

Cheshire East

Council

Date of meeting:	9 th December 2008
Report of:	John Weeks – Strategic Director - People
Title:	Children Plan 2008-11

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report briefs the Cheshire East Council on its duties in relation to the Cheshire Children Plan 2008-11, and seeks some formal decisions in order to ensure that statutory requirements are complied with for 1 April 2009.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 That the Cheshire Children Plan 2008-11 be formally recommended for adoption by Cheshire East Council as its statutory Children Plan to 2011.
- 2.2 That Council notes the requirement to set local targets (as part of the Local Authority Agreement process) by 1 April 2009 and the need to review, refresh and localise that Plan during the period April 2009 to June 2010.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 None

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 This Plan, the proposed activity and targets for next year are all costed within current or projected expenditure from each member of the Children's Trust.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is a statutory duty for a single tier council to have in place a formally approved Children and Young People's Plan as of 1 April 2009.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 There are no risks attached to this matter.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The Cheshire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 is presented on behalf of Cheshire's current Children and Young People's Trust (CCYPT). The Trust is a broad coalition of all those interested locally in the wellbeing of children and is the responsibility and duty to cooperate

to improve outcomes 'in action'. It has representation and representatives from across the economy of children's services in Cheshire including all existing District Councils, schools, health, police, fire and the voluntary sector. This Plan is a clear statement of shared intentions and has resonance for everyone that works with or for children, young people and their families in Cheshire.

- 7.2 As Local Government in Cheshire goes through a major change the Trust has been explicit that during such organisational and political change it is its duty to stay focused on retaining and improving good services and outcomes for our children and young people. Within this Plan the Trust has set out to highlight the needs of Cheshire's most disadvantaged and vulnerable children, particularly those who may be most at risk of poor outcomes.
- 7.3 The changes in Local Government make this a transitional Plan, it offers a blueprint for some of the big organisational and process changes, but also seeks to sustain the momentum of change and improvement that has seen many of our children and young people achieving better outcomes and many of our services recognised nationally and regionally for their strong performance.
- 7.4 This is a Plan that sets outcome and improvement targets for the next 12 months and alongside a joint direction of travel for 'all' services to children and young people for the next two-five years.
- 7.5 For 2009-11 it will be for the new Authorities to finalise the detail in light of their local needs and priorities.

KEY CONTENT AND MESSAGES

- 7.6 The Plan is not intended to reflect or cover the full extent of all the work that is done in Cheshire to support children and young people's outcomes, and therefore should be considered alongside all the many service and locality plans and strategies that underpin the work of the Trust. The Plan includes the following key sections:
- **Section 1** '*Introducing our Children Young people and families*' covers some of the headline information on what they have said is important to them, need, outcomes and the Cheshire context for this.
 - **Section 2** '*Our Priorities for action*' sets out in the context of the main drivers for change and the five outcomes our response to what is happening to children young people and families.
 - **Section 3** '*Integration and system change*' breaks down the major process and organisational changes that are required across all members of the Trust to deliver improved services and outcomes

- **Section 4** '*Managing Performance and targets*' presents how the activity and outcomes will be tracked and reported in line with the refreshed Every Child Matters outcomes framework and National indicators.

OUR PRIORITIES

- 7.7 Discussions have taken place over many months to arrive at the priorities identified in this Plan. Emerging priorities were worked up at Trust level in collaboration with our partners in the public and voluntary sectors.
- 7.8 Our local priorities and drivers for change substantially reflect the aspirations and approaches of the new National Children's Plan – Building Brighter Futures – our joint local challenges are referenced within all parts of the Plan but are in summary:
- School Standards
 - Leadership, commissioning and collaboration
 - Engagement and participation
 - Disabled Children
 - Good Transitions
 - Getting to grips with information and evidence
 - Narrowing the Gap in outcomes
 - Local and accessible services
 - Integrating services and processes
 - Looked After Children
 - Thinking Parents and Families
- 7.9 In responding to those challenges, the Trust has identified the following specific projects/plans that Members are asked to endorse as part of the Cheshire Children Plan. These specifications are listed below under their respective 'outcome' heading, though in many cases there is of course cross-over between outcomes and plans. Fuller details of each project are in the Plan or in the project specifications.

Be Healthy	Stay Safe	Enjoy and Achieve	Make a positive Contribution	Achieve Economic Wellbeing
Teenage Pregnancy and sexual Health	Reducing levels of Neglect	Raising Achievement in Targeted Groups, Schools and Communities	Young Peoples involvement in positive activities and participation as influencers and decision makers	Full entitlement to education and curriculum – targeting vulnerable Young People
Stopping the rise in Childhood Obesity	Tackling Bullying	Improve Value-Added / Progress in all Key Stages	Increasing pro Social Behaviour: ensuring Children and young people stay out of trouble	Tackling Worklessness in families where there are children
Good Mental Health and emotional Wellbeing	Positive choices; children, young people and parents stay safe and manage risk better.	Improve Opportunities and Outcomes for Children with Disabilities	Reducing Alcohol, Smoking and Substance use/misuse	Employers engagement and support for 14-19 developments
	Placement stability for Looked After Children	Improve access to opportunities to activities outside School		Support homeless and vulnerable young people
	Supporting Children exposed to domestic abuse			Excellent Information, Advice and Guidance

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 Day One – Have in place a formally approved Plan with agreed targets
Year One – Review Plan and set local targets for 2009-11
Term One – Review Plan and consider priorities from 2011.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 To ensure that the new Council has in place a formally adopted Children Plan as per its statutory requirements and to enable Officers to inform the relevant Government Departments that this is in place.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at: