

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

5 January 2012



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Update from Children and Young People's Trust

Tackling child poverty

There have been positive developments in relation to tackling child poverty, including self-assessment workshops with key stakeholders, including elected members. Common themes that emerged include:

- Child Poverty is today where safeguarding children was five years ago
- Need for a common understanding of what child poverty is and what our vision is
- Holistic child poverty data set must be developed to tell the story about child poverty in Plymouth and used to inform service planning
- Need to develop a local basket of child poverty proxy indicators

The Growth Board has established a worklessness sub group to develop the citywide worklessness plan and the child poverty core group is currently seeking representation to clarify how worklessness contributes to child poverty and to identify those most affected within the action plan. Work is also on-going within the Council to assess the impact of welfare changes coming into effect over the next two years. Initial analysis indicates that larger families in particular will be significantly affected. Mitigation discussions are currently taking place.

Finally, the draft Housing Plan 2012-17 is expected to be out for consultation at the end of December. Discussions with members of the Child Poverty core group and housing strategy group have been ongoing since May 2011. The need to address housing related poverty is a prominent feature of the draft plan and the Children's Trust intends to respond to the consultation to reinforce the impact of housing related poverty on families and to endorse close collaboration between teams in the future.

Community Budgets

The Children's Trust has endorsed the Community Budgets approach for the City. The programme aims to design new ways to minimise harm and prevent escalation of complex need, thus improving life chances for the whole family. Our submission to bring together public funding for a collective greater impact was accepted by DCLG in September 2011. More work is planned throughout the coming weeks to clarify the scope, identify governance and specify potential funding routes.

Working Together Better for Children and Young People

Plymouth Community Healthcare are currently developing their framework of services for children and young people which is currently at consultation. Children's Trust Board members including headteachers are keen to get involved in shaping future support especially to school aged children.

Links with other Plymouth 2020 strategic partnership groups

The Board has received an overview of the contribution other partnership groups make to the Plymouth vision. This presents a number of opportunities to influence other workstreams and lever most benefit for city children, young people and families. For example, the Growth Board is leading on stimulating the local economy by supporting growth in key sectors – through its child poverty and supporting transition streams the Children’s Trust can ensure that young people and parents are considered when delivering against the plan. Members of the Board will also be approached in the new year to support the city’s growth agenda, for example by supporting local suppliers and increasing commissioned spend in the voluntary and community sectors.

The Children and Young People’s Trust will also be heavily involved in supporting the cross-cutting theme of reducing alcohol. This is currently being led through the Plymouth2020 Executive by the Chair – Andy Bickley. A strategic leaders group is considering the impact that alcohol harm has on the city not only in terms of anti-social behaviour but also in terms of harm to children of parents with alcohol misuse problems and potential harm to young people of their own misuse.

Reducing children and young people’s attendance and admissions to hospital

This was identified as an area of concern in the previous Children and Young People’s Plan. Substantial progress has been made by a multi-agency working group to identify reasons for disproportionately high numbers of children and young people attending hospital. The group has gone on to put in place a number of preventative actions including developing breastfeeding support, reducing smoking during pregnancy and exposure to second hand smoke, immunisation and prevention of gastrointestinal infection.

More work is being done with families through children’s centres to support first aid skills and respond to minor accidents and injuries within the home and community. In addition, plans are at an advanced stage to implement a single point of entry for unscheduled paediatric care at Derriford Hospital. This would integrate the Emergency Department and Children’s Assessment Unit to respond more efficiently to families.

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