

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON PRIORITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011- 2014
REPORT BY:	Head of Children's Services Development

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

In December 2010 the committee were presented with the partnership priorities for the next children and young people's plan, covering the period 2011-2014 and had the opportunity to provide feedback. The purpose of this report is to give a short update on the consultation feedback and the next steps.

Recommendation

THAT: the Committee note the consultation feedback and provide any further comments on partnership arrangements supporting children, young people and their families.

Key Points Summary

- The draft children and young people's plan has been out to a 12 week consultation process before closing on the 14 February 2011.
- The comments received in the consultation will be used to inform the final plan which will be published in April 2011.
- The plan is a partnership plan and will include priorities that can only be achieved by partners working together alongside families and their children, to address specific local priorities for children and young people.

Alternative Options

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

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

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 was invited to feed into the final plan.

Introduction and Background

- 3 Herefordshire is entering a new, exciting era in partnership working. The 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.
- 4 Partnership working for children, young people and families is developing this approach. Whilst the Children's Trust Board has been the statutory body in place which governs partnership working around children's services, the government is removing this requirement, allowing local areas to decide their own arrangements for collaboration and co-operation. Any new partnership arrangements will need to take into account the development of locality arrangements and countywide partnership arrangements such as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Key Considerations

- 5 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.
- 6 There has been a 12 week consultation process which closed on 14 February 2011. Many professionals were able to feed in their comments through the existing Children's Trust sub groups. The Children's Trust Shadow Board (a consultative group of young people aged 11-19 years from across secondary schools and colleges in Herefordshire) have also considered the plan, and what they would like to do for a children's version. In addition a further 20 responses were received both from individuals and agencies.
- 7 The main points coming out from the consultation included:
 - The priorities were generally the right ones.
 - The number of priorities needed to be reduced and be more focused.
 - The plan needed to address whole family approaches, support for parents and early intervention.
 - Certain vulnerable groups needed support eg young carers and Gypsy Roma Traveller although the Shadow Board said children and young people shouldn't be labelled and that all deserved to have the same aspirations and opportunities. Individual actions should consider how vulnerable groups of children could be supported better.
- 8 Partners are now in discussion regarding development of the final plan and how to take

forward partnership arrangements as part of the overall approach to partnership working in Herefordshire.

Community Impact

- 9 Priorities will need to 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 future priorities 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

- 10 The final priorities will be used as the basis for commissioning services for children and young people in Herefordshire, alongside commissioning arrangements under Herefordshire Public Services. In the light of the significant budget reductions facing all sectors, it will be used to make the most of existing resources across partners targeted towards children and young people.

Legal Implications

- 11 The plan is no longer a statutory requirement but is a partnership commitment to collaborative working to make the best use of the resources which exist.

Risk Management

- 12 The final plan will be developed based on comments from the consultation period. Therefore at this stage there are no risks relating to this report.

Consultees

- 13 To inform the draft priorities a wide range of people were 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.
- 14 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.
- 15 The draft plan was then widely circulated as part of a 12 week consultation. This included all the partners of the Children's Trust including schools and colleges, and third sector groups

and organisations.

Appendices

16 None

Background Papers

- None identified.