

**Report of Corporate Director**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN: 2009-2012**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report updates members on the changes made to the Northamptonshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and the role of the Council in delivering the plan.
- 1.2 This report relates to the achievement of the following priorities
  - (a) Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
  - (b) Improving life chances for young people
  - (c) Enhancing the Environment

**2 Executive Summary**

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out how public services will work together to provide for the needs of young people. First drafted in 2006 the Plan has recently been updated to take account of changes in the circumstances of young people and new approaches by public sector agencies. The latest revision of the Plan calls for stronger partnership working between public sector agencies. The Council proposes to respond to this call through revised governance arrangements for the local delivery of the Plan.

**3 Appendices**

None

**4 Proposed Action:**

- 4.1 **Members RESOLVE to note the updated the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12;**
- 4.2 **Members RESOLVE to note the changes to the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 in the Borough.**

**5 Background**

- 5.1 The Children and Young People's Partnership in Northamptonshire has

developed a plan to set out how public services will work together to provide for the needs of young people. This plan is known as the 'Children and Young People's Plan' (CYPP).

- 5.2 Placing Wellingborough's young people in context it is informative to note that
- (a) There are approximately 19,000 people aged between 0 and 19 years of age living in the Borough. This represents approximately 25% of the total population of the Borough and 3% of the population of Northamptonshire.
  - (b) Using figures from the January 2008 school census it is apparent that 20% of children of school age in the Borough are of non-white ethnic origin; the average for Northamptonshire is 13%.
  - (c) Some of the most deprived areas in the country are found within the town of Wellingborough
- 5.3 The CYPP was first published in 2006 and the present version brings the document up to date based upon a needs assessment of children and young people. This assessment takes into account a range of social and economic factors including, educational and skills attainment, levels of deprivation, projected population, mental and physical health, availability of local recreational facilities, quality of housing and planned housing growth, childcare and schooling provision.
- 5.4 The CYPP links to the nationally agreed priorities for children, known as 'Every Child Matters': Enjoy and Achieve; Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Make a positive contribution; Achieve economic well being.
- 5.5 Whilst the CYPP aims to improve services to all children and young people it places a particular emphasis on those deemed to be most vulnerable. Children and young people in this category will typically be subject to one or more of the following circumstances
- (a) those who have had a difficult start in life
  - (b) living in poverty or with disadvantage
  - (c) in chaotic or neglectful families
  - (d) where their safety is at risk
  - (e) with disability or special needs
  - (f) in the care of Northamptonshire County Council

## **6 Discussion**

- 6.1 The recent update to the CYPP has led to some changes of emphasis as follows.
- (a) More stress on area based working; recognising that greater impacts can be made on problems by agencies working together in a specific geographic location.
  - (b) More emphasis on the Common Assessment Framework to facilitate a more effective dialogue between agencies so that concerns about young people can be addressed earlier.
  - (c) Changes to the financial management arrangements for the partnership where funding is pooled and aligned.
  - (d) An increase to the number of performance measures in order to better assure outcomes for young people

- 6.2 The 2009 review of the CYPP has also concluded that “further improvement must be secured if we are to achieve outcomes for children and young people that place us with the best performers in the country.” The remedy for achieving this is for agencies working with children to understand
- (a) what they can contribute,
  - (b) what outstanding practice looks like and how to achieve it,
  - (c) be prepared to work differently
  - (d) be focused on outcomes – improved outcomes for children, young people and their families
- 6.3 The principal action by the Council to meet these expectations is through a stronger working relationship with its partner agencies. This is being engendered through changes to the governance and management of the Wellingborough Partnership generally and specifically through changes to the leadership of the Children and Young People’s Delivery Group. Whilst these changes remain to be enacted the proposals are as follows:
- (a) That a new strategic delivery group be formed made up of representatives from partner agencies who can exercise authority in decision making. The Chairman of this group will be the Council’s lead advisor for Young People, Councillor Pursglove.
  - (b) That the existing delivery group (made up of front line workers and other practitioners) reform itself as an operational and networking body.
  - (c) That the CYPP be used as the basis for the priorities for the Children and Young People’s theme within the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- 6.4 The CYPP identifies ten priority areas for action for children and young people. These are as follows:
- (a) Live a Healthy Lifestyle
  - (b) Make Positive and Informed Choices
  - (c) Are happy, have high self esteem and positive aspirations
  - (d) Have the best possible start in life
  - (e) Enjoy learning and achieve well at school/college and beyond
  - (f) Live in decent homes, particularly the most vulnerable, and in sustainable communities
  - (g) Leave school/college with high levels of appropriate transferable skills prepared for education, training and employment
  - (h) Play an active part in decision-making at service, local and broader levels
  - (i) Engage in positive and law-abiding behaviour in and out of school/college
  - (j) Are safe, secure and respected in their home, school and community
- 6.5 Within these priorities are a small number of areas of particular concern where Northamptonshire’s Children and Young People, fare worse than the national average. These are detailed next along with action being taken by Wellingborough Council where this is appropriate.
- (a) **Reduce obesity in Year 6.** The Council principle actions to address this concern are through the provision of its leisure facilities and health education programmes. In respect of leisure the Council provides a series of universal and targeted services relevant to tackling obesity. These are, free swimming for under 16’s, the Mind Exercise Nutrition Do-IT (MEND) programme, the ‘Girls Only’ Gym sessions, summer holiday sports

