
Meeting	Cabinet
Date	18 April
Subject	Children and Young People Plan 2013-16
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Summary	<p>The Barnet Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) sets out priorities and objectives for all organisations working with children and young people in Barnet for the next three years.</p> <p>This report outlines the development of the Barnet CYPP and asks members to approve the plan.</p>

Officer Contributors	James Mass, Family & Community Well-being Lead Commissioner Heather Storey, Strategy and Projects Officer
Status (Public or Exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Appendix – Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2013-16
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet approve the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2013-16 for onward referral to Council.**
- 1.2 That the Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Children and Young People Plan prior to its approval by Council, as may be needed to reflect updated financial and performance information.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Children's Trust Board approval of the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2013-16 on 14 March 2013.
- 2.2 Cabinet approval of the Governance of Strategic Partnerships on 20 February 2012.
- 2.3 Cabinet approval of the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2010/11 – 2012/13 on 12 April 2010.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Positive outcomes for children and young people are a key part of the new Corporate Plan and priorities for 2013 – 16 include:
 - To create better life chances for children and young people across the borough.
 - To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS, so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health.
 - To promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities.
- 3.2 The measures in the Children and Young People Plan are consistent with the Corporate Plan, which provides a statement of the Council's contribution towards the partnership's outcomes.
- 3.3 The Council is a major provider and commissioner of services for children and young people but also has a more significant local leadership role. Through chairing the Children's Trust Board the Council exerts strategic leadership, provides accountability to other agencies working in Barnet and is the driving agent of development in the system.
- 3.4 The new Children and Young People's Plan sets out the collective priorities of local partners and how the delivery of these will be measured. The Council, along with other partners, will now need to consider how mechanisms to improve joint working can deliver these outcomes and maximise value for money. For example, a community budget has been established for our high needs families.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 There is a risk that key initiatives within the plan will not be carried out, which could adversely impact on the council's reputation. In order to mitigate this risk, extensive consultation was carried out with partners, early in the planning process with attention paid to the financial implications of plans.
- 4.2 Reducing resources may have an impact on partners' ability to undertake actions they have committed to, however, we have sought to mitigate this by developing actions alongside partners' business and finance planning.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has consulted widely with partners and children and young people across the borough, including relevant forums of children and young people including the Youth Forum, Youth Parliament, the Bobby Panel and Youth Shield.
- 5.2 The Children and Young People Profile describes the demography of the current population of children and young people in Barnet on an annual basis helps us to ensure that actions accurately target the diverse needs of Barnet's children and young people. Equality and diversity issues were considered in the review of the Children and Young People Plan to ensure that such considerations are reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services.
- 5.3 The Children and Young People plan contains the key principle of targeting resources to narrow the gap in achievement for those at risk of not achieving their potential. This principle aims to reduce the inequalities between groups of children and young people in the borough.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The Children and Young People Plan sets out what all partners will do to improve outcomes for children and young people in Barnet. It has been developed in consultation with service managers and will inform service plans in the council and partner agencies.
- 6.2 Extensive Council budgets support key partnerships in Barnet to achieve the desired outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan. Key partnerships include the Local Strategic Partnership, Barnet Children's Trust, Barnet Safeguarding Children Board and Multi-agency Executive Management Group which is supported by a wide variety of Council budgets including Schools, Youth, 14-19 and Looked after Children/Safeguarding budgets.
- 6.3 Any financial implications of the Children and Young People's Plan will be contained within the Children's Service budgets. Details of the main budgets for current and planned expenditure which support the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan are set out below:

Children's Services Gross Budget - 2013/14	£
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	224,693
Children's Services	70,906
Total Children's Services Gross Budgets	295,599

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Children Act 2004 (CA 2004) provides the legislative framework for integrated planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services and for lines of accountability through the appointment of directors of all Children's Services. It created a statutory framework for local co-operation between local authorities, key partner agencies (health, police, schools, housing, early years, youth justice, probation etc) and other relevant bodies including the voluntary and community sector, in order to improve the wellbeing of children in the area. This provided for the framework for Children's Trusts within which agencies have been able to integrate commissioning and delivery of children's services with arrangements for pooled budgets. The Act also imposes a duty on the relevant agencies to carry out their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to guidance provided by the Secretary of State. The duty continues to apply where services are contracted out.

The Regulations requiring the Trust to prepare a Children and Young Persons Plan have been revoked, however, partnerships are free to publish their own strategic plan as they see fit.

The Children and Young People Plan provides a strategic framework from which to coordinate activities across the partnership and will assist the council in fulfilling its statutory duties.

- 7.2 There are a number of areas where the Council and its partners are undergoing significant change in terms of governance and practice in relation to economic challenge, and service improvement. This paper outlines the current arrangements to co-ordinate service provision to support children and young people to achieve good outcomes. Work is undertaken on an ongoing basis to ensure that functions and services across the partnership enable Statutory Duties to be upheld.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 The Council's Constitution in Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, paragraph 3.8 – reserves approval of the Children and Young People Plan to Council.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Barnet's Children and Young People Plan is a three year partnership plan setting out local priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan is owned by key partners including the council, NHS

Barnet, Barnet Borough Police, schools, Barnet College and the voluntary sector. The plan sets out the partners' ambition that:

All children and young people in Barnet should achieve the best possible outcomes, to enable them to become successful adults, especially our most vulnerable children. They should be supported by high quality, integrated and inclusive services that identify additional support needs early, are accessible, responsive and affordable for the individual child and their family.

9.2 It is structured around the journey of the child and our cross-cutting priorities:

- Early Years
- Primary
- Secondary
- Preparation for Adulthood

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Targeting Resources to Narrow the Gap
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe

Under each of these priorities are objectives and key performance indicators. The action plan which underpins this will be updated each year, whilst the priorities and objectives should remain for the next three years.

9.3 Although there is no longer a legal requirement for the Children's Trust to prepare a Children and Young Persons Plan, it is seen as a valuable statement of intent that can be used by partners to hold each other to account.

9.4 The plan describes a set of principles as to how partners will work together to achieve these objectives:

- Working in partnership
We will work together to make sure that activity and resources are joined up and target those who most need them. We will collaborate with other service providers as required to meet the diverse needs of children and young people.

- Involving children and young people in our work
We will consistently engage actively with children, young people and their families in developing and implementing solutions to meet their needs.

- Keep safeguarding at the forefront of all we do
We will constantly keep the safeguarding of children in our thinking and working practices. We have a duty of care to all our residents in discharging the Council's functions

- Improving the customer experience
We will take steps to improve the way in which parents, carers and professionals can navigate and engage with the system on behalf of children and young people.

- Delivering better services with less money

We will seek to ensure the best value for money so that children and young people get the maximum benefit

- 9.5 The CYPP has been developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including health, police, voluntary sector, schools and the council to ensure that there is joint ownership of the CYPP priorities. A multi-agency conference was held in October 2012 to help identify the key priorities for the next three years and define the actions and targets for 2013/16. Consultation has also taken place (as required by statutory guidance) with various groups including the Primary and Secondary Heads and the Schools Forum.
- 9.6 Children and young people have been actively engaged in the process through focus groups held by the Barnet Youth Board, and an online survey distributed through schools and youth networks. The plan has also been informed by the 'Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet' - which brings together partners' data on Barnet's children and young people.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Appendix 1: Children and Young People Plan

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	MC
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	HP