

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	20 July 2015
Title:	Hampshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2018
Reference:	6702
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is for Cabinet to consider the Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The refreshed Children and Young People's Plan establishes the vision and priorities for Hampshire's Children's Trust for a period of three years and provides a strategic framework for local activity. The plan is not prescriptive and does not seek to capture every service or initiative delivered by Children's Trust partners. Hampshire Children's Services was assessed by Ofsted as having 'outstanding' leadership and management in its inspection of safeguarding services in 2014. Having a Children and Young People's Plan and the delivery infrastructure of the Hampshire Children's Trust was an integral part of the system of leadership and management and therefore it is proposed to continue this framework

2.2. The Children's Trust was developed to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The formation of a Children's Trust and production of a children and young people's plan were statutory requirements. Statutory guidance on Children's Trusts has been withdrawn and regulations around children and young people's plans revoked reducing the requirements for local authorities. However, the 'duty to cooperate' and the requirements for each local authority of have a Children's Trust Board remain in place. Hampshire 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 Children and Young People's Plan to share its vision and deliver its priorities. The County Council continues to play its role in these arrangements and committed additional recurring funding of £12.5m in 2015/16 to support the safeguarding and care of vulnerable young people.

- 2.3. Cabinet and Select Committee recently received an update from the Director of Children's Services with regards to safeguarding performance and activity in Hampshire one year on from the most recent Ofsted inspection. Cabinet noted the report and fully endorsed the robust and vigilant approach towards safeguarding all Hampshire children.
- 2.4. A consultation process involving all stakeholders including elected members is now coming to a close.

3. Structure of the plan

- 3.1. The refreshed *Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18* has three key sections, which are;

- 3.2. Section one – Introduction

This section sets out the background to the plan, the local context and need, the vision and priorities for the Children's Trust and key areas of focus.

- 3.3. Section two – Outcomes and priorities

This section details why these outcomes are key areas of focus, and what the priorities are, as well as listing some of the key achievements of the previous plan.

- 3.4. Section three- How we will deliver the plan

- 3.5. Outlines how the Children's Trust will deliver the plan, with links to the needs assessments which establish the areas of greatest need and inform the plan itself. This section also includes a link to the action plan, which provides the framework to monitor implementation over time.

4. Vision and priorities for 2015 onwards

- 4.1. The vision of Hampshire Children's Trust 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.*

The majority of children in Hampshire are well served by their families, schools and communities, and we will ensure that they continue to be well served. However, in times of austerity and changes to local authority and partners' funding, the focus of the Children's Trust Board must be in ensuring that an increasingly targeted approach is adopted to ensure children and young people and their families who do not do as well as their peers have their needs addressed so that they are able to thrive and achieve.

- 4.2. The outcomes and priorities remain largely the same as those established by the previous plans, as Children's Trust partners concluded that these still reflect the main areas of need. Changes have been made to priorities as a result of the consultation (see section 5). The new plan also strongly reaffirms the role of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as the basis of the plan and our shared ambitions for children in Hampshire, including the need for children's voices to be heard in matters that affect them.

- 4.3. The *Children and Young People's Plan 2012-15* included the identification of five priorities together with a defined "key win" for each priority as a way of securing focus and support from partners at a county and local level. Those priorities and wins are summarily reviewed in the new document including a headline assessment of progress. However, in the light of a need for a sharper and more efficient approach to the drafting of the new plan and in order to maintain clarity about our shared objectives in a changing climate, the Children's Trust Board agreed that the new plan should revert to the five outcomes defined for children as the objectives of the Children Act 2004.
- 4.4. . The outcomes and priorities for *Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18* are therefore listed below together with the key aspects of each outcome that analysis of the consultation and performance suggest should be the focus of the CYPP 2015 – 18. It should be stressed that these are not the only priorities of individual and collective agencies and these will inevitably evolve over time. ;

4.5. **Be healthy**

- Promote healthy weights and physical activity.
- Promote health and wellbeing in pregnancy and childhood.
- Promote access to health services for vulnerable groups of children and young people.
- Continue to work to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions among girls aged 15-17.
- Reduce and tackling substance misuse.
- Employ strategies with all agencies to promote emotional wellbeing and good mental health.

4.6. **Stay safe**

- Improve awareness of and responsiveness to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- Reduce the number and improve responses to children who go missing from home or care.
- Help children and young people understand how to keep themselves safe (recognising grooming, cyberbullying), thereby reducing the possibility of children entering risky behaviour.
- Work to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and its impact of children.

4.7. **Enjoy and achieve**

- Increase the proportion of children attending good or outstanding schools.

