

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008/2011

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

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

Financial Implications

2. 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

Background

3. The local authority has a duty under the Children Act 2004 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
- Herefordshire Voluntary Sector Health and Social Care Alliance
- West Mercia Constabulary
- Learning and Skills Council, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire
- Connexions, Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
- Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service
- Herefordshire Probation Service

There is also a Shadow Board of the Trust, made up of young people from across the county's secondary schools.

4. 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, between January and March 2008, for individuals, and agencies to feedback views.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Philippa Granthier, Business Manager – Children's Trust Tel (01432) 260226

5. There are statutory agencies that must be consulted upon in developing a new plan and these include:
- 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 was registered and published by the Herefordshire Partnership. All Councillors, parish and town councils, schools and school governors were included in the distribution of the plan for comment, either receiving email or hard copy in January 2008.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. A Members briefing was held in April to further raise awareness of the Children's Trust and the new plan. Further briefings are planned to ensure Members are updated on the work of the Children's Trust and the progress made in achieving the priorities within the plan. The shadow board have been invited to attend future meetings of this Committee to provide further challenge to services provided for children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee endorses the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011

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