

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

4 December 2008

## PREVENTION STRATEGY 2009-2012

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:** Prosperous City, Healthy City, Safe City, Learning City, Attractive and Inclusive City

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES:** Delivering Customer Focussed Services, Improving Partnership Working to Deliver "One City"

#### 1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of the draft Prevention Strategy that is out for consultation, setting out some key actions and timescales around the allocation of the Prevention Grant, and invites members' views.
- 1.2 The Prevention Strategy addresses key outcome priorities linked to reducing health inequalities and improving lives of children young people and their families with additional needs.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The aim of the Prevention Strategy is to ensure that all children and young people in Sunderland are able to fulfil their potential and that those who are doing well, continue to do so.
- 2.2 The Strategy aims to improve the lives of the vulnerable children, young people and families by providing a framework for the delivery of services for all children and young people and a set of preventative services to improve the outcomes for those with additional needs.
- 2.3 The purpose of the Preventative Strategy is to:
  - Set out the vision, principles and standards of **preventative practice** and service delivery which all services in the City will operate.
  - Identify a set of preventative services which will support **early identification of need** and **effective interventions** to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families with additional needs.
  - Identify priorities and set out the process for the commissioning of preventative services.
- 2.4 The Prevention Grant is part of Local Area Agreement funding. For 2008 to 2011, the Children's Fund – along with 16 other separate

grants has ceased and been replaced by one funding stream through the Area Based Grant. The Children's Fund element of the area-based grant has been hypothecated within the Area Based Grant.

- 2.5 The Children's Fund was used to provide targeted interventions for young people 5 to 13 who were at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- 2.6 The Council has agreed to the 'status quo' for 2008/9 pending the completion of a multi-agency Prevention Strategy, which will determine, according to the needs and priorities within the City, what services will be commissioned to prevent children being at risk of harm and/or in need of protection.
- 2.7 Prevention is a subject that is being prioritised by Government that is focusing a lot of time and energy into encouraging Local Authorities and Children's Trusts to move towards a culture of prevention and early intervention. This is demonstrated in recent legislation, policy and guidance.

### **3. Current position**

- 3.1 The Strategy is out for consultation, comments are being collated and the Strategy is being amended where needed.
- 3.2 The Strategy planning process identified the following priority outcome areas where progress is not being made at the level intended. These outcome areas aim to bring about:
  - Better participation of children and young people
  - Better parenting
  - Reduced bullying and discrimination
  - Reduced first time offending
  - More young people in education, employment or training
  - Reduced teenage pregnancy
  - Reduced obesity
  - Reduced use of alcohol amongst young people
  - Improved mental health of young people
  - Fewer preventable accidents involving children and young people
  - More play and positive activities for 5-13 year olds
- 3.3 The Children's Trust Strategic Partnership has initiated a commissioning process to establish a set of preventative services, and has agreed prevention grant allocation subject to approved service specifications and Cabinet approval.
- 3.4 Lead officers of the Strategic Partnership, together with the aligned partnerships to the Children's Trust are formulating preventative service specifications for delivery from April 2009.

#### **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the Prevention Strategy and invited to comment as part of the consultation process.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 Prevention Strategy 2009-2012 [attached]

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