- Continue to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children, especially those in care, those eligible for free school meals, those with special educational needs and those who belong to specific black and minority ethnic groups that do not do as well as children in other groups.
- Examine ways in which we can better engage with the independent schools sector in Hampshire.
- Target support to parents who need help with their children's education.

4.8. Make a positive contribution

- Reduce offending and reoffending by young people.
- Promote the meaningful participation of all children and young people ensuring those that are disadvantaged are heard.
- Promote wider partnership with providers of varying youth services including district, town and parish councils and the voluntary sector.
- Promote Rights, Respect and Responsibilities (UN Convention of the Rights of the Child), to help children become responsible citizens with an understanding and promotion of their own rights, together with their responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Promote the range of local activities provided by the voluntary and community sectors, including National Citizen Service and Duke of Edinburgh Award, in order to allow children and young people to participate in activities beyond the school day.

4.9. Achieve economic wellbeing

- Increase the number of young people in education, employment and training, including those that are Care Leavers.
- Provide and develop opportunities for young people through apprenticeships and internships.
- Promote access to high quality careers information, advice and guidance.
- Work with the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) to ensure that the development of young people's skills for employment have a high priority.
- Support the Hampshire Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme to deliver change for children and their families with multiple problems including parents/carers not in work and children not attending school.

5. Consultation and Equalities

- 5.1. Consultation on the *Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18* took place between 2 March and 27 April 2015. Consultation was largely web based through the *Have your say* web page and dedicated Children's Trust

webpages. Individuals and organisations were able to request a paper copy of the consultation document if they so wished. The consultation was promoted to key Children's Trust partners, as well as to the public through *Hampshire Now*. A variety of presentations and discussions were held including with this Select Committee.

- 5.2. A total of 150 responses were received (15 more responses than were received for the 12 week consultation for the *Children and Young People Plan 2012-15*), with 72% from individuals, 12% submitted by organisations which are members of a Local Children's Partnership, and 16% were submitted by organisations which are not part of any Local Children's Partnership.
- 5.3. Those responding to the consultation expressed a high level of agreement with the draft outcomes and priorities, with respondents' 'net agreement' ranging from 92% for the priorities *Reducing and tackling substance misuse* and *helping children and young people to understand how to keep safe*, to 77% for *Supporting parents with children in education*.
- 5.4. As a result of the consultation, changes were made to the *Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18* as follows;

Key/recurring messages from consultation	Resulting amendments to CYPP
It is more than just reducing levels of obesity, and is about encouraging health weights.	Change in priority and activities to be included in CYPP Action Plan to better reflect this.
By listing vulnerable groups under <i>Be healthy</i> , you may be excluding others.	Change in priority removing the list of vulnerable groups.
Self harm and poor mental health seems too narrow a priority, the impact on poor emotional health and mental health is much wider.	Self harm to be included as an activity. Change in priority to reflect the broader scope.
The poor mental health priority would be much better located under <i>Be healthy</i> , and needs to link to the <i>Joint Hampshire Strategy for Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health</i> .	The priority was moved as requested and the links to the strategy strengthen through the CYPP Action Plan activities. A link to the strategy is also included in section three of the Children and Young People's Plan 2015-17.
Use of the work 're-offending' in the priority under <i>Make a positive contribution</i> narrows the scope of this priority.	The priority has been rewritten to broaden scope to reducing offending and re-offending.
Careers education – concerns expressed as to using 'ensure' and regarding what is achievable	Priority has been rewritten to better describe the priority and activity.

- 5.5. The full consultation report will be published and available no later than 29 June 2015 (in advance of the Cabinet decision).

6. Performance management

- 6.1. Progress against the *Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18* will be measured against the success indicators outlined in the action plan which will be reported back to the Hampshire Children's Trust Board over the lifetime of the plan.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The refreshed *Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015-18* establishes the vision and priorities for Hampshire's Children's Trust for the next three years. It highlights those particular areas where partners will especially focus their collective attention in order to improve outcomes but it also provides a framework for all our activity. It reflects a shared commitment to improving the lives of children and young people in Hampshire and to make Hampshire an even better place in which to enjoy childhood.
- 7.1. The final draft has been informed by the findings of a eight week consultation, which took place between March and April. This draft has been further considered by the Children and Young People Select Committee who discussed it in detail but made no further amendments and endorsed it.

8. Recommendation(s)

- 8.1. That Cabinet endorse and approve the *Children and Young People's Plan for 2015-18*.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes

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>	

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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Implementation of the CYPP will have a positive impact for targeted groups of children, young people and their families across a range of health, education and safeguarding outcomes.

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; 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