

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:
PLAN AND AREA MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE
(Report by the Head of Policy)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity to comment on consultation on the emerging Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) and area arrangements for the Office of Children & Young People's Services (OCYPS).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Earlier this year the Council endorsed an interim plan for children and young people for 2005/06, which was designed to provide direction for the delivery and reorganisation of services for children and young people and their families pending a formal (statutory) plan.
- 2.2 The County Council are required to develop the plan in conjunction with partners and the District Council has a reciprocal duty to cooperate in the achievement of the plan outcomes. The plan is being developed through the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership and is designed to be both aspirational and strategic, but with sufficient tangible actions against which progress can be measured. It will have a three-year cycle.
- 2.3 The priorities and activities in the plan will form the basis of the first integrated inspection (Joint Area Review) in 2006/07, in which all partners, including the District Council, will be required to participate.
- 2.4 The draft plan (Appendix A) is based on an extensive "needs assessment" carried out across Cambridgeshire, which included —
- quantitative information from existing data;
 - feedback from professionals working with children and young people and their families;
 - consultation with 1,800 children and young people*;
 - consultation with parents and carers; and
 - the results of an annual performance assessment.

(Note: A copy of the summary of "Getting It Right" – a consultation with children and young people – is attached at Appendix B, and a copy of the full report is available on request.)*

- 2.5 The District Council has a duty "to reciprocate" in the delivery of services and achievement of outcomes that affect children and young

people and their families and is specified also as a member of the "Safeguarding Children's Board" and required to undertake "safeguarding" (protection) activities.

2.6 The Council's contribution, however, is much wider than these duties through "universal" service provision to all residents. Many of these contributory services have now been highlighted in the Plan, including —

- developing and supporting the delivery of leisure, recreation and play opportunities, economic development and regeneration, housing and benefits services;
- the provision of community facilities used by children and young people and their families;
- the promotion and support of good practice in the involvement of children and young people in local decision-making;
- leading the development of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership and other key partnerships;
- participation in the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership and the development of an Area Group and plans; and
- helping to improve young people's access to facilities and services, including wider partnership arrangements.

2.7 Section 1 of the plan sets out the vision and context for the County, together with six key outcomes which have been identified from the needs assessment. Sections 4 – 8 set out the priority actions which will help to deliver the key outcomes. Many of the priority actions cannot be delivered by one organisation alone and a partnership approach is required. Some of the priority actions relate to the activities of District Councils and arrangements are being considered whereby one District will lead on behalf of all the Councils in the County in coordinating progress against that priority.

3. AREA AND LOCALITY ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Attached at Appendix C is a consultation document relating to proposals for how the County Council will organise and deliver services for children and young people at area and locality level. The consultation document is aimed at employees, but the County Council is keen to hear the views of key partners. The proposals have been developed following consultation which involved a variety of practitioner organisations, parents, carers and children and young people and are based on two themes —

- that services should be delivered at the most practical local level; and
- that services should be delivered in a multi-disciplinary way.

3.2 As far as the District is concerned, the proposed structure provides that Huntingdonshire should be one of three areas (the others are South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire & Fenland), with locality teams of multi-disciplinary staff organised around the secondary schools clusters in —

- Huntingdon;
- Sawtry and Ramsey;
- St Ives; and
- St Neots.

It is envisaged that these locality arrangements will facilitate multi-agency working at this level.

3.3 It is intended to support the CYPP with three plans mirroring the three areas. While some county-wide priorities will apply in all or some areas, some will only be picked up where they are relevant to local issues. The area plans, therefore, will provide a focus for local priorities and activities.

3.4 The area and locality arrangements and plans will provide the focus for the partnership work between District Council services and service for children and young people, although it will be necessary to retain an involvement in the County-wide arrangements.

4. KEY QUESTIONS

4.1 The consultation document poses a number of key questions (covering page) on which the views of partner organisations are being sought. Because of the timing of the consultation, discussions are continuing between relevant officers of the Council and the OCYPS, which will continue up to the date of the meeting. A summary of points made during these discussions and any further comments will be reported to the meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended —

- that the Children and Young People's Plan and area arrangements for the Children and Young People's Service be noted; and
- that, subject to comments made at the meeting, the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources & Policy, be authorised to respond to consultation on the development of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Background Information:

Draft Children & Young People's Plan)
 Summary of Consultation with Children and Young People) Policy Division
 Consultation documents on area and locality arrangements)

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