues which had emerged as particularly important for one or more reasons, such as those:

- that children and young people have been saying they are important to them,
 - where the data collected is saying there is room for improvement,
 - that the Annual Performance Assessment or the Joint Area Review have identified as needing further attention,
 - where the national agenda, which has been given a renewed impetus through the Children's Plan, was directing us in this way.
- 12 The original consultation document outlined the most important issues where fresh ideas and additional help might make a difference. The core consultation document was adapted for use with specific groups and made available through the YorOK web-site (<http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/cyppconsultation>) and through link ups with many voluntary and community groups across the city.
- 13 Over 4000 children and young people took part in the consultation through events such as conferences for student councils within schools, focus groups talking about specific issues, specially commissioned pieces of research and a child-friendly consultation document. Parents of children of all ages have also been involved in the consultation for the plan, working through the Parental Involvement Network and events organised for parents across the city. Partner agencies in the public and voluntary sector were consulted through the YorOK Board and other strategic groups in the city. Opportunities were also created for the consultation to be raised with staff at briefings, meetings and conferences.
- 14 The main issues stemming from this consultation were:
- Support for all children with an emphasis to engage with the disadvantaged and disenfranchised so that all children and young people can achieve their absolute potential;
 - Better help for parents to bring up their children;
 - More support about healthy lifestyles especially healthy eating;
 - More opportunities for children and young people (especially disabled children) to take part in everyday activities;
 - Clearer information about activities and help for children and young people;
 - Ways to keep children safer by making sure agencies work better together;
 - Help for children and young people to feel safer in their city;
 - Opportunities to learn even more at school and college in fun and interesting ways;
 - More ways in which children can be proud of York and York proud of them;
 - Activities to alleviate child poverty and homelessness amongst young adults;
 - Clearer advice and support to help young people (including disabled young people) when making choices about adult life.

Full details of the consultation feedback has been placed on the YorOK website.

Corporate Priorities

- 15 The new Plan supports progress to:

- Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
- Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
- Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation
- Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York
- Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

Implications

- 16 **Finance:** there are no specific financial implications arising from this report but clearly all partners will be seeking to ensure that financial resources are focused towards the key priorities arising from the plan. A partnership commissioning group chaired by the Director of LCCS will explore opportunities for further alignment and pooling of budgets to achieve improvement.
- 17 The Plan makes reference to human resources, crime and disorder, property and information technology issues but this report carries no specific implications in those areas
- 18 **Legal:** The production of a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a statutory requirement, introduced by the 2004 Children Act, placed upon all local authorities
- 19 **Risk Management:** the existence of such a plan is key to reducing key risks for the authority. Risks that resources will be inappropriately focused on non priority activity. Risks that the safety and well being of our children and young people are not being monitored and improvements sought at the highest possible partnership level. Risks that the authority fails to comply with a statutory requirement.

Recommendation

- 20 Members are asked to:
- Endorse and support the new Children and Young People's Plan for the city

Reason: to demonstrate the required local authority leadership of this key partnership planning activity

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Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

**ANNEX 1: Poster Version – Summary – Children and Young People's Plan for
City of York 2009-12**