

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-2011

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CABINET

10 APRIL 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider and approve the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards.

It was included in the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

THAT Cabinet commends to Council for approval the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011, subject to any comments.

Reasons

The Children and Young People's Plan is a statutory document and forms part of the policy framework for the local authority. It is a crucial vehicle to enable services to be delivered effectively across partners to improve outcomes for children and young people in Herefordshire.

Considerations

1. The local authority has a duty to prepare a Children and Young People's Plan, to review it annually and to secure cooperation amongst partners. This is the second plan that has been developed for Herefordshire. This new plan has been produced by the Children's Trust, a statutory partnership of local agencies across Herefordshire that commission and deliver services to children, young people and their families. This covers children and young people from 0-19 years of age and up to 25 for those young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The partner agencies include:

- Herefordshire Council, including schools
- Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, including GPs
- Learning and Skills Council
- Connexions
- Youth Offending Service

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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- Probation Service
 - Voluntary Sector organisations
 - West Mercia Police
 - Herefordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
2. The Children and Young People's Plan, a statutory document, contains the key priorities for children and young people. These priorities have been arrived at through a needs mapping exercise, which was then debated and discussed during November and December 2007 at various forums to arrive at a draft document. Children, young people and professionals from schools, services and partner organisations were involved in these discussions. The document was then subject to an eight week consultation period for individuals, and agencies to feedback views.
 3. This final document has been amended, where appropriate, to take account of the consultation responses received. The plan has been approved by all those agencies within the Children's Trust arrangements.
 4. The outcome groups within the Children's Trust arrangements will be considering more detailed responses from the consultation in the annual delivery plans. These delivery plans will support the three year strategic document by detailing the actions needed to achieve the priorities. Outcome groups are overseen by a management group and a Children's Trust Board, whose membership includes chief officers and directors of partner agencies and the Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council and PCT.
 5. The Children and Young People's Plan supports the Local Area Agreement and its priorities, as well as covering statutory and preventative service areas for the Council and for partners

Financial Implications

The plan will be used as the basis for commissioning services for children and young people in Herefordshire, alongside emerging commissioning arrangements under the Public Service Trust in Herefordshire. It will also be used to make the most of existing resources across partners targeted towards children and young people.

Risk Management

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to act as the lead agency in the development of the Children and Young People Plan and there is a duty to have a plan in place. Failure to do so would adversely affect service delivery to children and young people and the reputation of the Council and its partners.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options, Herefordshire has to have a plan in place. This has been a requirement since 2005 and this is the second plan for the county.

Consultees

The following list includes those agencies which statutorily must be consulted with:

- Children, young people and families (including persons with parental responsibility for, or who have the care of children)
- Persons / bodies representing children, young people and families
- The appropriate diocesan authority for any foundation or voluntary school situated in

the authority's area which is a Church of England or Roman Catholic Church school

- The school organisation committee for the authority's area
- Persons / bodies providing voluntary services relating to children and young people
- Groups / persons representing local communities
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Each of the authority's relevant partners
- The proprietor of each school in the authority's area
- The Schools Forum for the authority's area
- The Admission Forum for the authority's area

Additionally the plan has been through a consultation process for eight weeks and has been widely circulated including Councillors.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011

Background Papers

None identified.