

Actions arising from the Joint Area Review Report 2006

Recommendation		JAR Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area	
1	The council should review and improve the understanding and application of arrangements for delegated decision-making under the Placement of Children with Parents Regulations 1991.	51	Practice to be compliant with the regulations	Review current practice against the regulations and apply any necessary changes. Update staff	September 2006	1	
				Establish systems to ensure compliance.	December 2006		
2	The LCSB should develop further policy and procedures, and improve practice, to check the quality, consistency and effectiveness of the safeguarding and family support arrangements.	47	Robust policies and procedures in place. Revised procedures reflected in training and evaluation processes Audit programme agreed LSBC policies are NSF compliant	LSCB to review the effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements. Policies will be revised/developed as appropriate	December 2006	4/5/6	
				All schools and pre-school settings will be audited to ensure they have appropriate child protection policies and a designated teacher	December 2006		3
				Training programme for schools will be reviewed to ensure that school staff are able to access regular and appropriate training	October 2006		1
			Family Support Strategy in place	Family Support Strategy will be developed, and will incorporate universal provision, such as Health Visiting	October 2006	4/5	
			Independent Chair appointed to the LSCB	Appoint Independent Chair and Business Manager to strengthen the safeguarding processes and accountability	January 2007	4	

JAR Improvement Plan 2006

Recommendation		JAR Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area
3	The council should strengthen compliance with the arrangements to quality assure the safeguarding and family support arrangements in social care.	49	Best practice on quality assurance deployed	Compliance with quality assurance systems will be monitored by the managers concerned, and remedial action taken to improve practice in this area	September 2006	1
4	The council should ensure that pupils permanently excluded from school receive full-time educational provision.	60	Target is that all permanently excluded pupils will receive full time provision in accordance with statutory guidance from September 2006. During academic year 2006/07 LA and Head Teachers to agree targets for reducing permanent exclusions and a Collaborations Partnership will be established.	In line with Government expectations a partnership of schools and the LA will be established that will provide a comprehensive response to students requiring alternative arrangements including those who have been permanently excluded. This collaborative approach will be built around an agreed protocol for hard to place students and will involve a full review of the commissioning and delivery of alternative education services both on and off schools sites. Preparatory work was carried out in 2005/06 and completion is expected by September 2007.	From September 2006	1
5	Partners should review and improve arrangements for partnership working with the Acute Trust	37	Hospital Trust engaged as key partner, reflected through participation at strategic and operational levels	Formal liaison to ensure membership at appropriate level(s). Enhanced planning and commissioning arrangements agreed for hospital services, built around NSF and key priority areas.	From September 2006	4/5/6
6	Partners should ensure that arrangements for access to CAMHS for children and young people are well understood and working effectively	40	Wider publicity given to the range of available services	A comprehensive "catalogue" of services will be developed.	December 2006	4
			Streamlined access procedures to be agreed and published	A referral pathway will be agreed and published, through the CAMHS Partnership Board	December 2006	4/5

JAR Improvement Plan 2006

Recommendation		JAR Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area
				<p>We will engage school staff, GPs and other professionals in Vulnerable Children Panels, to promote lead professional and co-working</p> <p>We will also capitalise on our investment in early intervention services to ensure that children, young people and families are signposted appropriately and choices understood.</p> <p>Training programme to be developed</p>	From October 2006	1
7	The LCSB should review the arrangements for the effective communication of thresholds, responsibilities and referral procedures between agencies and especially schools, with particular attention being paid to the support of children who move in and out of Milton Keynes.	48, 50	Thresholds and criteria clearly understood across health and social care	LSCB will both review and give clearer information about criteria.	December 2006	4
				The introduction of the Vulnerable Children's Panel, operating at locality level, and incorporating professionals from each discipline (multi-agency), will strengthen understanding about thresholds and options for support, as well as promoting multi-professional team working around the needs of individuals	From October 2006	1
			Improved information sharing and co-working between agencies	We will implement the Milton Keynes Information Sharing Index, and plan for the introduction of the national system	From October 2006	4
			Council to implement the guidance on Children Missing from Education	Current practice will be reviewed against the guidance, and any necessary changes required to be compliant with the guidance will be implemented	January 2007	1

