

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST 2011/12

Report for Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel



STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

In terms of overarching strategy, the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 has been developed and sets out priorities for the coming three years as:

- Equip young people with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make a success transition to adulthood
- Improve levels of achievement for all children and young people
- Tackle child poverty
- Provide all children with the best possible start to life
- Tackle risk taking behaviours through locality delivered services

These contribute to the four citywide priorities established by the Plymouth 2020 partnership and conversely cannot be achieved without the full support of other Plymouth2020 partnerships. The overview plan has been ratified by full Council and PCT Board and action plans continue to be developed throughout June and July. We plan to communicate our strategy and activity to the children's workforce and wider partners this Autumn.

Governance for the Trust will be reviewed in the Autumn in line with wider Plymouth 2020 governance reviews to ensure that the current Board and Executive arrangements are fit for purpose, including links to other strategic groups across the City. Amendments will reflect the changing nature of relationships, for example the changing role of GPs and schools.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Children and Young People's Plan was developed during a time of policy and resource turbulence across all the major partners. However, it is based on a clear picture of need and desire to continue momentum tackling the big issues facing children and families. Central government departments are now issuing a range of policy consultation and direction that we will need to respond to across partner agencies.

Over the coming months we expect to build a clear response to recent and upcoming guidance including:

Public Health White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People inc i) Funding and Commissioning Routes consultation and ii) Outcomes Framework consultation

This white paper outlined Central Government's commitment to protecting the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. This consultation explored the proposed funding and commissioning routes for public health, including the ring-fenced budget provided to local authorities and outline a proposed Outcomes

Framework that will have to reflect the collective responsibility of communities, local authorities and their partners and the role of Government in improving and protecting health.

The closing date for consultation responses was 31st March 2011 and we expect to learn more about the next steps later this year.

Health & Social Care Bill

This Bill was introduced into Parliament on 19 January 2011. It takes forward *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS (July 2010)* and the subsequent Government response *Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps (December 2010)*, which require primary legislation. It also includes provision to strengthen public health services and reform the Department's arm's length bodies. The Bill proposes to create an independent NHS Board, promote patient choice, and to reduce NHS administration costs. The Bill has completed its committee stage. The Bill will be reprinted to incorporate the changes made during committee stage and as a result of the Listening Exercise and is now waiting for its Report stage on the floor of the House.

Child Poverty Act

The Act outlines the Government commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Central to the legislation is a range of new duties for local authorities, including a specific duty to work more closely with local partners including the Jobcentre Plus, the NHS and Police in delivering solutions to tackle child poverty at a local level. Local authorities will be required to undertake a local child poverty needs assessment, produce a local child poverty strategy and take child poverty into account when developing their Sustainable Community Strategy.

A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives

The strategy outlines plans to tackle the root causes of child poverty which underpin low achievement, aspiration and opportunity across generations.

Allen Review – Early Intervention: The next steps

The review outlined the importance of early social and emotional intervention. Early intervention can prevent many social problems in later life and break the cycle of transmission from one generation to another. It reviews the current early intervention and demands more priority is given to these to take them to the next level to make them more successful in the future. DFE response due by September 2011.

Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance: Green Paper

The Green Paper outlines a radical re-shaping of the statutory child maintenance system to better support families going through separation, recognising the range and complexity of the issues that parents face during this difficult time. Central to the is an integrated model of relationship and family support services, which helps parents make their own, lasting arrangements, because collaborative agreements, where this is possible, are better for everyone involved. Public consultation closed on 7th April 2011 and we await the response in order to consider impact on services.