

**Oxford City Council – Children and Young  
People’s Plan**

**2006 - 2009**

**Fifth Draft**

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

**November 2006**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This primary aim of this Plan is to identify how Oxford City Council can contribute to the broader Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan, and therefore promote better outcomes for children and young people. It also identifies some of the challenges that children and young people in Oxford face compared with the rest of the county.

Clearly there are many agencies, public, private and voluntary, which can contribute to better outcomes for young people. Given this fact, and the particular challenges in Oxford, it would be desirable to have a single partnership Plan to which all agencies in Oxford could contribute. However the infrastructure for this focus at a district level does not currently exist – though there may be opportunities for multi-agency planning in the new service localities which will cover Oxford (see below).

### **The Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan**

There is a statutory requirement to produce a single plan for children and young people in Oxfordshire. The Plan covers the age range 0-19 years and up to 25 years for some groups of young people.

The Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan was developed following a comprehensive assessment of performance in relation to outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire. There was collaboration between a wide range of agencies working with children including Health Services, District Councils, Police, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Youth Offending Team and voluntary sector partners.

The overarching aim of the Plan is for Oxfordshire to be a place where every child and young person receive the help they need to:

- enjoy good physical and mental health;
- be protected from harm and neglect and grow up able to look after themselves;
- achieve educational success and enjoyment, have good opportunities for play and leisure and develop self-confidence and life skills for a creative and positive adulthood;
- make a positive contribution to the community and society; and
- live free from poverty, achieve their potential and make the most of their lives.

The Plan describes areas where we want to improve outcomes for our children and young people and sets out what we are going to do to make these improvements.

A copy of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan is available on the website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypp](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cypp)

### **The Oxford City Children and Young People's Plan**

Oxford City Council is represented on the Children and Young People's Board and makes a significant contribution to delivering the required outcomes in the Oxfordshire Plan. The City Council either directly provides services or financially supports projects that meet the needs of children and young people and their families. These include:

- Play, leisure and cultural services
- Housing services included supported housing
- Planning services
- Licensing enforcement
- Community safety activities
- Support to youth initiatives
- Family support
- Informal crèche and toddler groups
- Community cohesion and work with ethnic minority groups
- Community learning initiatives
- Healthy eating initiatives
- Home safety initiatives
- Support to voluntary and community organisations working with children and families through the grants process

Oxford City Council is publishing this Plan as part of its commitment to improving services for all young people in the City and in response to the need to deliver outcomes in the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan.

The four key priorities identified by this Plan are:

1. Ensuring that the Council's policies and practices fulfil its duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
2. Improving the participation of children and young people and their parents in decision making regarding service design and delivery
3. Ensuring adequate housing for children and young people, whether social or private sector housing
4. To continue to support affordable holiday play activities, sports, leisure and cultural activities, in line with the City Council Social Inclusion, Healthy Living and Community Safety Strategies

The City Council aims to work in partnership with a range of agencies to deliver services to young people in the City. This Plan aims to highlight these areas of partnership working. In order to be responsive to their needs and views there will need to be ongoing dialogue with young people and their families.

Progress on implementing commitments will be monitored on a continuous basis and reported at least annually to Community Scrutiny Committee of the Council. The Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

## **2. CONTEXT OF THE OXFORD CITY PLAN**

### **Demographics**

Oxford is a young city. It has one of the highest proportions of 18-24 year olds in England, mainly due to the student population of over 25,000 people. The resident population is highly diverse, especially amongst children and young people - a quarter of the City's under-16 population are from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

The City has specific issues relating to child poverty and disadvantage. According to the 2004 Indices of Deprivation there are four areas of the City in the most deprived 10% in England in terms of child income deprivation. As elsewhere, youth unemployment is especially pronounced among young men from Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities.

Educational attainment is relatively poor in Oxford. There are twelve areas that are in the most deprived 10% in England in terms of educational disadvantage. GCSE results across the five Oxfordshire Districts show that pupils at Oxford City schools have consistently attained lower results than their counterparts. In addition, whilst the trend in other Districts is that attainment is improving, in Oxford there is a downward trend.

