

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2014 -17

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an overview on the new Halton Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2014-17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to

- 1) Note the contents of the report;**
- 2) Endorse the CYPP 2014-17; and**
- 3) Support the roll out of the new CYPP and work in order to meet its priorities over the next three years.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The CYPP is the agreed joint strategy of the partners within Halton Children's Trust, detailing how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing. It represents Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough, and provides strategic direction and determines how the Children's Trust Board will work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

3.2 Halton's first CYPP was published in 2006, covering a three year period to 2009. The second CYPP for Halton was published in 2009 and ran until March 31st 2011. The current CYPP has been in place since 2011 and is due to come to the end of its lifecycle on March 31st 2014.

3.3 Although no longer statutory as of June 2010, the need for a CYPP to remain in place was universally agreed locally in Halton to provide the strategic direction for the continuing Children's Trust arrangements. Following extensive consultation, the priorities for Halton Children's Trust for the period 2011-14 were agreed as

- Early help and support.
- Integrated commissioning
- Vulnerable children and young people

- 3.4 The Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 was framed around these priorities.
- 3.5 It was agreed in autumn 2013 to develop a new CYPP to frame the work of the Trust from 2014. On this basis a working group was established from November 2013 to develop the plan based around the agreed new priorities for Halton Children's Trust, which are:
1. **Working together to** deliver services in a joined up way to make sure children and their families get the right help at the right time (**Early Help & Support**)
 2. **Working together to** plan and fund outcome focused services for children and families, that deliver high quality services that are value for money (**Integrated Commissioning**)
 3. **Working together to** focus services towards the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families to '**close the gap**' by improving health, education, social and cultural outcomes.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The task and finish working group met bi-weekly and following the development of a short project brief, a number of agreements were made around the approach to take for the new CYPP. These include:
- Primarily web-based but with a limited number of copies produced for stakeholders and inspection purposes
 - Shorter chapters and simplified language – the objective being to produce chapters that are fully understood by all stakeholders no matter what their level of involvement is.
 - The chapters should be different in their approach to that found in other documents
 - Exploitation the advantages of having a web-based document – for example being able to link to other documents if you want more detail.
 - Involvement of young people – this has been initiated in a number of ways, including:
 - INVOLVE Group – the CYPP is a standing item on the agenda at each meeting and ideas have been generated for involving young people. These include a young people's video to explain the CYPP and looking to have advocates/peer champions. This Group involves representatives from a broad range of young people's agencies and groups, including Halton Youth Cabinet, Community of Youth, Halton Speakout and Canal Boat Adventure Project
 - Working with the Children in Care Council in February
 - Social Media – utilising Twitter to look for further involvement

to increase the meaning of the Plan to young people. This includes the possibility of drawings/cartoons by young people in different chapters to show it means to them and other young people.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The CYPP is the key strategic document for Halton Children's Trust, within which all children and young people's services in Halton sits. The Plan outlines the main priorities for the Trust in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Plan has a strong focus on continuing to tackle the numbers of Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people in Halton, including through the promotion of apprenticeship opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Health remains a clear priority for the Children's Trust within each of the three priorities, fully involved and leading on working within each. Health indicators also remain a key element of the Performance Management Framework that supports the CYPP. Halton Children's Trust is closely involved in the Health & Wellbeing Board and structures that sit underneath it, working in conjunction with Public Health and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group across a broad range of issues. To this end, a Joint Protocol has been developed involving Halton Children's Trust, Halton Safeguarding Children Board and Halton Health & Wellbeing Board.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Plan looks at work being done around alcohol, anti-social behaviour and youth offending. In each of these areas the Trust works closely with the Safer Halton Partnership.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The CYPP highlights the development of further provision in Halton, including the CRMZ facility in Widnes and additional secure residential accommodation across Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 It is vital that both the Council and Children's Trust continue to be clear about priorities for service delivery and that this strategy is noted by

Elected Members.

7.2 The absence of a CYPP would:

- Reduce the ability to take account of the local community's aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Have serious implications for Partnership co-ordination between all the public, voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders that operate locally for the benefit of children, young people and their families;
- Potentially reduce the effectiveness of the Partnership through fragmentation of strategies.

7.3 These risks can be mitigated by the adoption of the CYPP and its implementation, monitoring and ultimate delivery.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 A Community Impact & Review Assessment prior to its formal launch showed no negative impacts on any individuals and groups within Halton as a result of the Plan. The Children & Young People's Plan facilitates positive action for children and young people overall in Halton and for particular groups of children and young people as appropriate.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 This CYPP has been developed to replace the previous Plan that expired on March 31st 2014 and takes into account the agreed new priorities for the Children's Trust for the next three years. The CYPP is also aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The Children & Young People's Plan is the overarching strategy that Halton's Children's Trust is working towards meeting from April 2014.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children Act 2004	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Mark Grady
Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Mark Grady