

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP)

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Executive Board with a brief summary of the information and requirements as contained in the Children and Young People’s Plan Guidance and present Halton’s Children and Young People Plan (CYPP).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the information contained in this report is noted; and

(2) the Executive Board endorse the CYPP to be approved by Full Council

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

National guidance

3.1 In February 2009 DCSF published guidance to assist areas in compiling the CYPP. The Plan must be a document of strategic intent, which sets the context of children and young people living their lives within safe, prosperous communities where parents are enabled to work. Therefore establishing effective links between CYPP and the Sustainable Communities Strategy has been a key requirement for this plan.

3.2 The guidance is concise but expects each plan to provide a number of key elements and statements. In addition the plan must address how local areas will improve the outcomes for children and young people with specific reference to children and young people, there are also a number of additional requirements that need explanation within each plan.

3.3 The required elements for local plans fundamentally ask a range of key questions. These include:

“What are the key improvements needed in Halton and what actions will enable this?”

“What will Halton do to ensure the effective implementation of a Children’s Trust?”

The CYPP has to present Halton's view on how the partnership is improving outcomes within a joined up approach including:

- Inter agency governance, leadership and whole system change
- Integrated strategic planning and commissioning
- Integrated processes fostering professional understanding between services
- Integrated front line delivery.

“What will Halton do to ensure we take heed of legislation to promote well-being and protect children, and how are we keeping to the philosophy of early and effective prevention?”

This takes account of:

- Integration of local services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners to improve the well being of children and young people
- Arrangements made by the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Arrangements for early intervention and preventative action

“How will we best utilise our resource, and then when prioritised how will we manage improvement in performance?”

and specifically asks:

- How the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services arrangements.
- How the local authority's resources will contribute to the improvements in outcomes. This will include commissioning arrangements and how resources and planning cycles are aligned to improve service development and delivery.

Halton Children and Young People's Plan

- 3.4 The structure and content of Halton's plan takes account of these specific requirements mentioned above and the attached document is a near complete version.
- 3.5 The CYPP is not a detailed operational plan, but is expected to set the context and framework within which the Children's Trust will plan and coordinate the effective commissioning and delivery of services that will meet the needs of children and young people in the borough and improve outcomes.
- 3.6 As such we have endeavoured to make sure the CYPP demonstrates an alignment with other strategic planning bodies in addition to establishing itself as a key element within the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Therefore a key theme of this plan has been demonstrating a 'wider' ownership where this document is seen as an essential and integral part of local strategic plans.

3.8 The CYPP must also demonstrate clear links between a comprehensive needs analysis and how this analysis informs commissioning arrangements. To this end we have undertaken wide-ranging consultations with all relevant partners, children, young people and their families, we have also utilised existing consultation information in addition to the intelligence we have available across the borough and across this partnership, as part of our comprehensive needs analysis. Throughout the plan we have actively sought to show how this analysis has been used when targeting our resources effectively.

3.9 Through this activity we have identified 3 main ambitions we want to achieve for children and young people in Halton.

These being:

- Every young person is successful when they leave school.
- Children and young people do well whatever their needs and wherever they live.
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

3.10 In response to our responsibilities within the Children Act 2004 and the recent Laming Recommendations we have also ensured safeguarding maintains its high profile in Halton. We have made sure this continues to be a significant priority for all partners across professional and organisational backgrounds by identifying a fourth ambition within this plan. Therefore we have a fourth priority, this being

- Children and Young People will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities.

Local developments

3.11 The Children's Trust Executive Group endorsed the new plan being from April 2009 to March 2011. Furthermore the PCT committed to using the CYPP as their 'Commissioning Action Plan' for health issues in the borough.

3.12 The plan has utilised the Outcomes Based Accountability approach to demonstrate direction of travel and plans for the future. By using this approach in the plan we have been able to evidence how Halton is a child-focussed authority, which bases its decisions on effective consultation and participation with stakeholders and children and young people in addition to evidence of what works.

3.13 A multi agency core team has met weekly to keep to timescales and to focus on tasks. Members of staff have supported the core team in their work across partner agencies that have offered comment and feedback when regular drafts of the plan have been distributed.

3.14 The document accompanying this report is the design of the final plan. The content is based on what we know about Halton and what we know we need to do to improve outcomes for children and young people. It meets the

requirements as set out in the CYP guidance and illustrates our commitment to listening to families and children.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 We have had much support across Council and Partners in developing this plan. It is therefore important we maintain the momentum and drive forward the commitments we have made through this plan to work better together in order to improve outcomes.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is now necessary to work closely with young people to produce a Young Persons version of the plan. Youth Cabinet have been approached to assist where they can.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This plan is the key overarching strategy document in Halton and is intrinsic to improving outcomes for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Children's Trust partnership is committed to the employment, learning and skills agenda in Halton. This plan reflects that commitment in a range of ways and by setting a priority of 'every young person is successful when they leave school', linked to a number of important indicators of success it is firmly embedding this agenda.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The aspiration of a healthy Halton is writ large throughout the plan. The PCT commitment to using the plan as its key commissioning document coupled with a discrete health priority agreed by the Children's Trust will concentrate efforts on making a real difference in health outcomes.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The plan dovetails neatly with the Safer Halton agenda as a number of key themes are jointly owned. The 'prevent and deter' philosophy is vital to improve outcome and the plan has within it a number of key indicators to assist with this.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Links with Urban Renewal are cemented with the discussions, which have taken place regarding Halton's developing Core Strategy.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The plan must be published by the first week in June to comply with statutory guidance. We have made every effort to make sure the plan complies with statutory guidance and our ambitions for the future. We have also made every effort that the CYPP feeds into the Sustainable Communities Strategy. It is therefore anticipated the risks associated with the development and production of this plan are minimal.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 A multi agency group is now completing an Equality Impact Assessment and any amendments required as a result of this process will be carried out.

9.0 REASON (S) FOR DECISION

9.1 It is a statutory requirement that Halton Borough Council produces and publishes a Children and Young People's Plan

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 None

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 June 2009

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
CYPP Guidance 2009	Grosvenor House	Tony Crane