activities as well as a range of fixed play equipment in public open spaces around the Borough.

- (b) **Increase stability of placements for looked after children.** The Council is able to support this objective through its housing advice and housing benefits services that provide guidance and support to young people moving in and out of care. The Council also provides support indirectly through its funding of voluntary sector agencies such as Service 6 who work with vulnerable children.
- (c) **Increase take-up of Early Years provision for 3 year olds.** The Council supports this objective indirectly through advice and support it provides to agencies such as schools, nurseries, playgroups, sure start centres and the Wellingborough Education Partnership.
- (d) **Reduce the rate of proven re-offending (per 100 of young people who offended in last 12 months).** The Council supports this objective through its chairmanship and participation in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the associated Community Safety Plan. In part this is achieved through enforcement and regulatory actions (such as the Council's CCTV network, its neighbourhood wardens, its funding of Police Community Support Officers). In addition the Council delivers a range of educational and diversionary programmes for young people, including the 'Young Citizen's' Scheme, the regeneration work on 'Hemmingwell Square', the establishment of the Hemmingwell Skills Centre and 'detached youth work' with targeted groups on young people in urban and rural areas.
- (e) **Reduce the percentage receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody.** The Council supports this objective indirectly the advice and guidance it is able to give to partners through its chairmanship and participation in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- (f) **Improve perceptions of anti-social behaviour.** The Council is working with partners to meet this objective by seeking to promote positive messages about the actual levels of anti-social behaviour and by taking action to reduce environmental influences on perceptions. This includes action on littering and improving poorly lit or poorly maintained public spaces by reducing foliage and vegetation and improving the appearance of the public realm. Intergenerational work helps to change perceptions held by younger and older people about each other and their behaviours.

## 7 Legal Powers

7.1 Section 111 of The Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

7.2 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council the power (subject to certain exceptions which do not apply here) to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the Borough.

## 8 Financial and Value For Money Implications

- 8.1 This should include all financial implications and/or risks of the proposed decision. It is important that this covers future implications not just those immediately arising. All financial implications need to be agreed with service accountants.

## 9 Risk Analysis

<b>Nature of risk</b>	<b>Consequences if realised</b>	<b>Likelihood of occurrence</b>	<b>Control measures</b>
The Council does not take action around the priorities of the CYPP	Life chances for young people in Wellingborough are more limited than elsewhere in the county  Opportunities to make best use of resources with partners are missed	Low	Wellingborough Partnership Children and Young People's Delivery Group  Corporate Plan  Service Plans

## 10 Implications for Resources

- 10.1 None

## 11 Implications for Stronger and Safer Communities

There are strong media, public and institutional perceptions that young people are major contributors to crime and anti-social behaviour. As an effective participant in the delivery of the Children and Young People Plan, the Council will assist the Council in managing both the perception and reality of this aspect of young people's behaviour.

## 12 Implications for Equalities

People under 19 form a significant proportion of the local borough population and the Council needs to ensure that their wants and needs are reflected in its policies and decisions.

## 13 Author and Contact Officer

Terry Wright, Corporate Director

**14 Consultees**

Joe Hubbard, Chief Executive  
Gill Chapman, Community Development Manager

**15 Background Papers**

Project files