
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN REVIEW

Responsible Cabinet Member – Cllr Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio
Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Council's endorsement of the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) submitted to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills - known as "Ofsted"- on 13th June 2007.

Information and Analysis

Background

2. The CYPP is an important element in the reform programme *Every Child Matters* and has been a powerful force in helping drive forward better local integration of Children's Services and of developing the Children's Trust partnership arrangements. In addition, the CYPP is also an integral part of the Authority's role in supporting school improvement.
3. There is a statutory framework governing the review of the CYPP. The CYPP Regulations 2005 require each local authority to review their plan in each year in which the authority is not required to publish a new plan. Darlington's original CYPP, 'Investing in Tomorrow' is a three-year plan covering the period 2006-2009 and therefore we are undertaking a review in 2007. The Members of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee were advised of the arrangements for carrying out this statutory review on 26th March 2007.
4. In previous years, local authorities have been asked to supply a self-assessment to Ofsted for their Annual Performance Assessment (APA). From 2007, publishing a CYPP Review allows the authority to pass the Review as the separate self-assessment for the forthcoming APA and Joint Area Review. For 2007, Ofsted's deadline for receiving the Review and any supplementary material was 14th June 2007.

Requirements of the Review

5. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has published non-statutory guidance for local authorities and partnerships responsible for agreeing and implementing the CYPP. Darlington's Review has been compiled in conjunction with this guidance.
6. The guidance states that there is no prescribed format for the CYPP Review but it should include a detailed assessment of impact, progress and improvement. The guidance confirms that it does not need to be a lengthy document; rather it should be clear and concise, focusing on analysis and evaluation rather than description, outcomes and impact rather than processes, and illustrating aspects where progress has been slower as well as more successful areas.

7. There are some common themes that should be considered as part of the Review. All CYPPs should:
 - (a) be specific when setting priorities and targets for improvement to the outcomes;
 - (b) align the Every Child Matters and Standards' agendas; and
 - (c) demonstrate in practical fashion what is to be done and where - explaining process can be as important as setting objectives.

Outcome of Consultation

8. The Review, attached at **Appendix A**, has been prepared in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders involved in both delivering and receiving services for children and young people. The Review therefore incorporates our stated priorities, which have been reviewed, progress to date and impact where this can be demonstrated. The Review also sets out in our priorities what still has to be done and how we will achieve this.
9. The Review has been the subject of significant consultation and engagement throughout its development. By the time the Review was completed, all partners required to be involved by the DfES guidance were consulted.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Recommendation

13. Council is requested to endorse the CYPP Review attached at **Appendix A**.

Reason

14. To comply with the statutory requirements of the Children and Young People's Plan (England) regulations 2005.

**Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services**

Background Papers

Annual Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (supplementary guidance 2007), DfES
Guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan, DfES
Cabinet Report "Children and Young People's Plan Review" - 5th June 2007

Murray Rose: Extension 2099