

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

8 September 2011



PLYMOUTH  
CITY COUNCIL

## Update from Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust

### 1. Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014

The CYPP 2011-14 was endorsed at Full Council on 11 April 2011 and is now available on the Children's Trust website – [www.plymouthchildrenstrust.com](http://www.plymouthchildrenstrust.com)

The five priorities are as follows:

Plymouth 2020 Priorities	CYPP 2011-14 Priorities	Champion
Deliver Growth	Equip young people with skills, knowledge and opportunities to make a successful transition to adulthood	Colin Moore
Raise Aspirations	Improve levels of achievement for all children and young people	
Reduce Inequalities	Tackle child poverty	William Woyka
	Provide all children with the best possible start to life	Paul O'Sullivan and Mairead MacNeil
Provide Value for Communities	Tackle risk taking behaviours through locality delivered services	Maggie Carter

Delivery plans for each priority have now been developed and will be presented to Children's Trust Board on 16 September 2011. Accountability for their delivery will lie with existing strategic groups and partnerships including, amongst others, the WISE theme group, the worklessness group, Early Years Strategic Partnership and Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board sub groups. This approach aims to promote the collective ownership of the CYPP and to enable cross fertilisation of activities across all theme groups, for example links between the child poverty and growth agendas. Delivery plans are active and will continue to be shaped by their lead strategic group. The performance framework has been agreed and is closely aligned with that of the Plymouth 2020 partnership.

### 2. Plymouth's Child Poverty Strategy

The Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust is leading the development of a local child poverty strategy on behalf of the Plymouth 2020 partnership. There is a clear desire across all agencies to develop a local strategy that makes a real difference to families across Plymouth, and not a document that either duplicates other work or simply sits on a bookshelf. **The golden thread is that child poverty is and must be everyone's business.** This integrated approach will form the heart of our local strategy, but will take time to implement because it aims to change the way people behave, work together and think about families, as well as the impact that poverty has on the services provided across all sectors, now and in the future.

With respect to the coalition government's new approach and the four building blocks of poverty, much of what Plymouth will do to tackle child poverty will be delivered via other strategies as the vehicles for change. It is essential that these strategies explicitly demonstrate the role they have in reducing child poverty. In addition to the CYPP 2011-14, these include the Financial Inclusion Strategy, Worklessness Plan, Housing Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

### **Regional child poverty network**

The Children and Young People's Trust is currently working closely with LGID to develop a Regional Child Poverty Network. The aim of this network is to be updated with national policy and best practice, share information, link with other regional groups and take advantage of opportunities either collectively or individually to enhance child poverty efforts across the region. Current membership is from Plymouth, Cornwall, Devon, Torbay, Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

### **4. Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**

The Common Assessment Framework process of multi-agency co-ordinated packages of support is now the primary delivery mechanism for a high percentage of agencies delivery services to children and their families. This has benefited thousands of children within Plymouth and it is our intention to extend this provision. We have trained over 2400 practitioners across agencies to work with the process and have a record of over 2000 CAF assessments that have been completed to date.

We are now at a stage where we need to offer practical support to practitioners within the children's workforce. Many of the agencies now completing CAF assessments and working with the CAF process have never had to co-ordinate support in this way and are becoming aware of complex situations within families that perhaps in the past they would not have been aware of.

From a safeguarding perspective this is fantastic for the children and young people but it is proving difficult for many agencies to manage as the majority of these cases do not meet the threshold for social care involvement. There is still a lot of enthusiasm and commitment from practitioners to support these families but they often feeling out of their depth and overwhelmed. We are therefore developing the CAF team to enable them to offer practical support with the more complex and challenging cases. This will include attending CAF meetings, acting as an independent CAF and working directly with a practitioner to ensure that multi agency support is available to the family in a swift and coordinated manner.

### **5. Locality working**

Since May 2011, the Locality Implementation Team, led by Maggie Carter (Assistant Director - Learner and Family Support) have been laying the foundations for a reorganization of Services for Children and Young People within the six localities as defined by the Plymouth 2020 Partnership. As of 1 September 2011, multi-disciplinary teams will be in place to provide services for specific geographical areas of the city. These teams include staff from the Behaviour Support Team, Educational Psychology Service, Education Welfare Service, Plymouth Inclusive Education Team, Youth Service as well as administrative support to those teams. Teams will also have additional support from Children's Social Care and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) team. In addition, an arrangement has been made for Children's Centre Managers to become involved in locality working arrangements.

This is only the first step towards integrated locality working across Services for Children and Young People, while the Trust continues to look at developing integrated working across all partner agencies. It is hoped this will provide a single point of access for all children, young people and their families who need our support.

Candice Sainsbury  
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15 August 2011