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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Margaret Asquith, Director of Children's Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members on the contents of Darlington's Children and Young People's Plan.

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Children Act 2004 requires all Local Authorities to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), although by virtue of our 'Excellent' status Darlington is technically exempt from this requirement. The Children and Young People's Plan which is attached at Appendix 1 brings together key partners to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people in Darlington. The Plan replaces a number of existing plans as follows:

<b>Statutory plans replaced</b>	<b>Non-statutory plans replaced</b>
Behaviour Support Plan	Area Child Protection Committee Business Plan
Children's Services Plan	Asset Management Plan
Class Sizes Plan	Behaviour Improvement Plan
Early Years Development and Childcare Plan	Excellence Cluster Plan
Education Development Plan	Excellence in Cities Plan
Local Authority Adoption Services Plan	ICT Development Plan
School Organisation Plan	Primary Strategy Plan (formerly literacy and numeracy plans)
	Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (to be subsumed by the CYPP from April 2006)
	Underperforming Schools Plan
	Youth Service Plan
	Local Preventative Strategy
	Children's Centre Implementation Plan

3. Statutory guidance requires that the CYPP includes the following:
  - (a) Improvements which the authority intends to make to improve the outcomes for children and young people;
  - (b) A local vision for children and young people;
  - (c) An assessment of local needs;
  - (d) Key priorities and actions to improve the outcomes of children and young people;
  - (e) An outline of the arrangements for performance management, including performance indicators and targets, and
  - (f) The arrangements for co-operation and partnership
4. As a strategic document, the CYPP is not required to include detailed action plans, these are to be developed and implemented within the context of supporting operational plans.
5. This Plan has been prepared alongside the development of our Local Area Agreement (LAA) which has, as its core focus, improved outcomes for children and young people. The Plan therefore incorporates the same priorities, actions and performance targets as those contained within the LAA. Key themes that are shared include:
  - (a) Greater use and sharing of intelligence to target resources;
  - (b) Development of early identification and intervention strategies for vulnerable children and young people;
  - (c) Establishment of co-located multi-disciplinary teams;
  - (d) Greater co-ordination of services for children and young people on a locality basis; and
  - (e) Enhancing the participation of children and young people in decision-making processes.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

6. The Plan has been the subject of significant consultation throughout its development. In particular the views of children and young people were sought and incorporated into the final document following a major youth consultation event hosted by the Youth Service in December 2005.
7. The Plan has also been to Members of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on 24th April 2006 and the extract from the minutes of that meeting is attached at **Appendix B**.
8. The Plan has also been to Members of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee on 22nd August 2006, and the extract from the draft minutes of that meeting is attached at **Appendix C**.

## **Legal Implications**

9. 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**

10. 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. The contents of this report will have such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

11. The issues contained within this report represent changes to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

## **Decision Deadline**

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

## **Recommendations**

13. Members are requested to:
  - (a) note and accept the Children and Young People's Plan for Darlington; and
  - (b) refer the Plan to Council for approval.

## **Reason**

14. To comply with statutory requirements and to provide a strategic context for the development of Children's Services in Darlington.

**Margaret Asquith**  
**Director of Children's Services**

## **Background Papers**

Children's Trusts: Leadership, Co-operation, Planning and Safeguarding – Guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan.

Julian Kenshole: Extension : 2071