

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN REFRESH

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Scrutiny Committee of the work being undertaken to refresh the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).
- 1.2 The report also asks Scrutiny Committee to commission the Children's Scrutiny Panel to act as the consultative group to gather views and comments to contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was presented to the July 2013 meeting of the Children's Trust setting out the need to review the Children and Young People's Plan delivery plan, and also the strategy, in order to reflect the current political and economic landscape; the revised guidance surrounding Children's Trusts; the emerging local strategic context; and the need to for the Children's Trust to focus its priorities.
- 2.2 At this meeting, the Children's Trust agreed that a CYPP Task and Finish Group would be convened to support the refresh of the strategy and delivery plan.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The CYPP Task and Finish Group considered the current CYPP and associated three year delivery plan, the key achievements of that plan over the three years 2010-13, current performance indicators relating to children and young people and emerging local and national priorities. A draft CYPP was prepared and presented to the Children's Trust for approval.
- 3.2 To provide a clearer focus to the CYPP the group proposed a small number of 'strategic priorities', which were agreed by the Children's Trust:
 1. Improve the overall Health and Wellbeing of children, young people and families
 2. Reduce the number of families with children living in poverty in the city
 3. Improve educational outcomes and strengthen Whole Family Learning
 4. Improve safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and families.
- 3.3 These strategic priorities would be supported by a number of 'high level actions'. How these actions are delivered would be determined by the responsible partnerships and any associated strategies.
- 3.4 The Children's Trust agreed:
 - The proposed priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan and the mapping of the current priorities as high level actions.
 - The revised principles for the CYPP.
- 3.5 Whilst there were many notable achievements from the 2010-13 CYPP delivery plan, some areas still required improvement or were such significant policy areas that it would not be prudent to lose sight of these priorities. On that basis, the majority of

the current priorities of the CYPP would become the high level actions supporting the delivery of the four new strategic priorities. There were a small number of 2010-2013 priorities which it was felt were not appropriate to take forward into the next plan, these being areas where the Trust has little scope to add value.

- 3.6 It was also recognised that there were some additional actions that needed to be included in the plan from 2013, these being 'better start in life' (a strategic objective of Sunderland's Health and Wellbeing Strategy) and 'implementation of the Looked After Children Commissioning Strategy'.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

- 4.1 As the custodian of the Children and Young People's Plan, it is recommended that the Children's Trust will continue to provide consistent support and challenge to services delivering the stated priorities for children, young people and families. To do this, a strengthened performance management framework will be developed to ensure that there is continued robust monitoring of the priorities at future meetings of the Children's Trust focus.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In order to ensure that the CYPP Refresh meets the needs of as wide a group of stakeholders as possible, consultation on the strategic priorities and high level actions has taken place with the members of the Children's Trust and young people from the Children's Trust Advisory Network.
- 5.2 Comments and suggestions from these groups have been considered and included, where appropriate, in the latest draft of the report (**Appendix 1**)
- 5.3 The CYPP is currently an Article 4 Plan under the Council's Constitution. A requirement of an Article 4 Plan is that Scrutiny Committee is consulted to consider whether the Plan covers the priorities and associated actions to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 5.4 As noted in 1.2 above, Scrutiny Committee is asked to commission the Children's Scrutiny Panel to act as their consultative group to help develop the CYPP.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to:-
- note the content of this report.
 - note the Draft CYPP Refresh.
 - Commission the Children's Scrutiny Panel to be consulted on it's behalf in the development of the CYPP Refresh.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2010 – 2025 (Refreshed January 2014)

We are pleased to present this refreshed Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), covering the period to 2025. Unprecedented economic changes since the plan was agreed in 2010 mean that transformational change is required both within organisations and communities to meet the needs of citizens in different ways in the future. The role of local authorities and their partners is necessarily shifting towards a new focus of enabling rather than always delivering.

A key development since the plan was originally agreed is the introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards. In 2012 Sunderland's Children's Trust became an Advisory Board to the city's Health and Wellbeing Board and is directly responsible for delivering Objective 2 of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, *"Ensuring children and young people have the best start in life."*, as well as contributing to others. A further development is the Children's Trust formally agreeing to take the strategic responsibility for Child and Family Poverty in the city. Further information on the national and local policy context is appended (see appendix 1).

Our **vision** for children and young people continues to be:

'Working together to improve life chances and raise aspirations for each child and young person in Sunderland, and to narrow the gap in outcomes for our most vulnerable groups and families'.

The CYPP will continue to be supported by a three year delivery plan, the first covered the period 2010-13, the second being a high level delivery plan covering the period 2014-17.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

We have refreshed our design principles to reflect those of the agreed Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other emerging strategies in the city. These design principles will guide our approach to action planning, commissioning and delivering services for children, young people and their families. These design principles are:

Strengthening family and community assets

By recognising everyone has a valuable contribution to make, we will empower families and communities, increasing their capacity to be involved. Understanding the capabilities, skills and assets of children and young people, their families, their peers and their communities will form the starting point for any intervention. We will support children, young people and families to help themselves and develop solutions that prevent, reduce or delay the need for public sector interventions and give them control over their own lives. We will listen to children, young people and families and build services around their needs, making decisions based on sound intelligence and evidence of what works.

Prevention

We will place a greater emphasis on the insight of children, young people and their families, using local intelligence and experience to effectively identify and to work with families and communities to prevent children, young people and families developing problems.

Early Intervention

We know that early intervention with children, young people and their families can reduce more complex issues in the longer term. We will actively seek to identify and tackle issues at an early stage whenever they occur to prevent them escalating into more problematic and complex needs.

Collaborative Working

We will work together to make best use of our strengths and assets so that we can provide flexible and tailored services that are responsive to local conditions and focus on what matters to children, young people and their families.

Participation and Engagement

We will ensure that children, young people and their families have a voice and are involved in decisions that affect their lives. They will be empowered to contribute to the redesign of services which are relevant to them. We will enable positive activities for children and young people to participate in, so they can develop their skills and self-esteem to take them through to adulthood.

Equity

We know that the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age are responsible for the avoidable differences in people's life chances. Inequalities exist both within Sunderland's communities, and between Sunderland and regional and national comparators. We will focus on those children, young people and families more at risk of developing adverse outcomes.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our four strategic objectives provide the focus of our efforts to achieve our vision.

1. Improving the overall Health and Wellbeing of children, young people and families
2. Reducing the number of families with children living in poverty in the city
3. Improving educational outcomes and strengthening whole family learning
4. Improving safeguarding outcomes for children, young people and families.

These new strategic objectives are supported by a number of high level actions, which are predominantly consistent with the priorities of the first delivery plan.

During the life of the CYPP the Children's Trust will performance manage the four strategic objectives to ensure it has an overview of children and young people's outcomes measures; and that the Children's Trust is focussing its efforts on those areas it can add most value to and provide meaningful challenge and support.