

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

agenda item number

**10**

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

### The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14

#### Purpose of report

1. To gain approval for the Children, Young People and Families Plan for the period 2011 to 2014.

#### Information and advice

##### Background

2. Approval is sought from the County Council to the new plan for Nottinghamshire Children's Trust, covering the period 2011-14 **(attached for Members only)**.
3. The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14 (CYPF Plan) is the joint strategic plan of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust. Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to produce such a plan, the Children's Trust has taken the view that a plan is needed to provide clarity about activities and responsibilities and manage performance improvement for the Trust. The plan replaces the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11.
4. The CYPF Plan sets out the strategy for the Council with specified partners in relation to the services for children and young people aged 0-19 years, young people aged 20 years and over leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 years with learning difficulties. It describes how the Children's Trust will deliver its statutory responsibility, as defined in the Children Act 2004, to co-operate to safeguard children and to promote their well-being.
5. The CYPF Plan is the single overarching strategic plan covering services for children and young people in Nottinghamshire, as represented on the Children's Trust Board. It does not detail all the services of the agencies within the Children's Trust but focuses on the areas that we think we can work on with our partners to improve outcomes for children and young people.

6. The CYPF Plan sets out four key themes which will underpin the work of the Children's Trust for the next three years. These are: child protection, education and attainment, health and wellbeing and participation in society.
7. The plan identifies seven priorities for action, which describe specific activities that partners will undertake during 2011-12. These priorities will be updated annually, to ensure that they remain current, reflecting the local or national situation and the policies of the County Council and partner agencies. These seven priorities for action are:
  - Implement Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy
  - Sustain and build on improvements made in safeguarding
  - Improve the effectiveness of services for disabled children through joint planning and commissioning
  - Implement the child poverty strategy for Nottinghamshire
  - Reduce the achievement gap at all key stages
  - Raise achievement at age 16-19 in order to equip young people to enter the workplace, apprenticeships or higher education
  - Improve children and young people's emotional wellbeing.
8. The CYPF has been developed by the Children's Trust Board and its Executive, in consultation with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). The main evidence base for the planning was a detailed refresh of the children's chapter of Nottinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (NSCB) which was undertaken in 2010, and which included demographic analyses and consultation with service users. Evaluation of the performance of the County Council's services, and that of partner organisations, as well as inspection findings, also informed planning activities

## **Statutory and policy implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

### **Financial implications**

10. Activities identified within the CYPF Plan will be financed by existing budget allocations for 2011-12.

### **Equal opportunities implications**

11. Public authorities are required by law to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not
  - foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not
12. Decision makers must understand the effect of policies and practices on people with protected characteristics. Equality impact assessments are the mechanism by which the authority considers these effects.
  13. An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and is available as a background paper and it is essential that Members give due regard to the implications for protected groups in the context of their equality duty in relation to this decision.
  14. The equality impact assessment has focused on the equality implications for service users of the implementation of the CYPF plan. The main conclusion of this is that the plan is likely to have a positive impact as it aims to reduce inequality across all protected groups, by identifying need and working together to address this, within available resources.

#### **Implications for service users**

15. The principal service users affected are children, young people and their families, as the CYPF Plan identifies the over-arching strategy and associated action plans for the delivery of services to them in 2011-14. The detail of this is set out in the plan document.

#### **Crime and disorder implications**

16. The CYPF Plan identifies the Children's Trust commitment to supporting work to address crime and disorder, while recognising that responsibility for this work rests with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

17. That approval is given to the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14.

#### **COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

#### **Reasons for recommendation**

18. The Plan has been devised on the basis of a rigorous needs analysis and with extensive consultation across the Children's Trust.

### **Other options considered**

19. The possibility of operating without a joint strategic plan was considered, but this would have created the risk that co-operative working would be uncoordinated and ineffective.

### **Legal Services' comments (LM/25.08.11)**

20. Approval of the Plan is reserved to full Council in accordance with the Constitution. The Plan will be included in the Policy Framework of the County Council.

### **Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)**

18. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

### **Background papers available for inspection**

Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Needs analysis (2010 update of children and young people's chapter of Nottinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis)

### **Electoral division(s) affected**

Nottinghamshire.

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