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To: Cabinet – 13 July 2009

Subject: KENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-2011 – POSITIVE ABOUT OUR FUTURE – YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT (APRIL 2008 MARCH 2009)

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Section 17 of the Children Act 2004 provides the statutory basis for CYPPs and the Children and Young People's Plan regulations. The Children and Young People's Plan is central to the work of Children's Trusts it is the overarching strategic plan for the partnership setting the priorities for improvement in outcomes for children, young people and families in area. CYPP. Government regulations require local authorities to review their plan in each year.

This paper presents to Members of the Cabinet for comment the first annual monitoring report covering progress made in the delivery of Kent's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Positive about our Future.

Introduction

1 (1) The CYPP is central to the work of the Children's Trust, it is the defining statement of strategic planning and priorities for children, young people and families in the area. Children's Trusts are required to deliver measurable improvements for all children and young people across all five of the Every Child Matters Outcomes. The CYPP sets out the improvements to the well-being of children and young people in the local area.

(2) Currently the CYPP is the responsibility of the local authority led by the DCS and the Lead Member for Children's Services. The Government has announced its intention to legislate at the end of this year to make the Children's Trust Board a statutory requirement and to extend the ownership of the CYPP to all Children's Trust partners.

(3) The purpose of the annual review is to establish what progress has been made against the priorities set out in the CYPP and to consider whether the priorities and actions in the Plan remain appropriate or require updating. Local authorities are required to consult with all key partners and publish the results of the review.

(4) The review and the annual update of the needs assessment will form part of the Authority's evidence for the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Background

2. (1) The CYPP has been underpinned by an annual update of the needs assessment of outcomes for children and young people supported by partners represented on the multi-agency Performance Management and Multi Agency Data Groups of the KCT.

(2) The Needs Assessment, undertaken against the Every Child Matters Outcomes, draws on National and local indicators, the Children and Young People of Kent surveys, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, results from inspections such as the Joint Area Review and a wide range of evidence including consultations with children, young people, parents and staff. The evidence for the review also included information from lead officers and LCSP managers describing activity to date against their local children and young people's plan.

Key findings of the Needs Assessment and Review

3. (1) This review covers year one of a three-year plan but already demonstrates that good progress has been made since the CYPP was first published.

(2) Findings from the review and needs assessment has confirmed that the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan are still relevant and that there is no need to add or delete any priorities agreed in 2008. However it does indicate that some areas need additional focus and refinement to ensure that we achieve the agreed outcomes.

(3) The review identified (A) What we are doing well, (B) Areas for further improvement/development and (C) Areas for further investigation/action.

(i) A. What we are doing well

The research has confirmed that Kent is performing well with evidence of:

- Good performance by Children's Social Services on assessments, referrals & reviews.
- Looked after children benefiting from permanence in their lives with fewer moves and longer placements.
- Strong arrangements for agencies to work together in keeping children and young people safe.
- Good progress on extended schools (80% delivering the full core offer) and 72 Children's Centres developments.
- Excellent educational attainment at GCSE.
- Low incidence of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training.
- Strong participation in vocational education with over 5,500 14 to 16 year old learners currently involved in the vocational and applied learning programme exceeding Kent's 2010 target.
- Many opportunities for young people to have their say and get involved in decisions that affect their lives.
- Many young people making a positive contribution to others, their community or school.
- Low rate of first time offending.
- Low rates of infant mortality and babies born with a low birth weight.
- Strong commitment from all partners with a shared vision of improving outcomes.

- Development of ambitious and innovative Trust structures and inter-agency governance arrangements that have received national recognition.

(ii) **B. Areas for further Improvement/Development**

Evidence supports the need to push forward and realise our plans and activities in the following areas to secure the improvements set out in our plan:

- Teenage Conceptions. The rate did not reduce in 2007/08 and there is significant variation in performance across the county.
- More research is needed into why some young people are not taking part in the leisure activities provided.
- Safe environments in local areas and road safety are a concern for some young people.
- Early Childhood Development: With a focus on increased breastfeeding, reducing smoking during pregnancy and improved early year's attainment.
- Substance Misuse. According to the Tellus3 survey the numbers of young people reporting misusing alcohol and other substances is higher in Kent than found nationally.

