

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM 17

REPORT TO CABINET

9 MARCH 2006

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL DECISION/KEY DECISION

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cunningham

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

1. Summary

The Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 is the strategic plan for services for all children and young people in the Borough. It is a statutory requirement arising from the Children Act 2004, and placed on the local authority. The plan is to be in place by 1 April 2006 and will be a three year plan, with annual reviews. It has been subject to extensive consultation across partner agencies and organisations, including community and voluntary sectors and has involved children, young people, parents and carers. The plan has been agreed by the Children's Trust Board at its first meeting on 1 March 2006. A full version of the Plan is available from the Members' Library and will be circulated to all Members

2. Recommendations

A recommendation is sought from Cabinet to Council for approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Council is responsible for approval of the Children and Young People's Plan.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

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SUMMARY

The Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 is the strategic plan for services for all children and young people in the Borough. It is a statutory requirement arising from the Children Act 2004, and placed on the local authority. The plan is to be in place by 1 April 2006 and will be a three year plan, with annual reviews. It has been subject to extensive consultation across partner agencies and organisations, including community and voluntary sectors and has involved children, young people, parents and carers. The plan has been agreed by the Children's Trust Board at its first meeting on 1 March 2006. A full version of the Plan is available in the Members' Library and will be circulated to all Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A recommendation is sought from Cabinet to Council for approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09.

DETAIL

1. The Children Act 2004 placed a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. The Plan must be developed in partnership with all partner organisations and agencies, the business community and wider community in general and in consultation with children, young people and their carers. The Children and Young People's Plan is to be a strategic plan encompassing all services for children and young people across the Borough and must be in place by 1 April 2006. It will be a three year plan, reviewed on an annual basis.
2. This Plan has been produced as a result of extensive consultations. The key objectives and strategic priorities were agreed through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership based on the outcomes of needs assessment, performance information and a wide range of consultation events with partner organisations, community and voluntary sectors, children, young people and their carers.
3. The Plan gives details of the key objectives and strategic priorities for addressing the improvement of outcomes for all children and young people across the Borough. It provides information on the key actions that will take place to meet the objectives.
4. Performance measures and targets are being set, based on nationally prescribed indicators and locally developed ones. They will encompass all the indicators that will be used in the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services by OFSTED and the set being identified for the Joint Area Review which is due to take place in late 2007, early 2008. This will be available as an appendix to the Plan and will be used by the Children's Trust Board to support the performance management of children's services.

Outcome of Consultation:

5. Consultation has involved presentation at a wide variety of partnership meetings and events which are detailed in the Plan, plus individual responses to the draft Plan. Although the individual responses were fairly limited, along with the discussions and dialogue through partnership meetings, etc. they have provided clarification on some issues, identification of areas for further development and the need to continue the process of consultation and involvement through the year.
6. Some of the issues raised in consultation include:
 - general consensus that the key objectives are the right ones;
 - a need to ensure that there is continual engagement with all partners and parties;
 - a need to get the balance right between universal services and specialised services;
 - identification of key groups such as parents, fathers, grand-parents, young carers in terms of support and involvement;
 - a need to address issues for specific areas of the Borough;
 - a need to develop a young person's version of the Plan and ensure it has meaning;
 - a need for a positive title;
 - identification of "hard to reach" groups e.g. children who are bereaved;
 - a recognition that resources are not enough to meet all the needs.
7. Where possible the issues raised above have been incorporated into the Plan. Where this has not been possible they will be used in the ongoing dialogue and involvement in reviewing and developing the Plan during the next year.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are dealt with as part of the corporate financial planning processes and subject to separate reporting. The Plan sets the strategic framework for service development and improvement. Legal implications are that the Children and Young People's Plan is a statutory plan required by the Children Act 2006 and is a responsibility of the Local Authority. The Local Authority must ensure a Plan is produced and that it has involved partner agencies, children, young people and carers in its production.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Children and Young People's Plan is categorised as low to medium risk (9). Existing management systems and routine reporting are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The Children and Young People's Plan is a key plank of the Community Strategy's planning framework. It is the strategic plan for the Children's Trust Board, which is a themed partnership group of the Local Strategic Partnership, and as such supports all the themes of the Community Strategy.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Extensive consultations have already taken place and have included an elected members' seminar.

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[Background Papers](#)

Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09