

HILLINGDON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TRUST PLAN 2011-14

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds
Cabinet Portfolio	Education and Children's Services
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Papers with report	Draft Hillingdon Children and Families Trust Plan 2011-14

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	<p>The Children & Families Trust Board (the Children's Theme group of the Local Strategic Partnership –Hillingdon Partners) in Hillingdon believes a family approach is required to support the child and to improve their life chances and outcomes. To achieve this aim the Hillingdon Children and Families Trust Plan (HCFP) outlines the vision that the partnership has for vulnerable children, young people and their families in Hillingdon. It identifies the joint priorities that the Trust Board will commit to undertake, in partnership, over the next 3 years (2011-14) to improve outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>Since approval by the Cabinet Member in May, the Council has consulted on the Plan and comments can be seen in the body of the report. Cabinet endorsement of the Plan is now required before submitted to Full Council in September for ratification.</p>
Contribution to our plans and strategies	<p>The Hillingdon Children and Families Trust Plan ensures the delivery of key priorities of the Council and those of our partners Hillingdon Partners has agreed to focus on a streamlined list of headline objectives. Within these the Hillingdon's Children's and Families Trust (HCFT) will lead on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a prevention strategy for young people undertaking risky behaviours. <p>The partnerships has also identified objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote community-based provision, prevention , independence, recovery and reablement• Reduce repeat offending• Increased access to employment, apprenticeships and skills• Promoting sport and leisure <p>These will be taken forward across the partnership's theme groups. The HCFT draft plan proposes six priorities that the Trust itself will commit to, to improve outcomes for children and young people and in broad support of the overarching objectives.</p>

Financial Cost	No direct financial cost to the Council.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Education & Children's Services Policy & Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	The Hillingdon Children and Families Plan affects all children's services in wards across Hillingdon.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet recommend to full Council in September that the Hillingdon's Children and Families Plan be adopted as a policy framework document.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The current plan expired at the end of March 2011. This will be the third HCFP and is owned, delivered and monitored by the Children and Families Trust Board.

Effective joint work has taken place over the last five years and this work is now embedded in service delivery across children's services in Hillingdon. This Plan goes further and highlights the transformational agenda across the partnership in Hillingdon and how it will be achieved.

The partnership is focused on continuing to improve services and outcomes. However, the Trust Board realise given the current economic climate that we must change the way we work and target those most vulnerable within the community.

The Trust Board have agreed on six priorities which will drive the transformational agenda:

- Priority 1. Keeping all children and young people safe
- Priority 2. Ensuring all children have the best start in life
- Priority 3. Improving the health and well-being of young people, focusing on those groups undertaking risky behaviours¹
- Priority 4. Improving the outcomes of Looked After Children
- Priority 5. Improving the outcomes of Disabled Children
- Priority 6. Strengthen multi-professional integrated working

By identifying these priorities we will be able to focus our resources, ensuring that those most vulnerable receive the support they need, while ensuring that those potentially 'at risk' do not fall into acute statutory provisions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None.

¹ The risky behaviours we refer to include: 1. Unprotected sex leading to STI's and under 18 conceptions; 2. Substance misuse (including alcohol); 3. Emotional health and wellbeing; 4. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET); and 5. First time entrance into the criminal justice system

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

As a statutory consultee on policy framework documents, the Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee welcomed the Plan and felt that in this difficult economic climate it was positive that partners across Hillingdon had come together to form joint priorities. The Committee indicated that unlike in some areas it would be wrong to abandon a good model of partnership working in which the Local Authority is fully committed

The Committee made the following observations and comments:

- POC recently reviewed the impact of Overcrowding on children's attainment levels. The Committee requested that the findings be inserted and actioned in the HCFT Plan
- It was felt that a stronger statement was required within Priority 6 on the value of front line staff in the early identification of need to children, young people and their families
- The work in improving outcomes of children with SEN to be made more explicit in Priority 5
- Stronger statement on the governance arrangements and the accountability of the Children's Trust Board
- Commitment in the importance of sharing information and data across the partnership to be included in Priority 6.

Supporting Information

The Children and Families Trust Plan is an important element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004, building on the best local planning practice to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people. This should support more integrated and effective services to secure the outcomes for children set out in local Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. For the current year, activity will be funded within existing resources. Any future budgetary implications that arise in relation to the delivery of the plan will be fully considered as part of the Council's medium term financial forecast (MTFF).

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The new plan is aimed at improving the outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families within Hillingdon.

The plan aligns the priorities of the Children and Families Trust alongside the Council's priorities and those of Hillingdon Partners and the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The vision and priorities were produced through the analysis of need and consultation of the following groups:

- Children and Young People
- Partner agency on the Children's Trust Board

- Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Schools

Agency	Comments	Accepted/ Rejected	Reason
LSCB Chairman	Updates to the outcomes of the Munro Review	Accepted	The updates highlight the revised recommendations of the review.
Hillingdon Play Association	<p>1. It is regrettable that there is no mention of either the Hillingdon Play Strategy nor the new Hillingdon Play Pledge which strategic officers and community organisations and local parents have developed and are adopting across the borough. Play is an excellent facilitator of broader social outcomes including community cohesion, inclusion, health and education.</p> <p>2. Despite the mention of Partnership, Hillingdon Play Association is disappointed that the voluntary sector is not mentioned at all in the Executive Summary, nor its potential involvement and contribution welcomed and appreciated. In these challenging times this omission is especially surprising. We believe we all need to work together and source and share resources available in most cost-efficient and effective ways. A framework that fails to include the potential contribution by voluntary and community groups in the borough would miss out significantly, working in parallel at best..</p>	<p>1. Accepted</p> <p>2. Accepted</p>	<p>An acknowledgement of the contribution of the Play Association has been added. Further work will be undertaken to to enable the co-ordination across all agencies within Hillingdon rather than identity specific groups.</p> <p>Sentence included in section 6.4 acknowledging the importance of the voluntary and community sector.</p>
Homestart	Would have liked to have seen more explicit commitment to partnership working with the voluntary sector.	Accepted	Sentence included in section 6.4 acknowledging the importance of the voluntary and community sector.

Policy Overview & Committee	POC recently reviewed the impact of Overcrowding on children's attainment levels. The Committee requested that the findings be inserted and actioned in the HCFT Plan	Accepted	Recommendation have been agreed by Cabinet
	It was felt that a stronger statement was required within Priority 6 on the value of front line staff in the early identification of need to children, young people and their families	Accepted	Sentence included in Priority 6
	The work in improving outcomes of children with SEN to be made more explicit in Priority 5	Accepted	Sentence included in Priority 5
	Stronger statement on the governance arrangements and the accountability of the Children's Trust Board	Accepted	Sentence included in Priority 6.1
	Commitment in the importance of sharing information and data across the partnership to be included in Priority 6.	Accepted	Sentence included in Priority 6

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and there are no direct financial implications to the Council.

Legal

Under the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree to the recommendation proposed at the outset of this report. As a Policy Framework document, it requires final adoption by full Council. There are no other significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's attention.

Relevant Service Groups

The Hillingdon Children and Families Plan will be presented to Corporate Management Team, for consideration on implications for all Council departments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL