

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REFERRAL: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN REFRESH**

**REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations in relation to the commissioned item from the Committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 January 2014 the Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the work being undertaken to refresh the Children and young People's Plan. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would commission the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel to act as the consultative group to gather views and comments to contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).
- 2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on 11 February 2014 to discuss the refresh of the strategy and delivery plan.

**3. Feedback from the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel**

- 3.1 The changing economic landscape has required that the refresh of the CYPP Plan produces a more streamlined and concise document. The four key focus areas for the Children's Trust over the next three years were identified as:
- Child and Family Poverty
  - Children and Young People have the best start in life
  - Childhood Obesity
  - Sexual Health.
- 3.2 Members highlighted the importance of the Child Poverty Strategy and it was noted that this had now been incorporated into the CYPP Plan and responsibility around it sat with the Children's Trust. It was further reported that the Southwick pilot that had been undertaken around the Child Poverty Strategy would help to inform and develop actions with the CYPP Plan and that the Children's Trust would move this forward.
- 3.3 The CYPP Plan refresh will differ from recent plans that considered everything that was important to children. Now it is a case of looking at where the Children's Trust can make a difference.
- 3.4 Members of the Panel noted that throughout the plan there were no specific references to the work of area committees and the community projects they have contributed to or initiated. Members felt that it was important that the CYPP Plan

recognised this and also contained reference to the potential for community involvement through the work of area committees, boards and frontline councillors.

- 3.5 It was noted that there was no specific priority relating to looked after children (LAC) within the CYPP refresh. However it was recognised that there are other mechanisms and strategies that deal specifically with LAC including the Corporate Parenting Board.

#### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1 Members recognised the importance of the strategic objectives and the key focus areas for the CYPP Plan refresh and highlighted the key importance of tackling child and family poverty.
- 4.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel also commented on the development of the plan around the acknowledgement and recognition of governance arrangements and the potential impact and influence they can have around some of the key focus areas for the Children's Trust in the coming years.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel would recommend to the Scrutiny Committee that the CYPP Plan refresh makes reference to the work of area committees, People and Place Boards and frontline councillors in communities and acknowledges the potential influence and involvement that these groups can have in delivering on the key objectives of the CYPP Plan.

#### **6. Glossary of Terms**

<b>CYPP</b>	Children and Young People's Plan
<b>LAC</b>	Looked After Children

#### **Background Papers**

Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025

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