

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 9th September 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People
SUBJECT: Children & Young People’s Plan Review 2010
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of the review that has been undertaken of Halton’s Children & Young People’s Plan 2009-11

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board:

- i) **Endorses the Children & Young People’s Plan Review 2010; and**
- ii) **Approves the actions detailed in Section 11 of the Children & Young People’s Plan Review 2010, and summarised in 3.9 of this report to be taken into consideration in terms of meeting the Children & Young People’s Plan 2009-11.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Halton’s second Children & Young People’s Plan (CYPP) was published in 2009, to provide strategic direction for all services within the Children’s Trust in Halton. The Plan runs until 2011.
- 3.2 The CYPP is the agreed joint strategy of the partners in the Children’s Trust, detailing how they will co-operate to improve children’s wellbeing over the five Every Child Matters Outcomes. It represents Halton’s local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough. It determines how the Children’s Trust Board will work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.
- 3.3 The CYPP is a core element within the overall vision for the borough, which is contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.4 The CYPP must be reviewed in each year that a new Plan is not published. The annual review should consider progress towards all targets and priorities set out in the Plan along with the implications of future action.

- 3.5 The guidance sets out that the review should:
- Highlight the progress in delivering the Plan including reasons for non-delivery
 - Present relevant data
 - Identify barriers to success
 - Outline what actions will be taken to achieve the improvements
 - Set out future tasks for the Plan and how and when these tasks will be completed
- 3.6 A multi agency task and finish group was established in April 2010 to produce the Review. This group will be re-established and widened in order to develop the new Children & Young People's Plan to be in place from April 2011, subject to the Coalition Government's emerging policy framework.
- 3.7 The review sets out developments in a number of key areas over the past 12 months, including:
- The views of children and young people that have been gathered through a broad range of consultation.
 - The strengthened Children's Trust partnership arrangements.
 - A performance update for all indicators within the Plan's overarching priorities.
 - The work done so far to meet the 14 promises in the Plan and how we will work to meet the outstanding promises in the months ahead.
 - And perhaps most importantly, the review provides an opportunity to celebrate some of the successes achieved by our young people, as well as the barriers that have been encountered by children, young people and professionals over the last 12 months.
- 3.8 Section 11 of the review highlights many achievements over the last 12 months, including:
- Agreement of a joint protocol between the Children's Trust and Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) that outlines the complementary roles and responsibilities of the two bodies. These links are also reinforced by the HSCB Annual Report that will be published shortly.
 - The launch of locality working for children & young people's services across Halton.
 - The provision of a broader range of accommodation for young people leaving care
 - A review of Common Assessment Framework provision
 - The development of a Children's Trust Business Plan that

formalises governance arrangements in light of the latest statutory guidance.

- A significant reduction in the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

3.9 Similarly, Section 11 of the review also provides an overview of a number of areas where more work is needed in order to achieve our objectives by March 2011. These include:

- The development of a number of additional Children's Trust documents, including a Compact, Resource Strategy, Integrated Children's Workforce Strategy and Equality & Diversity Strategy.
- Continuing work on establishing a Joint Commissioning Unit for Halton between the local authority and PCT.
- Establishing a Young People's Travel Forum for Halton.
- Fully embedding locality working across all agencies and working practices.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act received Royal Assent in November 2009. The ASCL Act strengthened Children's Trusts by:

- Requiring every local area to have a Children's Trust Board;
- Giving the Children's Trust Board (rather than the local authority) responsibility for jointly producing, implementing and reviewing the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP);
- Extending the number of statutory 'relevant partners' to include maintained schools, Academies, non-maintained special schools, Further Education and sixth-form colleges, Short Stay Schools / Pupil Referral Units and Jobcentre Plus.

4.2 At the same time, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published draft new statutory guidance on Children's Trust and draft new Children and Young People's Plan regulations. This statutory guidance replaced *Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on inter-agency co-operation* (2008), and also the non-statutory guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan released in 2008.

4.3 Many of the requirements of the Act and guidance were already present in Halton but formalised by these developments.

4.4 The Act ensures that all partners within the Children's Trust are individually responsible for implementing the CYPP. Partners must have regard to the CYPP and the commitments they have made to it, showing a good reason for departing from their commitment. Each partner is required to co-operate with the local authority in its role of

'making' the co-operation arrangements.

4.5 The Coalition Government is currently reviewing the policy framework for Children's Services and has announced its intention to remove the statutory regulations in place for Children's Trusts and CYPPs from autumn 2010. Although the Government has made it clear that it sees strong local partnerships as crucial to meeting the needs of all children, it does not need to be through a one-size-fits-all approach. Each local authority area will be free to address local issues with effective solutions. The basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed.

4.6 The intention in Halton is to continue to drive forward work to improve outcomes for children and young people through the current Children's Trust arrangements, with a new CYPP developed by April 2011 to provide strategic direction.

4.7 The Children's Trust will hold a development day in November to look to agree the overarching priorities for the Trust's work from 2011 onwards. These will shape the new CYPP and be informed by the evolving framework for working to improve outcomes for children and young people in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The review was completed by the end of June, in line with requirements for it to be in place within 12 months of the publication of the Plan.

5.2 The document has been submitted to Ofsted as part of the evidence base for the 2010 annual Children's Services Rating that will be published in December 2010.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The review provides an update to the Children & Young People's Plan for Halton 2009-11. This is the key strategic document for the Children's Trust, outlining the main priorities for the Trust within the framework of the Every Child Matters agenda in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Plan and the review document has a strong focus on ensuring that young people are successful when they leave school and do well wherever they live and whatever their needs. Both of these overarching priorities of the Plan link closely to the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) agenda that links with the work of Employment, Learning & Skills.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Children's physical, sexual and emotional health is an overarching priority within the Plan and for the Trust.

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 review highlights the development of further provision in Halton, including the MyPlace site in Widnes and additional secure accommodation across Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The review meets the statutory guidance that was released from the previous government to undertake an annual review in each year that a full Plan is not produced. The review covers the requirements of the guidance, provides a supplementary update to the Plan itself and will inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

7.2 The Coalition Government is currently reviewing all policy areas and so the future budgetary framework is currently being determined.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment undertaken on the document showed that there are no negative impacts on any individuals and groups within Halton as a result of the Plan and review. 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 The Review was undertaken in order to comply with the updated Statutory Children's Trust Guidance to review the Children & Young People's Plan in each year that a new Plan is not produced. The Review also provides an update on progress that has been submitted to Ofsted to inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The existing Children & Young People's Plan remains the overarching strategy that Halton's Children's Trust is working towards meeting. The Review provides a supplement that updates progress so far on the two year (2009-11) Plan. The Review was published in July in time to be submitted to Ofsted by its deadline of July 16th for consideration for the Children's Services Rating for 2010.

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, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady
Children's Trust Statutory Guidance 2010	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady