



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
21 FEBRUARY 2006

Cabinet Member for Children & Education Services

Children and Young People's Plan 2006–2008

SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the Integrating Children's Services project, substantial work has been carried out to develop the draft of the first Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008 for Derby.
- 1.2 The plan has been developed under the Children Act 2004 with staff from all of the agencies working with children and young people, and consultation on the draft has been carried out with those organisations.
- 1.3 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the Children and Young People's Plan for 2006 to 2008 for submission to the Education Commission and the Social Care and Health Commission.
- 2.2 To agree that detail changes arising from the continuing work on the plan should be made in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's and Education Services.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 There is a requirement in the Children Act 2004 for Local Authorities to produce a single strategic, over-arching plan for all services affecting children and young people. This requirement does not apply to "excellent" authorities. However, an over-arching strategic plan is necessary to guide our work and to promote integrated and effective services, as well as providing a central focus for Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Review.
- 3.2 The Children and Young People's plan is part of the Council's budget and policy framework and therefore needs to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions prior to returning to Cabinet and submission to full Council.
- 3.3. Work on the detail of the plan and the completion of some sections is continuing during the process of consultation and approval.



Children and Young People's Plan 2006–2008

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is a key element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004 and aims to bring partners together to purchase a single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people. It should support integrated and effective services to secure the outcomes for children as set out in: Every Child Matters, Change for Children, Ten Year Childcare Strategy, National Service Framework for Children and Young People and Maternity Services.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Plan and the process of joint planning should support the Local Authority and its partners to agree clear targets and priorities for services for children and young people, identify actions and activities needed to achieve them and ensure delivery. Whilst the legislative requirement does not strictly apply to "excellent" authorities, it is necessary to have a central plan to achieve these purposes.
- 1.3 Work on the development of our first Children and Young People's Plan began in the early autumn. Five groups of officers from the agencies working with children and young people each focused on one of the outcomes from the Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People and have been the major vehicle for collating information from partners and for identifying priorities and actions for each outcome. The groups have faced the challenge of identifying evidence of current services being provided to children and young people that are helping them to achieve the aims of the outcomes framework and identifying gaps in service and performance.
- 1.4 An important element of the development of the draft has been extensive consultation with children and young people. Around 650 have been involved in commenting on services and needs in the city and their voices are clear throughout the draft.

- 1.5 The key elements of the completed plan will be as follows:
- Background – headline information about the city and details of levels of provision based on the 4 tier model of service intervention;
 - A description of the Children and Young People’s Partnership and developing Children’s Trust arrangements in the city;
 - Vision and objectives for services to children and young people;
 - Analysis of Derby’s successes and needs, highlighting key messages from inspection findings and from children and young people, their parents and carers;
 - The key challenges and priorities relating to these;
 - Summary of the resources available to support our work;
 - Section explaining performance management of the plan.
- 1.6 Whilst the plan is very much a partnership plan, accountability for improving the integration and effectiveness of services for children and young people in the city lies very largely with the Council. The agreement by partner agencies to the plan and its priorities and objectives is an important part of developing shared action and responsibility and there has been a significant level of support for the contents of the draft.
- 1.7 It is of course important that the plan relates to the Community Strategy, the Council’s Corporate Plan and the related strategic plans of partner agencies, if there is to be a coherence in our planning and actions and it is to gain wide acceptance.
- 1.8 Given the breadth of the plan and the number of issues faced collectively by the agencies across the city, it has been very demanding to establish a list of key challenges and resulting priorities and actions to address them. The process of finalising these and the detail of the plan are on-going and will continue whilst the Council is considering its own view of the contents. The latest draft is attached.
- 1.9 It is intended to complete the plan for publication at the start of the financial year 2006-2007, subject to formal approvals from partner agencies; including the Council’s budget and policy process.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. It is technically possible not to produce a formal Children and Young People’s Plan, as an “excellent” authority. It has nevertheless been judged that a central, agreed plan is vital to coherent and effective partnership work in this vital area of service.

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Background papers:
List of appendices: Appendix 1 - Implications

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial

- 1.1 The plan must include a section on the resources that will support our actions. This will be relatively broad brush, covering those resources agreed by the Council and partner agencies as part of their normal, annual budget making process. All of the actions proposed in the plan will need to be delivered within existing resources, including any external grant opportunities, and working together to secure increased effectiveness wherever possible.
- 1.2 The Local Area Agreement with its aligned and pooled budget arrangements has a children and young people's block which relates closely to this plan and will support delivery of some of its priorities.

Legal

2. Whilst there is a relaxation for excellent authorities the overall expectation in the Children Act 2004 is that Authorities should agree with partner agencies an overarching children and young people's plan. It is clear that this will be a central focus of Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Reviews that will begin from self evaluation and progress on the plan.

Personnel

3. None directly to this report. However, achieving joined up action between staff in partner agencies and developing the workforce to address the children and young people's agenda are challenging but vital aspects of our work.

Equalities impact

4. Achieving equity and excellence across children and young people's services are important underlying themes of our work. Narrowing gaps and opportunities are inherent in the five outcomes for children and young people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The Children and Young People's Plan contains a range of priorities and actions which make a significant contribution to delivering the priorities in the Council's new corporate plan i.e.
 - To improve the quality life in Derby's neighbourhoods;
 - To encourage life long learning and achievement as a catalyst for economic growth;
 - To build healthy and independent communities;
 - To deliver excellent service, performance and value for money.

