

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

2 AUGUST 2007

**REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Cunningham

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2007-10

1. Summary

The Children and Young People's Plan, 2007-10 has been developed following extensive consultation with partner agencies and organisations, with inputs from children and young people, parents and carers through the course of this last year. This is an ongoing process and links back to the development of the first plan, which covered the period 2006-09.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet to recommend approval of the Children and Young People's Plan, 2007-10 to Council.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Statutory requirement on Children's Services authority in England to prepare and publish a plan setting out the authority's strategy for discharging its functions in relation to children and young people.

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 (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must 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 (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN, 2007-10

SUMMARY

The Children and Young People's Plan, 2007-10 has been developed following extensive consultation with partner agencies and organisations, with inputs from children and young people, parents and carers through the course of this last year. This is an ongoing process and links back to the development of the first plan, which covered the period 2006-09. The plan is attached at appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet to recommend approval of the Children and Young People's Plan, 2007-10 to Council.

DETAIL

1. The Children and Young People's Plan, 2007-10 has been developed following extensive consultation with partner agencies and organisations, with inputs from children and young people, parents and carers through the course of this last year. This is an ongoing process and links back to the development of the first plan which covered the period 2006-09.
2. The plan continues as a three year rolling plan, in that it will be reviewed and updated each year. This means that some priorities will remain, if they are long-term issues, but some will change, if they have been tackled and resolved within the year.
3. It sets the vision and key priorities for the Children's Trust Board and identifies key actions to be taken to address these priorities.
4. The action plan will be updated and improved each year to reflect changing activities and feedback on how helpful it is.
5. The range of appendices has not been attached at this stage. They are extensive and the action plan in particular is still being developed following the completion of the review process. These will be made available for information to all members.

6. The Children's Trust Board, at its meeting on 20th June, 2007 received the draft plan and has recommended its approval to Cabinet and full Council. The Council is the responsible body for signing off the Children and Young People's Plan. It has been submitted to Ofsted as part of the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services.
7. The Children's Trust Board is recommending the approval of the plan to all partner organisations and agencies.
8. The Annual Performance Assessment of children's services forms part of the Children and Young People's Plan and will be available as an appendix to the plan. The assessment was completed and returned to Ofsted on 14th June. The self assessed scores were as follows;

Be Healthy	– 3
Stay Safe	– 4
Enjoy and Achieve	– 4
Make a Positive Contribution	– 4
Achieve Economic Wellbeing	– 4
Service Management	– 4
9. The scoring system is 1-4 with 4 being the top score. 4 represents services which are outstanding and delivering well above minimum requirements for users. 3 represents services which are good and consistently delivering above minimum requirements for users. The score for the Be Healthy outcome was not assessed as a 4 primarily because of the performance on the number of teenage conceptions. Although there has been an improvement in the most recent counting year(2005), the target of a 50% reduction on the baseline figure set in 1998 remains challenging. There is oversight of this by Government Office North East and they have commented positively on the present action plan which has been set by the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership to address this.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

10. All budget issues arising from the plan are addressed within the medium term financial plan.

Legal

11. The local authority must have a Children and Young People's Plan in place.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. This (subject matter of report) is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

13. The Children and Young People's Plan has been developed in line with the Community Strategy, its vision and key themes.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

14. The Children and Young People's Plan has been through the Children's Trust Board which has member representation. There has been extensive consultation on the plan during the course of this last year, involving the full range of partnership groups, children and young people, parents and carers.

Name of Contact Officer Peter Seller
Post Title Head of Children and Young People's Strategy
Telephone No. 01642 701344
Email Address: peter.seller@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Children and Young People's Plan, 2006-09

WARD(S) AND WARD COUNCILLORS; N/A

PROPERTY; N/A