

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	25 June 2012
Title:	Children and Young People's Plan 2012-15
Reference:	3911
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), covering the period 2012-2015 (Appendix 1). The Plan also incorporates Hampshire's Child Poverty Strategy, as required by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 1.2. The refreshed CYPP establishes the vision and priorities for Hampshire's Children's Trust for the next three years. It reflects a shared commitment to improving the lives of all children and young people in Hampshire and supports the duty to co-operate, in line with the Children Act 2004.
- 1.3. The focus of the Plan for this three year period is on 'early help': identifying as early as possible if a child or family need support and helping them to access services, working together to ensure that this has the maximum impact.
- 1.4. A 12 week consultation on the vision and priorities took place between January and March 2012. A summary of responses is provided in section 6.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The refreshed CYPP for 2012-15 provides a strategic framework for local activity, setting out a shared sense of purpose and direction for services for children, young people and families in Hampshire. The Plan is not prescriptive and does not seek to capture every service or initiative delivered by Children's Trust partners.
- 2.2. The Children's Trust was developed to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004 for integrated children's services and the statutory duty for specific bodies to co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people in an area (the 'duty to co-operate'). The formation of a Children's Trust and production of a children and young people's plan were statutory requirements.
- 2.3. Over the last two years, statutory guidance on Children's Trusts has been withdrawn and the regulations around children and young people's plans revoked. Although this reduces statutory requirements for local authorities, the 'duty to co-operate' and the requirement for each local authority to have a

Children’s Trust Board, remain in place. Hampshire’s Children’s Trust remains strongly committed to improving the lives of children, young people and families and has chosen to retain the use of a CYPP to help share and deliver its ambition.

3. Structure of the Plan

3.1. The refreshed CYPP has four key components, which are as follows:

3.2. Vision and priorities:

This section sets out the Children’s Trust’s shared vision and priorities. It also outlines a summary of the key activities for delivering each priority.

3.3. Making it happen:

This section establishes the key ‘enablers’ for delivering the Plan, including integrated working and effective information sharing.

3.4. Needs assessments:

The CYPP is underpinned by comprehensive needs assessment, ensuring that activities are targeted to those groups and areas in greatest need. There are two key needs assessments, which are both available online as separate documents: the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

3.5. Action plan:

This establishes the activities for delivering each of the priorities, with success measures and targets, thereby providing the framework for monitoring success. As this is a ‘working’ document, it is available separately online at www.hants.gov.uk/cypp.

4. Vision and priorities

4.1. The vision of Hampshire’s Children’s Trust for 2012-15 remains: *making Hampshire an even better place for children and young people, where all of them, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, have the best possible start in life and are supported by the whole community to succeed.*

4.2. The priorities remain largely the same as those established by the previous Plan, as Children’s Trust partners felt that they still reflected the main areas for improvement. Some minor changes to the wording has been informed by consultation (see section 6) and development of the action plan. The priorities are underpinned by needs assessment and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4.3. The five priorities are as follows:

1	Reducing the incidence and impact of poverty on the achievement and life chances of children and young people.
2	Securing children and young people’s physical, spiritual, social, emotional and mental health, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequalities.
3	Providing opportunities to learn, within and beyond the school day, that raise children and young people’s aspirations, encourage excellence and enable them to enjoy and achieve beyond their expectations.

4	Helping children and young people to be safe and feel safe.
5	Promoting vocational, leisure and recreational activities that provide opportunities for children and young people to experience success and make a positive contribution.

4.4. The previous edition of the CYPP contained a sixth priority: removing barriers to access, participation and achievement; and not tolerating discrimination and abuse. Through discussion with Children's Trust members and feedback from consultation, it was proposed that this should underpin the first five priorities, rather than being a separate priority. This reflects the relentless focus of the Children's Trust on improving outcomes for all, reducing inequalities and narrowing the gap between those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged and their peers. The identified groups of children and young people that are most likely to fall into these categories are shown below. Some children may find themselves in more than one category which increases their potential vulnerability.

- children and young people living in poverty;
- children and young people who are in care;
- children and young people with mental health problems;
- children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- children and young people whose families have multiple problems, such as mental health or drug and alcohol abuse;
- young carers;
- children and young people who are victims of neglect or abuse;
- children and young people from a Black, minority ethnic or Traveller family;
- young parents;
- lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender young people;
- young offenders.

4.5 Despite the priorities not being substantially changed, there have of course been some significant changes in legislation, service structures and especially finances since the previous plan was approved. Whereas some of these developments might pose serious challenges to the effective delivery of the Plan, they also bring significant opportunities which a cohesive Children's Trust should be able to identify and capture. There have been difficult financial decisions which have especially affected both children's centres and youth services. The common themes of the approach to financial change have been to: entirely protect services for children in the highest need; retain open access to universal provision, but focus funding on the more vulnerable; develop a stronger mixed economy of provision with a significant increase in funds channelled through the voluntary sector and at a local level.

4.6 The changes have been challenging but, as the Plan describes, because of the approach adopted, we remain well-set to sustain our commitment to the priorities. Meanwhile, the Government's academies programme may be changing the landscape of schooling in Hampshire, but the confidence and continuity of the dialogue between schools and partners remains generally strong. The Troubled Families initiative will also need to be integrated into existing work with parents and families. Finally, the impending transfer of Public Health to the Local

Authority presents a substantial opportunity to further enhance the broader health dimensions of the Plan and its relationship to the developing Health and Well-Being Board.

