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To: County Council – 16 October 2008

Subject: Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – POSITIVE ABOUT OUR FUTURE

Classification: Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This paper presents Kent's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Positive about our Future - to Members of the County Council and seeks formal approval to the plan.

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## **1 Introduction**

1. (1) The Children Act 2004 provides the legislation underpinning the transformation of children's services as set out in the [Every Child Matters: Change for Children](#) programme.

(2) A key element in the implementation of Children's Trusts is the development, by the local authority and its partners, of a single, strategic, plan outlining partnership priorities - the Children and Young People's Plan. Current consultations suggest that this will become a legal requirement on partners in the near future.

(3) The CYPP covers services for all children and young people. However, inevitably, it focuses actions on a minority percentage of children and young people with the most needs and highest demands on services. Supporting this group will in the long run reduce demands on services and improve outcomes for the majority.

(4) Although the plan highlights key priorities for partnership action it does not cover all services being provided for children and young people across Kent. The core activities are represented in the various partner agencies business plans and continue to be vital in maintaining the quality of life of most children and young people in the area.

(5) The Children and Young People's Plan is helping bring all agencies together to focus on the challenge of making sure that the momentum for narrowing the gap and enabling children and young people to be resilient and optimistic individuals gathers pace, whilst maintaining universal services for all.

(6) The Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008 has been updated to reflect the updated needs assessment and agreed priorities of the Kent Children's Trust Board. The proposed outcomes and key activities in the plan are based on a thorough Kent wide needs analysis that builds on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken by Health colleagues. It also incorporates recommendations from the Joint Area Review (JAR), the LAA2, some of the indicators from the new National Indicator set and aspects of the National Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures.

(7) The updated plan focuses on those outcomes and activities that can be improved and delivered through multi-agency /partnership working. It demonstrates our joint commitment to improving the life chances of children and young people across the County and sets a challenging agenda for change.

(8) The plan was agreed by the Kent Children's Trust Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008

This plan is included in the Forward Plan as a key decision

## **2 Policy Framework**

2. (1) The duty to produce a Children and Young People's Plan falls within the remit of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services . Although the responsibility is given to the Local Authority, the intention is that the local authority is the co-ordinating body and that the CYPP is a strategic plan of the Kent Children's Trust and in that sense covers services being provided by a range of agencies not just those provided by KCC.

(2) The Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 is part of the policy framework and requires ratification by the Council. The Children Act 2004 provides the legislative foundation.

(3) The Children and Young People's Plan replaces most of the previous statutory children's services plans required by Government including the Education Development Plan, Behaviour Support Plan, and Early Years & Childcare Plan.

## **3. Implications**

3. (1) **Towards 2010 Targets** - The Children and Young People's Plan incorporates outcomes and actions to support all 2010 targets relevant to children, young people and their families.

(2) **LAA2** - The Children and Young People's Plan includes all LAA2 priorities relevant to children and young people and their families

(3) **Equality and Diversity** - The plan has been checked to ensure compliance with E&D legislation through an equality impact assessments of all its outcomes and activities. The Children and Young People's Plan will deliver locally a number of actions that will improve outcomes and opportunities for minority and vulnerable groups.

(4) **Customer Service and Delivery** - The implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan will have a positive impact on the delivery of services. The strategic plan will be underpinned by the 23 Local Children's Services Partnership (LCSPs) plans ensuring that the needs of children, young people and their families are addressed through a more responsive, coherent and personalised service delivered earlier and closer to the point of need.

(5) **Budget/Financial** - All agencies are responsible for ensuring that they have the capacity and resources to underpin the priorities and actions they have agreed to deliver as part of the plan.

#### **4 The Development of the CYPP and consultation arrangements**

4. (1) The Children and Young People Plan has been developed on behalf of the Kent Children's Trust board. A comprehensive and wide ranging research, analysis and consultation process has been undertaken to inform the update of the plan

(2) Research and analysis - Relevant National, Regional, Local research and policy has been fully reviewed. A comprehensive needs analysis has been undertaken building on the Joint Strategic Needs assessment undertaken by health colleagues

(3) Views of Children and Young people – The plan has been developed using the views of over 43,000 children and young people from the Young People of Kent survey 2006-7 and 2007-8. In addition a number of focus groups to gather the views of under represented children and young people were also commissioned by the Strategic Planning & Review team including groups with looked after children, young carers, BME, disabled children, young offenders .

(4) Views of parents, carers, staff and residents – Partner agencies internal mechanisms for gathering the views of parents, carers, staff and residents were used in the formulation of priorities, outcomes and activities. This was strengthened through the use of a BMG parental survey –'Informing the strategy for parental support' – December 2007 commissioned on behalf of the Kent Children's Trust.

(5) Consultation on the plan – The plan was subject to widespread consultation during June/July 2008 with the aim of seeking views from the full range of stakeholders to inform the final draft. This included:

- The Kent Children's Trust member organisations
- All partners contained within statutory guidance
- CFE Policy Overview Committee (and all Members through the Member Information Briefing)
- Local Boards
- The Kent Partnership, its sub groups and associated multi agency groups
- Schools and governors through the e-bulletin to all schools
- KCC Members and officers.

(6) The plan has been updated to reflect a broad and balanced representation of the comments arising from the consultation being mindful of the remit of the plan and the statutory context. Areas of the plan that were developed during the consultation process are detailed in Appendix A.

## **5. Local Members**

5. The plan has a Kent wide multi-agency focus. KCC Members have been involved in the consultation process.

## **6. Next Steps**

6. (1) Once endorsed by County Council, the plan will be disseminated to all partners/stakeholders and summary versions produced for parent/carers and children/young people.

(2) The plan will be monitored and reviewed bi-annually through the Kent Children's Trust Board and annually through the Annual Plan of the Council.

## **7. Conclusion**

7. The Local Authority has a key role to play in the delivery of the Kent Children and Young People's Plan. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the Every Child Matters reform programme driving forward better local integration of children's services and the development of local partnership arrangements. The development of the plan puts in place a framework for the planning, development and delivery of local actions to improve the life chances of children and young people in Kent.

## **8. Recommendations**

8. Members of the County Council are asked to:

- (1) Approve the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Positive about our future

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