

**To:** Communities Policy Overview Committee – 9 May 2007

**From:** Mike Hill, portfolio holder, Amanda Honey, Managing Director, Communities

**Subject:** Positive About Our Future - Kent Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report gives an overview of the Children and Young People's Plan, notes the contribution that services within Communities makes towards its goals, and highlights forthcoming inspections of Children and Young People's services.

FOR INFORMATION

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## **Introduction**

The Children Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to take the lead in developing a Multi Agency Children and Young Person's Plan (CYPP) to commence in 2006-07. This Plan replaces most of the previous statutory plans required by Government including the Education Development Plan, Behaviour Support Plan and Early Years and Childcare Plan. The Plan is intended to be a high level strategic document which includes the activities of all publicly funded agencies which deliver services to Children and Young People and covers a period of 3 years, it outlines:

- the key priorities for improving the outcomes for Children and Young People (under the outcomes framework from Every Child Matters)
- the underpinning rationale or needs analysis
- the action to be taken to achieve these improvements
- the impact these actions are expected to have.

As an Excellent authority KCC is not required to produce a CYPP, but agreement was reached with partners that it would be a useful process to undertake to help in implementing the Children Act, to further develop joint working and to prepare for the next Annual Performance Assessment and a Joint Area Review (in January 2008). The CYPP was approved by County Council in May 2006 and oversight of its delivery lies with the Kent Children's Trust, a subgroup of the Kent Partnership.

The plan is attached at Appendix One.

## **The contribution of the Communities Directorate to the CYPP**

The ways in which services in the Communities Directorate engage with children's and young people's lives has been the subject of previous reports to this Committee. Priorities and activity for the coming year are identified in detail in the Unit Business Plans approved by Cabinet on 16 April 2007 and every unit plays a role to a greater or lesser extent.

For example Youth Services, Sport Development, Youth Offending and Drug and Alcohol Action are experts in working with young people, promoting a protective approach to the most vulnerable, and promoting positive activities and raising self-esteem among young people in general. Libraries provide a wide range of services for children and young people of all ages, and Adult Education provides opportunities for children and young people to learn in a family context, promoting strong intergenerational bonds. Trading Standards and Kent Scientific Services help children learn about food safety, through the Healthy Schools Programme, as well as protecting against unhealthy food in schools, and many Community Wardens provide invaluable support to young people in their local areas.

This wide range of activity supports the general principles of the CYPP and Communities also has specific accountabilities as shown below:

Leading on:

- Priority 9: Ensure children & young people are safe and feel safe in the communities where they live, go to school, play, work and travel.
- Priority 16: Reduce youth offending numbers and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting:

- Priority 2 – (Strengthen the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector).
- Priority 5 – (Improve drug & alcohol cessation and other early intervention).
- Priority 6 – (Improve CAMHS referrals timescales for YOS).
- Priority 8 – (Research feasibility of services for CYP who pose a risk of sexual or physical harm).
- Priority 15 – (Implement Youth Matters and District Youth Strategies – ref to LAA 7).
- Priority 18 – (Increase parental engagement in school and learning).

### **Future inspections**

A Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children and Young People's Services, led by OfSTED, will be carried out in January 2008 at the same time as the Audit Commission's Corporate Inspection of the Authority Progress against the CYPP priorities will be an important dimension of OfSTED's report.

Prior to the JAR there will be a specific inspection of the Youth Offending Service by the HMIP; and a specific Youth Service review by OfSTED.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to NOTE the Kent Children's and Young People's Plan, the role Communities plays in achieving its goals, and forthcoming inspections relating to services for Children and Young People.

Judy Edwards  
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**Attachments: Positive About Our Future - Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009**