

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

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| 1. | Meeting: | Schools' Forum |
| 2. | Date: | 23rd April 2010 |
| 3. | Title: | Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013 Consultation and Emerging Priorities |
| 4. | Directorate: | Children and Young People's Services |

5. **Summary:**

In 2010 The Children's Trust Board will publish a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This will replace the existing CYPP, which runs until June 2010. The new plan will continue to set the strategic priorities for the work of partners on the Children's Trust Board. It will now also be a requirement for the CYPP to be prepared and owned by the Children's Trust Board.

The guidance, issued by the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF), is also explicit in its requirement for broad consultation on the CYPP.

The findings of the consultation have been considered in the context of other factors affecting the Children and Young People's Service, including the Notice to Improve, and the annual Audit of Need; a draft of the CYPP 2010-2013 has been prepared for the purpose of further consultation.

6. **Recommendations:**

That the Schools' Forum receives this report and offers comments to be recorded and fed back through the minutes.

7. **Proposals and Details:**

Context

The CYPP 2010-2013 will set the strategic priorities for the work of partners on the Children's Trust Board. These priorities will be established in the context of several factors:

- National and local policy frameworks, including; the existing Every Child Matters outcomes, Lord Laming's recommendations, an emphasis on all aspects of safeguarding and an increased focus on early intervention and prevention;
- The Action Plans and the work of the Improvement Panel that are responding quickly to findings of the Children and Young People's Services Review (April 2009) and the Comprehensive Area Assessment (December 2009);
- The transformational projects already underway in Rotherham including 'Transforming Rotherham Learning' and 'Inspire Rotherham';
- The annual 'Audit of Need' and, specifically, our performance against LAA indicators;
- Consultation feedback from our service users, including children and young people, their parents and carers, members of the communities in which they live and the professionals who work with them.

Details of the consultation

The consultation used a combination of face-to-face interviews and meetings, focus groups, local media and postal surveys; it was structured around the seventeen priorities in the existing CYPP. A leaflet was produced and an article with a response form was published in Rotherham News. Participants were asked to choose five priorities that were most important to them and rank these.

Consultation work with children used a simplified version of this approach where the priorities were printed on cards in more straightforward language and children were asked to sort these out into those that seemed more important and less important.

Focus groups were conducted with Youth Cabinet, Young Carers, Looked After Children (and their carers), Looked After Children living in Rotherham's residential units and Young Offenders. In addition an event took place with senior leaders from across Children and Young People's Services. Interviews took place at Community Engagement Events in Maltby, Dinnington and Rawmarsh.

Meetings were arranged with leaders of the Fire Service and Police Service, 14-19 Partnership Board, Rotherham Ethnic Minority Network, the Mosque Liaison Group and Risky Business. The proposed structure of the CYPP has been considered by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, the Learning without Limits Partnership Executive, the Joint Headteachers' Meeting and with colleagues across RMBC, including Culture and Leisure. A draft of the CYPP has been considered by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

An article was placed in Rotherham News, distributed to all households in Rotherham, and we wrote to all Looked After Children, Councillors and GPs. A postal survey was also conducted with Foster Carers and Adoptive Parents.

The consultation also drew on the extensive body of work that has taken place with schools and learners through Transforming Rotherham Learning, the Connexions commissioning process and Neighbourhood Partnership work.

Consultation Results

Although each individual's response to the existing priorities was different, a body of opinion formed behind five of the existing priorities:

- To improve the safety and security of vulnerable children and young people;
- To reduce the impact of Domestic Violence;
- To halt the rise in infant mortalities;
- To ensure that all children and young people have the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles;
- Ensuring higher quality education / learning for all children and young people.

Features of the Plan

A. The Four Big Things

The concept of the four big things is that they will guide our activity in the next three years. The four big things are:

- Keeping Children and Young People Safe
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Tackling Inequalities
- Transforming Rotherham Learning

What these 'big things' have in common is that their impact will be felt in every aspect of how we deliver services to children and young people; they will run

through all the key priorities and activities outlined in this plan and require the involvement of every partner.

They are 'big things' because they are all equally important but have different characteristics (a corporate priority to which we contribute, an approach, a delivery vehicle).

The intention is to allocate an icon to each one which will be displayed wherever appropriate across priorities and action plans. Early discussions have indicated that this might extend beyond the CYPP itself, into other related strategies (14-19 Plan, Learning without Limits), learning community plans etc.

B. Emerging Areas of Focus

There are some areas of work that will be highlighted in the new Children and Young People's Plan. These are:

- Communication, language and learning;
- Domestic abuse;
- Looked After Children;
- Obesity;
- The 14-19 offer;
- Post-16 options for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities;
- Giving babies a healthy start;
- Understanding and responding to the needs of migrant communities.

The purpose of these areas of focus is to draw attention to work that may need significant investment of resource, forensic attention and / or change management in order to change the direction of travel or significantly accelerate along a chosen path. Clearly, a vast amount of work will take place during this period that is not related to the priorities that are under the spotlight through the CYPP (although everything we do is likely to be linked to at least one of the four big things).

Next Steps

A draft of the Plan is attached for consideration. The consultation and approval process has been scheduled to proceed as follows:

| MEETING | DATE | |
|--|------------------------|--------------|
| Safeguarding Board | 19 th March | Consultation |
| Cabinet Member | 7 th April | Consultation |
| Scrutiny Board | 9 th April | Consultation |
| Children & Young People's Board | 21 st April | Consultation |
| Learning Theme Board | 29 th April | Consultation |
| Cabinet Member | 9 th June | Approval |
| Children & Young People's Board | 16 th June | Approval |
| Cabinet | 23 rd June | Approval |
| Full Council – to receive recommendation of Cabinet (for approval) | N/A | Approval |

8. Background Papers

CYPP 2010-2013, Fourth draft 17.3.10.

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