### **Local Strategies and Plans**

The Oxford Community Strategy contains three key themes that relate to this Plan. These are:

- Safer Communities
- Opportunities for Life
- Active and Healthy Communities

The Oxford Plan 2006-09 contains the following key themes that relate to this strategy. These are:

- Reduce inequalities through social inclusion
- More and better housing for all
- Reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour

Oxford City Council's Social Inclusion Strategy highlights a number of priority issues which affect children and young people. These relate to outcomes for the most vulnerable young people in the City:

- Poor educational attainment amongst children and young people
- Child poverty, the rate of which is higher than the national average
- Exclusion amongst some black and minority ethnic groups
- 17 Super Output Areas which are in the 30% most deprived areas in England
- High levels of crime in many areas of the City
- Homelessness (Oxford has almost four times the national rate of homeless households in temporary accommodation)

## **Key agencies**

Clearly Oxford City Council provides a small proportion of the total sum of children's services in Oxford. There are a number of important organisations that provide services for children and young people, and these include:

- Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust
- Oxford Community Safety Partnership
- Lifelong Learning and Culture Directorate of the County Council
- Early Years Childcare and Development Partnership
- Thames Valley Police
- The Youth Service
- Oxfordshire Youth Offending Service
- Sure Start
- Connexions
- Oxfordshire Children's Information Service
- Children's Fund
- Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Oxfordshire Racial Equality Council
- Teenage Pregnancy Partnership
- Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

In addition there are also a large number of private and voluntary bodies providing a range of services including private nurseries, play schemes and leisure activities.

### **3. PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING SERVICE DELIVERY**

#### **Underlying principles**

The intention is to:

- Consult young people and their families and carers on the development of services
- Celebrate diversity, cultural heritage and individual identity, and promote community cohesion
- Challenge barriers and stereotypes around disability, age, gender, race, sexual orientation, economic deprivation, spiritual beliefs, ethnicity, culture and any other areas for potential discrimination
- Improve inter-agency assessment and referral processes at local level
- Ensure services come together where young people and families use them

#### **Improved coordination**

This Plan aims to promote a more co-ordinated approach to service planning for young people in Oxford. We want young people and their families to find it easier to access support, as service providers work together to offer flexible and joined up services. It is our intention that this will provide greater clarity for service users and ensure a greater impact in helping to make young people's lives better now and improving life chances for the future.

#### **Information, Advice and Guidance**

We want every child and young person to have access to information, advice and guidance to support them and their families and carers in making informed choices throughout their childhood.

Many agencies are already providing information about services including the Youth Service, the Children's Information Service and Connexions Service.

We will:

- Use Oxford City Council facilities to advertise services for children and young people
- Ensure that young people, families and carers will have access to relevant information and be adequately supported in accessing Oxford City Council Services
- Encourage partner agencies to provide advice sessions within community centres

## **4. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

### **Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board**

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) sits outside the Children's Trust arrangements, but is a key part of keeping children safe in Oxfordshire. It replaces the Area Child Protection Committees.

The OSCB is made up of representatives of the main statutory agencies in Oxfordshire. It has a wide responsibility to keep children safe – not only from abuse and neglect but also, as far as possible, from other things that can impair the health and development of children and young people such as accidents and domestic violence. It is responsible for ensuring that there are suitable policies and procedures in place and monitors the performance of organisations with safeguarding responsibilities.

Crucially it is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided. This is coordinated by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) on behalf of the Training Sub Group which reports to the OSCB. The training is to be provided free of charge to people working with children in a wide variety of capacities.

Oxford City Council is represented on the OSCB by the Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager. More information about the OSCB can be found on its website at [www.oscb.org.uk](http://www.oscb.org.uk).

### **Children's Trust**

Oxfordshire County Council put the Children's Trust arrangements in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 in order to support it in delivering its duty under the Children Act 2004 to promote co-operation of different agencies. Oxford City Council has a duty under the Act to cooperate with the County Council in the implementation of these arrangements. The Children's Trust has four key parts, described below.

