

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION & EARLY HELP SERVICES

TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board		
DATE:	17 July 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	Reading Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2018		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr Jan Gavin	PORTFOLIO:	Children's Services
SERVICE:	Children's Services	WARDS:	Boroughwide
LEAD OFFICER:	Esther Blake	TEL:	X73269
JOB TITLE:	Business Manager for Reading LSCB and Children's Trust Partnership	E-MAIL:	Esther.blake@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the Children's Trust is to hold all Partners to account for their contribution to improving the life of children who live in Reading. It provides a strategic framework within which partners can commission services together, consult with each other and agree a common strategy on how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing and to help embed partnership working in the partners' routine delivery of their own functions.
- 1.2 The latest Children and Young People's Plan (2015-18), which sets out the expectations the Trust has in priority areas identified as issues for children and families in Reading, has been endorsed by the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee and is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the Children & Young People's Plan 2015-2018.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 In November 2010, the statutory Children's Trust (CT) guidance was withdrawn, along with the requirement on the Trust to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). However, the duty to co-operate (Children's Act 2004) still applies to local authorities and their health, education and youth justice partners.
- 3.2 Following this announcement, all current CT partners were consulted regarding the value they place on Reading's CT and CYPP, and their views on whether they would chose to continue, review or disband the Trust and Plan in light of deregulation.

- 3.3 All partners recognised the additional value of having a Children's Trust and CYPP and committed to supporting both which led to the revised CYPP for 2011-2014, and now our latest version for 2015-2018.
- 3.4 The CYPP is monitored and delivered through the Children's Trust and is firmly positioned within the overall vision for the Reading contained in the Corporate Plan.
- 3.5 The CYPP covers services for all those in Reading aged 0 to 19, young people aged 20 and over leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties. It is not a detailed operational plan therefore the CYPP will need to be underpinned by local authority and partner plans operating at different levels to accomplish specific goals and to manage delivery on a day to day basis.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Children's Trust Board members took part in a couple of dedicated sessions in 2014 reviewing data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, data from the last CYPP and the priorities from key strategies and plans from partner organisations.
- 4.2 The results of these sessions were produced a range of areas of concern which were collated and grouped into the following three overarching priorities :

Priority 1 - Having the best start in life and throughout

- Ensure that children and young people are empowered and informed to make positive life choices
- Enable children and young people to build emotional wellbeing and improve health
- Work to ensure that those using our services have as positive an experience as possible and are able to influence future service delivery
- All young people have access to an equitable universal offer across the area.

Priority 2 - Learning and employment

- All children and young people have a fair and equal chance to achieve, and have access to information to make informed decisions about their future, regardless of heritage, income or disability

Priority 3 - Keeping children safe

- Protect and safeguard ALL children and young people and in particular those that need our care. This includes protection from others (in particular, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, on-line abuse and cultural abuse) and protection from harm they may cause themselves (in particular, self harming)

- 4.3 These priorities form the basis of the new CYPP. The CYPP starts by detailing the local context, linking clearly to the Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan, the contribution made by the Youth Cabinet, plus the vision and values of the Children's Trust.
- 4.4 Each priority is described in more detail, detailing for each, 'What do we know?', 'Examples of current activity across the partnership', 'Some of the things that are happening in the first year', and 'How will we know we are making a difference?' With this plan we have continued to improve performance management by focusing on a smaller number of priority measures.
- 4.5 It is important to recognise that this plan cannot be read or delivered in isolation: it is intrinsically linked to other key strategies and plans either written, or in

development. These have been listed in the CYPP, against each priority, on pages 6 and 7.

- 4.6 The CT Board signed off this CYPP on 1st April 2015 and partners will be taking it through their respective organisation boards for endorsement. The Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee endorsed the CYPP at their meeting on 29th June 2015.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Council strategic aim of Narrowing the Gap and two of its service priorities:
- Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable and;
 - Providing the best life through education, early help and healthy living.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 This report has been written with contributions from all Children's Trust partners and circulated to the Board. It will be disseminated to all partners, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Reading Local Safeguarding Children Board.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The CYPP has been written to ensure a positive differential impact on racial groups, gender, people with disabilities, people of a particular sexual orientation, people due to their age and people due to their religious belief. The priorities and policies within the CYPP aim to redress current inequalities and further information can be found in section 2 of the CYPP where the key needs, achievements so far and future aims for these priorities are presented.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Children Act 2004 and Children and Young People's Plan Guidance (2009) had placed a requirement that a Children and Young People's Plan should be written by the local authority, in conjunction with the Children's Trust.
- 8.2 In July 2010, the Government announced the repeal of the Children's Trust statutory guidance. The Department for Education had indicated that this did not mean that Trusts were being abolished and the duty on partners to cooperate would continue to apply. However, it would no longer be a statutory responsibility to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The delivery of the activities covered by the plan is funded by budgets controlled and planned by the respective partners. There is no additional cost of delivery though accepting this plan.
- 9.2 The monitoring of the plan will be carried out through the regular CT meetings which are serviced by the existing business manager and administrator. There is no increase in those costs as a result of accepting this plan.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Children Act 2004
10.2 Reading Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014