

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 30th June 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

SUBJECT: Children & Young People’s Plan 2011-14

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks Executive Board approval for the new Children & Young People’s Plan 2011-14 to proceed to Full Council for adoption. (Plan located at <http://councillors.halton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=316&MId=3704&Ver=4>)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to endorse and adopt the Children and Young People’s Plan 2011-14.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 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. It represents Halton’s local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough. It 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 The CYPP is a core element within the overall vision for the borough, as contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.3 Halton’s first Children & Young People’s Plan (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.
- 3.4 Halton’s Children’s Trust Board was established in 2008 in line with national requirements that became statutory on April 1st 2010. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009, together with the Children’s Trust Statutory Guidance 2010, increased the Trust’s powers in a number of ways, widening the number of statutory partners on the Trust, and designating responsibility for producing, implementing and reviewing the Children & Young People’s Plan to all partners on the Trust jointly.
- 3.5 The Coalition Government announced in July 2010 its intention to reform Children’s Trusts. The proposals came into force from October 31st 2010 and included:

- removing the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts
- removing the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
- revoking the regulations underpinning the CYPP and withdrawing the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts.

3.6 Although the Coalition Government removed the statutory footing for Children's Trusts, it did reconfirm its commitment to working in partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people through locally agreed partnerships. The reforms allow each local authority area to agree its own way forward in terms of delivering children and young people's services. The duty for partners to co-operate will continue, but the list of statutory partners reduced to remove the bureaucracy surrounding Children's Trusts or similar local partnerships for partners, and in particular schools.

3.7 Following the announcement of the reforms, the future of Halton's Children's Trust was discussed at both the Children's Trust Board and Executive Group. At both there was universal agreement from all partners for the Trust to continue in its current format, as the overarching multi agency body that contains all children & young people's services in Halton. This reflects the breadth and strength of partnership working across the children & young people's agenda in Halton, as well universal understanding of the need to continue to work in partnership in the challenging economic climate currently faced.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Children's Trusts reforms in essence brought a reversal to the pre-April 2010 status of Children's Trusts.

4.2 The reforms removed the requirement to produce a CYPP. With agreement to continue the Children's Trust arrangements came the need for a CYPP to provide strategic direction and so a third CYPP for Halton has been developed within the Children's Trust for a three year period from 2011-14.

4.3 Work began on the new CYPP following a Children's Trust Development Day in December 2010. The event was used to reflect on the progress achieved by the Trust since 2008 in terms of its' priorities, the key initiatives facing the Trust at present and also to agree the priorities for the Trust for the next three years. Following further consultation, the new priorities for the Children's Trust have been agreed as

- Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support.
- Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning
- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively

4.4 The focus on Safeguarding will continue to be a key theme for the Trust across these priorities.

4.5 The new CYPP is framed around these priorities.

4.6 Work on the new Plan was stopped for a four week period in January and February 2011 as Halton planned for and underwent its Safeguarding & Looked After Children Inspection.

4.7 The CYPP will impact upon all policy areas for children and young people's services across all partner agencies within the Children's Trust in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The CYPP is fully aligned with the new Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton 2011-26. It is crucial that partners continue to play an integral role in the delivery of the Plan over the next three years through the Children's Trust structures.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The CYPP is the key strategic document for the 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

Although there is no longer a specific Health priority within the CYPP, Health remains a clear priority for the Children's Trust within 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.

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 receives ratification by Elected Members.

7.2 Absence of a CYPP will:

- 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 SCS and its implementation, monitoring and ultimate delivery.

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. 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 2011 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 new 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. The Plan will be implemented once approved.

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
Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11	2 nd Floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Mark Grady