5. Child Poverty Strategy

- 5.1. The CYPP incorporates Hampshire’s Child Poverty Strategy. The development and implementation of this Strategy is a statutory requirement under the Child Poverty Act 2010. Priority 1 of the Plan establishes the key activities for reducing the incidence and impact of poverty on children and young people in the county. This is supported by the detailed CYPP action plan, which provides the framework for monitoring progress. Development of the key activities has been informed by a dedicated Child Poverty Needs Assessment for Hampshire, available online at:
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/child_poverty_needs_assessment_2011.pdf.
- 5.2. In meeting statutory requirements, the consultation on the vision and priorities for the refreshed CYPP included specific questions on child poverty. In response, 89% of those taking part agreed that the Child Poverty Strategy should be integrated within the CYPP. The vast majority also agreed with the key activities. However, the proportion who felt that the Child Poverty Needs Assessment accurately reflects the level and characteristics of child poverty in Hampshire was 49%. Analysis of individual comments suggests that many respondents did not feel they knew enough about child poverty in the county to be sure.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. Consultation on the vision, priorities and key activities took place between 6 January 2012 and 30 March 2012. Consultation was largely web-based, with dedicated CYPP web pages, allowing on-line consultation with partners; practitioners; parents/carers; and young people. Local Children’s Partnerships held consultation events at a community level. A total of 135 responses were received.
- 6.2. Those participating in the consultation expressed a high level of agreement with the draft priorities, as shown in the table below:

Percentage who agreed with:	
Priority 1	95%
Priority 2	98%
Priority 3	98%
Priority 4	99%
Priority 5	93%

- 6.3. A significant proportion (95%) of respondents agreed with the focus on ‘early help’. A total of 81% endorsed the suggested key activities (which have been used to develop the action plan). The overall percentage who agreed that Local Children’s Partnerships (LCPs) provide the best mechanism for delivering the CYPP at a local level was 48%. However, responses varied widely between those who were members of LCPs and those who were not. 69% of respondents who were part of an LCP felt they were the best mechanism for delivering the

Plan, whereas 36% of non-LCP members did not agree. Further analysis of the consultation responses is available online at www.hants.gov.uk/cypp.

6.4. The key messages from consultation, together with the resulting amendments to the Plan, are shown in the table below:

Key/recurring messages from consultation	Resulting amendments to CYPP
Partnership working is key to achieving all priorities.	The full CYPP document clearly establishes that delivery of the Plan is the shared responsibility of all Children’s Trust partners. Furthermore, the action plan specifies various activities to be undertaken in partnership.
The key activities should include more about working with families.	The importance of working with families is emphasised clearly throughout the final Plan, specifically the sections on early help and working with families with multiple problems.
The key activities should include more about early help.	Priority 4 contains a key activity to ‘ensure there is sufficient provision of early help’, with supporting activities outlined within the action plan.
The key activities should include more about young people taking responsibility.	Promoting rights, respect and responsibility for children and young people is a key theme throughout the Plan, with specific activities included within priority 2 (around building resilience and confidence) and priority 5 (about recognising the good that young people do).
The key activities should include more about activities and healthy lifestyles for young people	A wide variety of actions to promote positive activities and healthy lifestyles are specified in support of priorities 2 and 5.
Early intervention is key to priority 1	The theme of early help and prevention runs through the activities in support of each priority.
Priority 6 should be embedded in the other priorities	This has been actioned (see 4.4, above).

6.5. Children and young people have directly shaped the priorities and key activities through discussion at the Hampshire County Youth Conference in February 2012. Existing information sources on the views and opinions of Hampshire’s children and young people, such as the annual Pupil Attitude Survey, have also been utilised to inform development of the CYPP. In addition, Children’s Services Department Participation Officers are continuing to work with LCPs to secure appropriate engagement of children and young people in the development of local delivery plans.

7. Performance management

- 7.1. Progress against the CYPP will be measured against the success indicators outlined in the action plan (available online at www.hants.gov.uk/cypp). A clear reporting structure for Hampshire's Children's Trust is outlined in the Governance Framework and Terms of Reference (available online at www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-trust). This includes twice yearly reports on progress to the Children's Trust Board, informed by reports from LCPs.

8. Finance

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from implementation of the refreshed CYPP. Budget setting and monitoring for activities in support of the Plan remain the responsibility of the individual Children's Trust organisations.

9. Impact assessment

- 9.1. Implementation of the CYPP should have a positive impact for targeted groups of children and young people across a range of health, educational and safeguarding outcomes. A full equality impact assessment will be completed and published alongside the Plan.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The refreshed CYPP (Appendix 1) establishes the vision and priorities for Hampshire's Children's Trust for the next three years. It reflects a shared commitment to unlocking the potential of every child and young person and making Hampshire a better place in which to enjoy childhood. The final draft has been informed by findings of a 12 week consultation, which took place between January and March 2012.
- 10.2. The Plan also incorporates Hampshire's Child Poverty Strategy, as required by the Child Poverty Act 2010.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1. That Cabinet note the consultation findings that have informed refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).
- 11.2. That Cabinet approve the CYPP for 2012-15.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
<i>Open for Business</i> Plan priority (if appropriate): Priority 1 – improve quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
<i>Open for Business</i> Plan priority (if appropriate): Priority 1 – improve quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
<i>Open for Business</i> Plan priority (if appropriate): Priority 2 – enhance community engagement and partnership working.	

Other significant links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Children Act	2004	
Child Poverty Act	2010	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. Implementation of the CYPP will have a positive impact for targeted groups of children and young people across a range of health, educational and safeguarding outcomes.
- 1.2. A full equality impact assessment will be completed and published alongside the Plan.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. Implementation of the CYPP will have a positive impact on crime and disorder, through delivery of all priorities, particularly activities to support families with multiple problems; promote community safety; safeguard children; and prevent young people from offending.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
No impact.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?
No impact.