

Children and Young People's Stakeholders Forum, 8 November 2005

The East Sussex Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2008

What is the Plan?

The Children Act 2004 requires all areas to publish a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The CYPP is a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting Children and Young People. While the responsibility for preparing the Plan rests with the County Council as the Children's Services Authority, it is expected to cover all the key strategies of other agencies which are covered by the duty to cooperate in the Children Act, and other relevant organisations. The first CYPP must be in place by 1 April 2006. Formally it replaces a number of existing separate statutory plans.

Local Authorities are required to take the lead with partners to agree clear targets and priorities for all services, to identify actions and activities to achieve them and ensure delivery. In East Sussex the preparation of the first CYPP is a key task for the Children's Trust Executive Group and governance structure.

What will the Plan look like? How might it be organised?

A vision

The Plan needs to begin with a broad shared vision for children and young people. A key task for the Stakeholders Forum is to consider how the vision developed by the former Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in 2003 needs to be updated.

Target outcomes; age ranges

It is clearly essential that the Plan addresses all five of the target outcomes set out in the Children Act. Many actions address more than one target outcome, however. We also need to ensure that we have coherent strategies in place for different age groups. Within our new Children's Trust governance structure, the new age related strategy groups provide a good vehicle for developing these strategies, building on work to date (for example the CYPSP 0-5 Strategy agreed earlier this year).

If the Plan for East Sussex is organised according to age groups, it would still be possible to identify for each action, which of the five target outcomes it particularly promotes. We would then be able to compile sets of actions in relation to each of the five target outcomes, to demonstrate how each of them is being addressed.

Cross cutting actions

A number of actions which will need to be in the Plan apply to all age groups, and all target outcomes. For example the Plan will need to set out what we will do to:

- implement common processes and tools, such as common assessment, and information sharing, including embedding use of the East Sussex Children Index
- Develop the Children's Services workforce (other than in ways related specifically to particular age groups)
- Develop children's trust structures and policies, such as working through Local Partnerships for Children and developing approaches to joint commissioning
- Develop effective safeguarding arrangements

These issues will need to be covered in a section of the Plan which is separate from sections for different age groups.

Actions for looked after children and children with SEN/disabilities

It may also be helpful to include in the Plan specific sections covering two groups of children who we know will be a particular focus in external review of the impact of the Plan:

- Children who are in public care
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disability

How much detail?

The intention is that the Plan will be "high level" with detailed information set out in linked actions plans (for example for the age groups or in plans such as the School Improvement Plan or Family Support Strategy).

Area level plans

There will also be area level action plans for each of the four children's services planning areas, reflecting both the county level CYPP priorities and local circumstances. These will build on work already done by the area children's services planning groups (see below).

How will children and young people be involved in developing the Plan?

A major consultation exercise with children and young people has just begun, including the second Straight to the Top conference and discussion groups focusing on consultation leaflets prepared for different age groups – copies enclosed with the pack for today. The Plan will also take into account outcomes from previous consultation exercises, such as the involvement of children and young people in developing the Hastings Youth Strategy in 2004.

What work has been done already?

The Plan can build on

- ◆ Existing and developing community strategies for the five districts and boroughs
- ◆ Proposed targets within the Children and Young People “block” of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for East Sussex
- ◆ Key recently developed detailed strategies such as the CYPSP 0-5 Strategy and the county anti bullying strategy
- ◆ Initial thinking within the age related strategy groups
- ◆ Priorities agreed within the four area children’s services planning groups. There is much consensus across all four planning areas about the importance of the issues set out in this example; more work will need to be done on detailed implementation in different areas.

It is essential, however, that existing strategies should be reviewed as necessary in the light of the outcomes of current consultation, particularly with children and young people.

What is the timetable for preparing the Plan?

Key milestones after the Stakeholders Forum are as follows:

- 12 December: meeting of the Children’s Trust Executive Group – key priorities to be reviewed in the light of feedback from the Stakeholders Forum and outcomes to date from consultation with children and young people
- January: First draft Plan circulated to Stakeholders Forum members and others for consultation, subject to the outcomes of continuing consultation with children and young people
- March: Final version of the Plan, and of area action plans, approved by the Children’s Trust Executive Group

Further Information and contacts

For further information and guidance on the Children and Young Peoples Plan please visit: [Children Act 2004 - guidance - Every Child Matters](#)

Or contact:

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