JAR Improvement Plan 2006

Recommendation		JAR Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area
8	Partners should: incorporate into the 14-19 education and training strategy:	75	Strategy complete and programmes being implemented	Review 14 –19 strategy and develop implementation plan, with particular emphasis on enhancing opportunity for young people with disabilities	December 2006	2
			Improved participation rates at 16+ and 17+	<p>Ensure that processes are in place through schools and Independent Advice and Guidance which identify at age 14+ those at young people risk of future unemployment.</p> <p>Work with schools to widen understanding and range of qualification/options available beyond GCSEs, as appropriate</p> <p>Stimulate the development of appropriate vocational or alternative programmes/course.</p>	From September 2006	2/3
			Improved outcomes at level 2 & level 3	Build on the good practice already in place (Fast Forward and Young Apprenticeship Programmes) and expand on work with Milton Keynes College and other providers to ensure that appropriate training programmes are available locally.	From September 2006	2/3
			Work with partners to improve and expand the range of curriculum pathways for students in line with the 14 to 19 Strategy. First priorities, as identified through the roll out of the specialised diplomas nationally, are:	First pathways in place by September 2008	2	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT • Engineering • Construction and the built environment • Health & social care • Creative & media 			

JAR Improvement Plan 2006

Recommendation		JAR Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area
9	In collaboration with schools and other partners, the council should develop a clearer vision for the future role of special schools and their links with mainstream schools.	62	Strategy in place	A review and strategy has been commissioned to define the future role of special schools. The process will incorporate participation by special and mainstream school heads and local health services.	March 2007	1
10	The council and its partners should develop a strategy for the participation of children and young people in making decisions which impact upon their lives.	67	The Council has adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child Strategy in place and participation embedded through all levels of planning and delivery	Assess current progress using the Hear by Right toolkit (already completed for Children's Services, roll out across Council) Develop strategy for the Children's Trust in line with the Hear by Right programme.	March 2007	3
				Enhance the role of the Youth Forum by creating a shadow cabinet to link to strategic planning	March 2007	
				Enhance the role of existing user groups, and develop additional groups to support more extensive participation activities	March 2007	
11	The council should monitor and evaluate the outcomes of improvement projects for children and young people.	65	Evaluation programmes in place for all improvement projects, linked to the Commissioning Plan	A clear description of how projects will be monitored and evaluated will become a requirement for all commissioned work	From September 2006	4

Additional Items arising from the Youth Service Report 2006

Recommendation		YS Report Para	Success Criteria	Actions	Timescale	Lead Area
1	Improve the identification of outcomes for young people in session planning to ensure important achievements are recognised	10	Young people will be involved in identifying their own learning outcomes	Youth work training will be enhanced to support best practice Mechanisms in place to ensure learning objectives are recorded in curriculum toolkits	March 2007	3
2	Develop a strategy for involving young people in consultation and decision-making	15	Please see item 10 above			
3	Enable wider representation by more young people in the service	15	Increase number of young people supported by the service by 5 %	Develop specific work programmes in 6 new areas (target 20 young people per programme) Monitor activity directly commissioned through voluntary sector providers	April 2007	3
4	Raise the prominence and role of the observation of practice with quality assurance processes	14	Youth work practice regularly monitored through quality assurance processes	Secure training for team leaders on observation of practice. Introduce staff mentoring initiative to promote best practice Commission external inspection to obtain objective feedback on new systems	March 2007	3

Key		
	1	Specialist Support
	2	School Improvement
	3	Sure Start & Community Learning
	4	Strategy & Commissioning
	5	Milton Keynes PCT
	6	Milton Keynes Hospital

