

## **Children and Young People's Plan**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 The Education Commission considered the Children and Young People's Plan and recommend that:
- a. The introductory statement of the document should clearly state the purpose of the plan and identify its intended audience
  - b. Explanation should be given to the reasons for using the term 'Lead Member for Children and Young People' and not the usual designation of 'Cabinet Member' when signing the document to remove any confusion that may occur amongst people who are more used to seeing the latter term
  - c. The document should be Plain English-ed to improve its understanding and accessibility

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Plan was considered by the Council Cabinet at its 21 February 2006 meeting and referred to the Education Commission for comments under the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules. Members considered the Draft 2 of the Plan at its 6 March 2006 scheduled meeting made a number of comments and recommendations.
- 2.2 The Commission was of the view that it was unclear from the Plan in its current form who is its intended target audience. The terminology used in the document was too complex and used too much jargon, words that are not in every day use and which needed to be explained in more detail. Also if the Plan is aimed at those working in the children and young people services then this should be made clear at the beginning of the document. The Commission recommended to plain English the document.
- 2.3 The document is signed off by the Chair of Children and Young People's Services under the designation of Lead Member for Children and Young People and not the Cabinet Member for Children's Services. There may a perfectly valid reason for using this term but it may cause confusion for people who are used to seeing the latter term. The Commission therefore asked for an explanation to be included in the document for using this term.

- 2.4 Members learnt that Draft three of the Plan had been circulated to them through email but that was also in revision and a Draft four was being prepared. Members were unhappy at the timing of the report coming to the Commission and at the suggestion that it would be difficult for them to make significant changes as other agencies had already signed up to it. Members believe that since the Council is the responsible authority for the Children Services agenda, the Commission should be given the opportunity to influence the final document.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

1. None.

#### Legal

2. None.

#### Personnel

3. None.

#### Equalities Impact

4. Narrowing gaps and opportunities are inherent in the five outcomes for children and young people.

#### Corporate objectives and priorities

5. This Children and Young People's Plan contains all of the Council's priorities and key outcomes for 2006-09.