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To: Cabinet – 17 March 2008

Subject: Integrated Youth Support Strategy

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: In 2005, Government published the Green Paper, *Youth Matters*. This linked aspirations for young people to the Every Child Matters agenda. Following wide ranging consultation, *Youth Matters: Next Steps* was published in March 2006. This strategy explains the process of implementing key elements of *Youth Matters* in Kent.

For Information

Introduction

1. (1) The Integrated Youth Support Strategy (IYSS) has been commissioned by the Kent Children's Trust Board. The strategy has been developed by a partnership group chaired by Angela Slaven, Director of Youth Offending and Substance Misuse. It supports the implementation of *Youth Matters* in Kent, in particular the requirement for integrated youth support services. Integrated youth support services include targeted youth support, independent advice and guidance and positive activities for young people. The attached strategy outlines the agreed partnership approach.

Progress to Date

2. (1) Following an initial agenda discussion at the Kent Children's Trust Board on the 8th October 2007 the draft strategy has been developed with partners represented through the Children's Trust. Comments received from KCC's Policy Overview Committees for the Children, Families & Education and Communities Directorates have been taken into account.
- (2) The District Councils' Community Development Managers' group has also been engaged, and individual feedback has been received from several District Councils.

- (3) The draft was taken to the Kent Youth County Council in December, where workshops were undertaken to seek KYCC members' views on the strategy's topics. The Connexions Youth Board was consulted on 30th January 2008.
- (4) The Kent Children's Trust Board, as the commissioning body for this work programme, received the draft strategy on January 31st and has approved the current draft strategy.
- (5) KCC Chief Officers' Group has also seen and commented on the strategy.

Next Steps


3. (1) The Integrated Youth Support Strategy will be supported by an operational delivery plan which will:
 - Illustrate how these integrated processes will work in practice to deliver improved outcomes for young people;
 - Make explicit the priority actions that are required to implement the strategy;
 - Link the IYSS priorities to the targets and indicators in the Local Area Agreement, the Children and Young People's plan and other relevant service and partnership plans;
 - Ensure that delivery mechanisms are networked with other key planning and delivery partnerships for children and young people;
- (2) The strategy group propose that the operational plan is developed by an IYSS Board, which will draw its membership from the strategy group supported by personnel from related areas of service, including the Targeted Youth Support working group. The Board will be chaired by the Director of Youth Offending and Substance Misuse Services, and will:
 - Develop the supporting operational plan;
 - Design and lead on consultation on the Integrated Youth Support Strategy and plan;
 - Monitor progress and report as requested to the Kent Children's Trust Board;
 - Alert the Kent Children's Trust Board to any resource implications arising from the strategy and implementation plan.


Request

4. Cabinet is asked to:
 - (i) NOTE the progress in developing the Integrated Youth Support Strategy; and
 - (ii) NOTE and SUPPORT the contents of the report and the attached strategy.

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