

By: Cabinet Member for Communities (Mike Hill)
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To: Communities Policy Overview Committee, 25th March 2009

Subject: Integrated Youth Support Strategy

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report summarises the content and progress of the Integrated Youth Support Strategy and accompanying Implementation Plan. The strategy and implementation plan are subject to formal consultation through the Kent Children's Trust Partnership. Both documents are appended to this report.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to note the progress of this strategy and implementation plan and to comment as part of the consultation process.

FOR INFORMATION & CONSULTATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The concept of Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) originated with the Youth Matters green paper in 2005. IYSS is about providing access to services for all young people according to their needs.
- 1.2 The Youth Matters green paper proposed four key elements deemed crucial in improving outcomes for young people:
- **Positive activities:** more things to do and places to go
 - **Making a contribution:** More opportunities to contribute to their local community through personal development opportunities such as volunteering.
 - **Information, Advice and Guidance:** better quality and appropriately delivered.
 - **Reformed targeted youth support:** better support when needed to deal with specific problems.

2. Process

2.1 An early draft Integrated Youth Support Strategy was considered and approved by the Kent Children's Trust Board on January 31st 2008, after consultation with this Committee and the CFE Policy Overview Committee

2.2 Subsequently, further work has been done to produce the draft implementation plan. This work has been done a multi-agency working group, chaired by the Director of Youth Services and KDAAT (KCC Communities Directorate).

2.3 The Kent Children's Trust Board has now agreed that the latest version of the strategy and implementation plan should be consulted on together. The consultation period commenced on March 12th 2009 and will run for three months until the end of June 2009. This will ensure that all partners have time to respond in accordance with the Kent Partners Compact. It will include a series of consultation events with young people and will include work with those young people for whom there exist significant barriers to access.

2.4 The implementation plan is essentially a detailed action plan accompanied by a discussion of the structural, governance and resourcing arrangements for taking this work forward. Within the Kent Children's Trust structure this work will be taken forward by a dedicated, multi-agency board, chaired by the Director of Youth Services and KDAAT.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

(i) NOTE the development of the Integrated Youth Support Strategy and Implementation Plan

(ii) COMMENT on the strategy and implementation plan.

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