(iii) **C. Areas for further Investigation/Action**

There are some areas of work where we cannot yet provide evidence that activity is making an impact on outcomes. This may be because there is a lag in data available to evidence change or because we are just at the beginning of implementing our plans and new activity has not had time to make an impact on outcomes. The Needs Assessment supports the view that the partnership needs to clearly evidence what progress is being made in the following areas:

- Children and young people who are eligible for free school meals. The impacts of living in poverty/with low income are evident across all the Every Child Matters Outcomes for children, young people and their families. There are gaps in attainment at all ages from Primary to GCSE, Level 3 qualifications & progressing to higher education.
- Improved feedback to children and young people to tell them how their views influenced service planning and provision. The Needs Assessment uncovered conflicting evidence that indicates that the views of children and young people are being sought, but their perception is that their views are not being listened to.
- Housing: ensuring plans are in place to respond to the needs of vulnerable families and young people. There is evidence to suggest that particular attention might helpfully be focused on ensuring that the needs of certain groups of vulnerable children and young people are being clearly specified before they are addressed.

Monitoring

4 (1) The needs assessment is part of the ongoing performance management of the KCT and informs the annual review. The KCT has an agreed monitoring process which is ongoing and subject to continual review. Since the drafting of the needs assessment,

additional areas of progress and need have been identified, (e.g. increased parental / carer involvement in local services, increased referrals to children's social care and need to ensure parents and carers have good information about services and support available), this will be brought to the KCT's attention.

(2) The KCT has agreed a performance framework that means it will receive a six monthly report on progress against the plan and the Performance Management sub group of the KCT will be looking at how these arrangements can be strengthened.

(2) CFE SMT will have a monthly performance report from June 2009 which will coordinate and enhance existing monitoring arrangements covering 2010 targets, the Local Area Agreement and Business Plan monitoring.

Consultation

5. (1) The draft CYPP is now being shared with partners to ensure that all activity and contributions are reflected. The consultation period will run until the 17th July 2009.

Comments of the Kent Children's Trust Board

6. (1) The Kent Children's Trust (KCT) has received the draft report and agreed that, with the support of the KCTB Performance Management Group, responsibility for taking forward areas identified as requiring further action will be allocated to its sub groups. Each sub group will be provided with a thematic report of the findings relevant to their areas of responsibility to assist them in this work. Each sub group will be asked to develop a response to the main CYPP review findings to be presented to the Trust at its meetings in October and December 2009. The Board also agreed to review the children's trust arrangements using the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Commissioning Support Programme self evaluation tool. The findings from the self evaluation will contribute to the CFE restructure and review in line with business and financial planning 2010 / 11.

Policy Framework

7. (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 as the co coordinating body, the CYPP is Kent Children's Trust plan for all services working with children, young people and their families.

(2) The Children Act 2004 provides the legislative foundation
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/about/guidance/dutytooperate/>

(3) The 2008-2011 Kent CYPP is part of KCC's policy framework.

Implications

8. (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, young people and their families.

(3) The CYPP is also integral to the overall vision for Kent and the Kent Strategic Partnership, particularly in relation to economic and community regeneration and skills development.

(4) Equality and Diversity – The plan has been checked to ensure compliance with E&D legislation through an equality impact assessment 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.

(5) 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 is 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 delivery, earlier and closer to the point of need.

(6) Budget/Financial – All agencies are responsible for ensuring that they have the capacity and resources to deliver the priorities and actions they have agreed to undertake.

Next Steps

9. The draft review will be submitted to both CFE and Communities POCs in July 2009. Following the end of the consultation period a final draft version of this review will be submitted to the KCT Executive Group on the 29th July 2009 for sign off.

Conclusion

10 The review has confirmed that the Kent Children and Young People’s Plan is still very relevant to the needs of children, young people and their families in the area and there are many areas of success and strength in the emerging Kent Children’s Trust arrangements. The areas that require additional focus to achieve the CYPP outcomes have been allocated to the sub groups of the KCT to investigate and report back on in October and December.

Recommendations

11. Members of the Cabinet are asked to:
- (a) Note the 2008 CYPP review.

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Background Documents

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/managersandleaders/planningandcommissioning/cypp/cypp/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/about/>

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Childrens_Services/Childrens_Trust/KCTB_NAdraft3_1June09.pdf

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_performance_framework.cfm