

Essex Children & Young People's Plan 2009 – 2011

Agenda Item 8a

Portfolio Area: Community Services
Report Presented by: Cllr Wendy Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Communities
 Philippa Bull, Head of Locality Commissioning ECC

Background Papers: Essex Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP)
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options: This report lays out a number of actions for improvement in relation to Braintree District Council's adoption of the Essex Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011.

Option 1 – To adopt the CYPP and undertake all actions proposed.
 Option 2 – To adopt the CYPP and undertake some or none of the actions proposed.
 Option 3 – To not adopt the CYPP or undertake any of the actions proposed.

Risks: Children and young people of the District may be vulnerable to risk if not adequately identified when in contact with Council officers.

Executive Summary

The latest Essex Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), lays out the expected outcomes for children and young people of the County and the actions to improve these outcomes. It is based upon the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes of –

- Be Healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution, and
- Achieve economic wellbeing

The CYPP will be delivered locally by the newly formed Mid Essex Children's Trust Board (MECTB). This has replaced the Children and Young people's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). It is a partnership of local statutory organisations, including Braintree District Council, with a duty to co-operate under the Children Act 2004, and voluntary organisations providing services to children and young people.

Braintree District Council currently provides a number of services that contribute to these outcomes, and there are a number of areas that could be improved across the organisation particularly in the stay safe area. This report lays out the actions to address these improvements.

Decision

For the Council to adopt the Essex Children and Young People's Plan and agree all the actions for improvement to safeguarding .

1. Background

The Children Act (2004) places a duty on Braintree District Council along with other statutory partners to co-operate in the preparation, publishing and monitoring of the Essex CYPP. Through its day to day business the Council will contribute to outcomes within this plan. For example, by the provision of Leisure Services that will meet targets under Enjoy and Achieve and by Community Safety that will meet targets under Stay Safe.

The Council is currently well represented within the new Children's Trust arrangements in Essex, with attendance at the Essex Children's Trust Board, and Officer and Member representation at the Mid Essex Children's Trust Board (MECTB). In addition, there will be contributions to a number of other local partnership groups.

There are a number of areas that could be strengthened, particularly in the stay safe area of the plan, and these issues have been identified through a safeguarding audit which will be presented to Essex Safeguarding Children Board in June. The key actions for improvement are listed below and can be addressed by further auditing of existing services and/or delivering training:-

- Consideration of children's safeguarding in corporate plan and what this means for the Council.
- An audit of those services whose officers have regular access to homes and assess their current levels of safeguarding knowledge and provide training as appropriate
- Provide training to Heads of service to improve their levels of understanding of safeguarding and actions to be taken in situations where children, young people or staff could be unsafe.
- Development of a clear statement of the Council's responsibilities to children and young people, including children and young people friendly complaints procedures.
- Develop a tailored training programme across the organisation for all staff identified through the audit as requiring updated safeguarding knowledge.
- Consideration given to safer recruitment process in line with new guidance.
- Improve CRB checks, vetting and barring processes.

Essex County Council, through the Safeguarding Board provides safeguarding training for children and young people's workers which would be appropriate for staff. In addition, some tailored training would be arranged to meet the needs fully.

The CYPP can be accessed via the Essex County Council website at:

http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/CTA_CYPP_2009_11_Final_Dec_09.pdf?channelOid=null

2. Recommendation

That Members adopt the Essex Children and Young People's Plan and agree all the actions for improvement to safeguarding.

Corporate Implications				
Financial:	Actions can be met from existing resources.			
Legal:	N/A			
Equalities & Diversity:	The CYPP covers all children and young people between the ages 0-19 and up to age 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities.			
Customer Impact:	More effective safeguarding of children and young people			
Environment & Climate Change:	N/A			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	n/a	Partners	Yes via HHWPB
	Public		Staff	Relevant staff
Key Decision:	No			
Public/Private Report:	Public			
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