

Report considered by the Cabinet – 27 October 2009

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Listed on Forward Plan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Within Policy</b>	<b>No</b>

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2009-11**

Accountable Cabinet Member: Councillor Sandra Clark

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#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the Milton Keynes Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11 for approval.

#### **2. Recommendation**

That Council be recommended to approve the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11.

#### **3. Issues and Choices**

- 3.1 The current statutory requirement for local authorities is that the Children and Young People's Plan must either be reviewed or a new plan published annually. New government legislation due in November 2009 will give Children's Trusts the statutory responsibility for the Children and Young People's Plan. It will require all Children's Trusts to publish a new Children and Young People's Plan in accordance with the revised guidance in April 2011.
- 3.2 The original Milton Keynes Children and Young People's Plan covered the period 2006-09 and therefore a new Plan needs to be published for 2009 onwards. In view of the impending new guidance and requirement for a new Plan from April 2011, the Children's Trust Board have agreed that the Milton Keynes Children and Young People's Plan will cover the period 2009-11. Our original intention to publish the new Plan by September 2009 has been delayed in order to ensure its alignment with the Performance Improvement Plan.

- 3.3 Following the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services for 2007-08, the government commissioned an independent diagnostic review, which was carried out in March-April 2009, to assess causes and identify potential next steps and options to deliver improved outcomes in Milton Keynes. The review team met with and obtained the views of partners across the Children's Trust as well as officers within the Council. The resulting report recognised that although some progress had been made, there remained a number of areas where performance still had to be improved. The review concluded that educational attainment, especially in the secondary sector was an area of weakness as was the council's capacity to improve, including aspects of leadership and partnership working throughout the Children's Trust.
- 3.4 In response to the recommendations of the review, the Secretary of State directed the Council to establish an independently chaired Improvement Board and prepare a Performance Improvement Plan to ensure accelerated improved outcomes for children and young people. This Plan was approved by the Board on 30 September 2009. The Children and Young People's Services Performance Improvement Plan includes specific targets and timescales as set out by the government, to ensure that we deliver services to children and young people in Milton Keynes which are at least adequate or better.
- 3.5 The Performance Improvement Plan closely links with the Children and Young People's Plan, with the former providing the detail of the actions outlined in the plan which are the responsibility of Children and Young People's Services.
- 3.6 The DCSF intervention and its requirements have therefore led to the extension of the timescales for publication of the Children and Young People's Plan as the Plan was revised to ensure alignment between it and the Performance Improvement Plan.
- 3.7 The Children and Young People's Plan incorporates:
- (a) Findings of a local needs assessment (which links to the Public Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)
  - (b) The views of children and young people
  - (c) How resources are used to meet those needs
  - (d) Future priorities and partnership arrangements
- 3.8 The Children and Young People's Plan development was informed through the work of a Task and Finish group involving a range of partners including schools, PCT, police and voluntary sector to help to ensure that the Plan reflects their knowledge, views and evidence of local needs and priorities.
- 3.9 A Children's Trust stakeholder conference held in June was attended by 315 practitioners and managers across Children and Young People's Services and a range of partner agencies. The development of the Plan has been informed by views obtained over the last year through a variety of consultations carried out by different services and partners across the Children's Trust. Additional public consultation was then carried out throughout July on our proposed priorities and actions. Feedback has been incorporated into the Children and Young People's Plan as appropriate and will also inform specific actions to

achieve our identified outcomes for children and young people and their families.

#### 4. Implications

##### 4.1 Policy

The Children and Young People's Plan is the principal and overarching strategic plan for the Children's Trust, setting out its priorities for providing services and informing all service plans and policies across the Children's Trust.

The Children and Young People's Plan and the Improvement Plan provide the detail for delivery of priorities to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council Plan which relate to children and young people.

##### 4.2 Resources and Risk

Actions specified in the Plan including monitoring and review will be delivered within current resources with financial implications taken into account through the MTFP budget build process.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

##### 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

No implications

##### 4.4 Legal

Section 17 of the Children Act 2004 provides the statutory basis for Children and Young People's Plans and the Children and Young People's regulations, published in 2005 and 2007. These regulations set out the steps local authorities must undertake in consulting on, publishing and reviewing their Children and Young People's Plans.

##### 4.5 Other Implications

Both the Children and Young People's Plan and the Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan recognise the need to improve outcomes for vulnerable and underperforming groups of children and young people. The Plans include activities to address all aspects of wellbeing 'in the round' to improve life chances and maximise a child or young person's capacity to achieve academic success.

The Children and Young People's Plan recognises the need and sets out plans to work in close collaboration with partners (e.g. the police and SaferMK) to ensure children and young people's safety, as well as address issues relating to crime, anti social behaviour and the impact of domestic abuse.

An Equality Impact Assessment covering the Children and Young People's Plan is scheduled to be undertaken by the end of March 2010.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	Y	Crime and Disorder
N	Carbon and Energy Policy				

Annex A: Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11

Annex B: Children and Young People's Services Improvement Plan