

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 24th February 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Children & Enterprise Directorate Business Planning 2014 -17

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report outlines the progress so far on the new Halton Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2014-17.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

- 1) Notes the contents of the report; and**
- 2) Supports the further development of the new CYPP prior to launch in April 2014**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The CYPP is the agreed joint strategy of the partners within Halton Children's Trust, detailing how they will co-operate to improve children's wellbeing. It represents Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the borough, and provides strategic direction and determines how the Children's Trust Board will work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

3.2 Halton's first CYPP was published in 2006, covering a three year period to 2009. The second CYPP for Halton was published in 2009 and ran until March 31st 2011. The current CYPP has been in place since 2011 and is due to come to the end of its lifecycle on March 31st 2014.

3.3 Although no longer statutory as of June 2010, the need for a CYPP to remain in place was universally agreed locally in Halton to provide the strategic direction for the continuing Children's Trust arrangements. Following extensive consultation, the priorities for Halton Children's Trust for the period 2011-14 were agreed as

- Improve outcomes for children and young people through

embedding integrated processes to deliver early help and support.

- Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective integrated commissioning
- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively

3.4 The Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 is framed around these priorities.

3.5 It was agreed in autumn 2013 to develop a new CYPP to frame the work of the Trust from 2014. On this basis a working group was established from November 2013 to develop the plan based around the agreed priorities, which are:

1. **Working together to** deliver services in a joined up way to make sure children and their families get the right help at the right time (*Early Help & Support*)
2. **Working together to** plan and fund outcome focused services for children and families, that deliver high quality services that are value for money (*Integrated Commissioning*)
3. **Working together to** focus services towards the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families to 'close the gap' by improving health and education outcomes.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The task and finish working group is meeting bi-weekly and following the development of a short project brief, a number of agreements have been made around the approach to take for the new CYPP. These include:

- Primarily web-based but with a limited number of copies produced for stakeholders and inspection purposes
- Shorter chapters and simplified language – the objective being to produce chapters that are fully understood by all stakeholders no matter what their level of involvement is.
- The chapters should be different in their approach to that found in other documents
- Exploitation the advantages of having a web-based document – for example being able to link to other documents if you want more detail.
- Involvement of young people – this has been initiated in a number of ways, including:
 - INVOLVE Group – the CYPP is a standing item on the agenda at each meeting and ideas have been generated for involving young people. These include a young

people's video to explain the CYPP and looking to have advocates/peer champions. This Group involves representatives from a broad range of young people's agencies and groups, including Halton Youth Cabinet, Community of Youth, Halton Speakout and Canal Boat Adventure Project

- Working with the Children in Care Council in February
- Social Media – utilising Twitter to look for further involvement to increase the meaning of the Plan to young people. This includes the possibility of drawings/cartoons by young people in different chapters to show it means to them and other young people.

4.2 The Working Group has considered or will consider a wide range of areas of work so far. These include:

- Evidence Base for the CYPP
- CYPP context
- 'If Halton was a Village of 100 Children & Young People' overarching statistical information and key data for each priority.
- Integrated commissioning
- Involvement and Participation
- Closing the Gap
- Safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs
- Early Help & Support
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Performance
- Celebrating Success
- Reflections on what we have achieved against existing priorities

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The CYPP is the key strategic document for Halton Children's Trust, within which all children and young people's services in Halton sits. The Plan outlines the main priorities for the Trust in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Plan has a strong focus on continuing to tackle the numbers of Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people in Halton, including through the promotion of apprenticeship opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Health remains a clear priority for the Children's Trust within each of the three priorities, fully involved and leading on working within each. Health indicators also remain a key element of the Performance Management Framework that supports the CYPP. Halton Children's Trust is closely involved in the Health & Wellbeing Board and structures that sit underneath it, working in conjunction with Public Health and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group across a broad range of issues. To this end, a Joint Protocol has been developed involving Halton Children's Trust, Halton Safeguarding Children Board and Halton Health & Wellbeing Board.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Plan looks at work being done around alcohol, anti-social behaviour and youth offending. In each of these areas the Trust works closely with the Safer Halton Partnership.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The CYPP highlights the development of further provision in Halton, including the CRMZ facility in Widnes and additional secure residential accommodation across Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 It is vital that both the Council and Children's Trust continue to be clear about priorities for service delivery and that this strategy is noted by Elected Members.

7.2 The absence of a CYPP would:

- Reduce the ability to take account of the local community's aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Have serious implications for Partnership co-ordination between all the public, voluntary and community organisations and other stakeholders that operate locally for the benefit of children, young people and their families;
- Potentially reduce the effectiveness of the Partnership through fragmentation of strategies.

7.3 These risks can be mitigated by the adoption of the CYPP and its implementation, monitoring and ultimate delivery. This Annual Review document provides a supplement to ensure the CYPP remains fit for purpose.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 A Community Impact & Review Assessment will be undertaken on the document prior to its formal launch. A similar exercise on the existing CYPP showed no negative impacts on any individuals and groups within Halton as a result of the Plan. The Children & Young People's Plan facilitates positive action for children and young people overall in Halton and for particular groups of children and young people as

appropriate.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children Act 2004	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Mark Grady
Halton Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14	2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Runcorn	Mark Grady