

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	10 DECEMBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONSULTATION ON PRIORITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-2014
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF CHILDREN'S TRUST DEVELOPMENT

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with the opportunity to consider and influence the partnership priorities for the next children and young people's plan, covering the period 2011-2014.

Recommendation

THAT Scrutiny Committee consider and provide feedback on the draft priorities as presented;

Key Points Summary

- This new plan will benefit families, children and young people and has been drafted for consultation
- The priorities in the plan are those that can only be achieved by partners working together across the Children's Trust alongside families and their children
- The final plan will be published in April 2011

Alternative Options

- 1 This plan focuses on the top priorities that partners in the Children's Trust will deliver that will make lives better for families and their children in Herefordshire. Despite the statutory requirement for a plan being removed, partners believe there needs to be a plan to give clarity over what we are working together to achieve for children, young people and their families.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 It is important that this plan represents the needs of Herefordshire's children, young people and families so consultation from a wide cross-section of the population is invited.

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

Introduction and Background

- 3 Herefordshire is entering a new, exciting era in partnership working. The new government is freeing up local areas to decide for themselves what the important issues are that need addressing and how agencies can work together to tackle those issues. Much more emphasis is being placed on individuals and communities taking responsibility and helping themselves with the public sector taking a role in leadership, empowerment and protecting the more vulnerable. Delivery of services will fundamentally change over the next few years.
- 4 Partnership working for children, young people and families is developing this approach. The Children's Trust Board is the statutory body currently in place which governs partnership working around children's services. Whilst the Department for Education has indicated that it intends to remove the requirement for local areas to have a Children's Trust Board it is unlikely that this will happen before May 2012. The existing "duty to co-operate" amongst the partners listed below will remain in place, although schools and colleges will be removed, subject to parliamentary approval, in the Education Bill due shortly.
 - District councils
 - Strategic health authorities
 - Primary care trusts
 - Youth offending teams
 - Police
 - Probation services
 - Persons providing Connexions services
 - Jobcentre plus
 - Schools and colleges
- 5 The current Children and Young People's Plan ends in March 2011 and sets out the priorities of the Children's Trust. Until the 31 October 2010 the production of the plan was a statutory responsibility of the Children's Trust Board. The Department for Education (DfE) has now removed the requirement to have a plan of this nature. However in Herefordshire there is a real commitment for partnership working to continue and a plan is needed to focus and direct the work of the partners for the benefit of children, young people and families. The new plan is a joint plan in that it details the added value of working in partnership and what more can be achieved only by working together.

Key Considerations

- 6 The proposed priorities of the new plan are attached at appendix 1.
- 7 The new plan has been drafted based on a wide variety of data and information including:
 - "Have your say" events in September and October 2010 which allowed children, young people and parents / carers the opportunity to describe what is important to them. Children from nurseries, primary and secondary schools and young people from college and various youth groups were involved. Parents also gave their views.
 - Children's Trust events with professionals who deliver and manage services for children, young people and their families
 - Data and information from surveys and performance indicators
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
 - Inspections and audits from national agencies like Ofsted.
- 8 There is a 12 week consultation process running until February 2011 to ensure as many

people as possible can submit their views. The final plan will also take into account the consultation feedback that is received. The detailed actions to achieve the priorities will also be fully mapped out along with the total resources available across the county for children and young people.

- 9 The final plan will need to be agreed by individual partner organisations in terms of agreeing priorities and actions and committing resources to achieve the priorities. The plan will then be published in April 2011.

Community Impact

- 10 The plan includes priorities which will focus service delivery around two locality teams which map to the nine locality areas identified by Herefordshire Public Services. Partners have already committed to working in this way and working more closely with the communities they serve. In this way the needs of these communities can be mapped and a more targeted approach to providing services can be applied. This information will be used to inform the annual refresh of the plan and its supporting action plans and therefore more effective commissioning intentions in future. The voice of the children, young people and their families will be a key component in this commissioning cycle.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

- 12 The plan is no longer a statutory requirement but is a partnership commitment to collaborative working.

Risk Management

- 13 The plan is draft and currently out for consultation. Therefore at this stage there are no risks relating to this report.

Consultees

- 14 To inform the draft priorities a wide range of people have already been consulted. Partner staff attended an initial event to discuss the issues facing children and young people in Herefordshire. This event included members of the Children's Trust Shadow Board, a consultative group of young people aged 11-19 years from across secondary schools and colleges in Herefordshire.
- 15 The "Have Your Say" campaign was held specifically to capture the important things for children and young people. This included three main elements:
 - A "Have Your Say" day where around 100 primary and secondary school pupils attended two events with activities to aid thinking around the things that are important to them
 - A poster which allowed either written words or pictures to depict children's views. This was sent to all nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges allowing a much wider

range of views to be gathered, including parents / carers

- Specific sessions in schools and groups of young people facilitated by the youth service and HCVYS. This included particular vulnerable groups including looked after children, teenage parents and travellers.

16 The draft plan will be widely circulated as part of a 12 week consultation. This will include all the partners of the Children's Trust including schools and colleges. Councillors, third sector organisations, independent schools will all be invited to comment including any specific groups and forums that meet around children and young people's services.

Appendices

17 Appendix 1 Draft priorities

Background Papers

- None identified.