

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**9 MARCH 2009**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **COUNCIL DECISION**

**Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Cunningham**

#### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2009-2012**

1. Summary

The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 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 builds on the existing Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010 and the major review of that plan in October 2008. The plan is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet to recommend approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 to Council.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

It is a statutory requirement on Children's Services Authorities in England to prepare and publish a plan setting out their strategy for discharging their functions in relation to children, young people and their families.

This plan will be reviewed annually and replaces the existing 2007-2010 plan. It is anticipated that a further new plan will need to be produced for 2011-2014 in line with proposed new statutory regulations which are due to be implemented in this next year.

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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**SUMMARY**

The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 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 builds on the existing Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010 and the major review of that plan in October 2008. The plan is attached at Appendix 1.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet to recommend approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 to Council.

**DETAIL**

1. The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 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 builds on the existing Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010 and the major review of that plan in October 2008.
2. It is a statutory requirement on Children's Services Authorities to prepare and publish a plan, setting out their strategy for discharging their function in relation to children, young people and their families.
3. A Children and Young People's Plan can cover any time-period and there is no formal structure for plans proposed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. There is a requirement though to review the plan on an annual basis.
4. Stockton-on-Tees Children's Trust Board has proposed that the plan continues as a three-year plan, with annual reviews. The structure of previous and existing plans has been commented on positively by all stakeholders, so this has been maintained in the new plan.
5. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is proposing new statutory regulations for the production of Children and Young People's Plans. It is anticipated that this will be produced during 2009/10 and to be enacted in 2011/12.

6. The major implications of the new statutory regulations are likely to be that the plan will become a statutory plan on all relevant partner agencies and organisations and that a new plan will need to be produced for 2011 and beyond, to fit with the new regulations.
7. The new regulations are also likely to put Children's Trust Boards into a statutory framework. The details and implications of the new regulations will be reported to a future Cabinet, following their publication and enactment.
8. The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012 sets the vision and key priorities for the Children's Trust Board and identifies the key actions to be taken to address these priorities. These key actions are primarily in the form of other strategies and action plans which support the overall Children and Young People's Plan. These provided the detailed actions to deliver on the priorities and will be monitored and overseen by the range of partnership groups, sitting under the Children's Trust Board.
9. This suite of strategies and action plans will be in place and available on a 'CD' and through the Children's Trust Board Website in April 2009.
10. The Children's Trust Board, at a special meeting on 10 March 2009 received the plan and recommended its approval to Cabinet and Council.
11. The Children and Young People's Plan will also be the basis of the Service Improvement Plan for the Children and Young People's Section of CESC's Service Improvement Plans.
12. The final version of the plan will be graphically enhanced through work with young people before it is published.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. All relevant budget issues arising from the plan are met within the medium term financial plan.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. All Children's Services Authorities must have a Children and Young People's Plan in place with an annual review.

(the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005;  
the Children and Young People's Plan (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007).

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

15. This plan is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

#### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

16. This plan supports the key theme of "Children and Young People" and is the key strategic document for the Children's Trust Board.
17. Community Safety issues are addressed in the plan under the specific headings of "Stay Safe" and "Make a Positive Contribution."

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

18. This plan has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, building on the assessment of the existing plan. No remedial actions are required.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

19. The plan identifies specific priorities around children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority and the actions to improve outcomes.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

20. All Councillors have been involved in the consultation process and there is Councillor representation on the Children's Trust Board which has recommended approval of the plan.

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### Background Papers

None

### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

All