The Children and Young People's Board oversees the planning and commissioning of services. It leads the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (and related part of the Local Area Agreement) and will drive forward action in areas where outcomes for children need improving. It reports to the Public Service Board, the Cabinets/Executives of the County and District Councils and the Primary Care Trust Board. The Board will also report to the OSCB (see above) regarding the extent to which services in Oxfordshire adequately promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people.

Oxford City Council is represented on the Board by the Lead Member for Children and Young People.

The Board is supported by the Children and Young People's Partnership which comprises senior Officers and managers from a variety of agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors. It will oversee the development and implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan and monitor progress in improving outcomes, including the quality and integration of services. The Partnership receives reports from Joint Outcome Leads who oversee the detailed work programmes.

Oxford City Council is represented on the Partnership by the Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager.

The Board is also supported by a Joint Commissioning Team which will provide the dedicated capacity to redesign services where outcomes for children and young people need improving. Oxford City Council is not represented on the Team.

The final element of the Children's Trust is input from children and young people and parents and carers via two Sounding Board mechanisms.

### **Integrated services – Team Around the Child and Family**

In order to provide more integrated, accessible services, children's services are to be organised and delivered in 13 geographical areas ('localities') in Oxfordshire. There are four localities which cover Oxford City:

- Headington/Wheatley
- Isis
- North Oxford/Cumnor/Botley
- Oxford South East

A coordinator will be appointed for each locality, and each child requiring intervention will have a named Lead Professional as a single point of contact for the child and their family.

At the time of writing, there are still discussions taking place about the terms of reference of the locality teams with regard to locality planning and joint planning of children's services.

### **Joint area review**

From September 2005 a new integrated inspection regime for children's services has been implemented – the joint area review. The reviews will assess the quality of services and make judgements about how well services work together to improve the well-being of children and young people. Inspection will be targeted upon outcomes for children, unconstrained by service boundaries, and are expected to cover all services in so far as they relate to children. Thus it is to be expected that some services provided by the City Council would be included in a joint area review. The first Oxfordshire joint area review is planned for December 2007.



## 5. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – OXFORD CITY COUNCIL'S ROLE

The Children Act 2004 places a duty upon the City Council to ensure that its functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, whether provided by the Council or another body by arrangement with the Council. The Act also requires the Council to be represented on the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB), and to cooperate with the County Council in its establishment and operation.

There are also related duties upon the Council from the pre-existing Children Act 1989. These include a duty to co-operate with requests for help in the interests of children in need (s27), and a duty to assist in carrying out enquiries into whether or not a child is at risk of significant harm (s47).

Statutory guidance on the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (*Working Together to Safeguard Children*) has been published to support agencies in fulfilling this role. *Working Together* states that all organisations which directly affect children should have certain procedures in place to fulfil the duty to safeguard their welfare. These are listed below, with progress and future actions for the Council.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Future action</b>
Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	<i>OSCB are currently developing guidelines for all partners</i>	<i>Implement guidelines once available</i>
A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare	<i>Three nominated Senior Officers in place</i>	<i>City Council represented at all OSCB meetings</i>
A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	<i>Three nominated Senior Officers in place</i>	<i>None</i>
Have effective recruitment and human resources procedures, including checking staff to ensure they are safe to work with children and young people	<i>Awaiting guidance from OSCB</i>	<i>Implement guidance</i>
Have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers	<i>Child Protection Policy in place</i>	<i>Review in light of OSCB guidance</i>
All staff to undertake appropriate training to carry out their duties and to be made aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting welfare	<i>Training programme currently being developed to start in December 2006</i>	<i>Rolling programme to be delivered</i>
Have policies about how to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people, including a child protection policy	<i>Child Protection Policy in place</i>	<i>Review in light of OSCB guidance</i>

Have agreements about working with other organisations to safeguard and promote welfare, including arrangements for sharing information	<i>Awaiting guidance from OSCB</i>	<i>Implement guidance</i>
A culture of listening to, and engaging with dialogue with children – and taking account of those views in developing services	<i>Contributing to Countywide Participation Strategy</i>	<i>Ongoing implementation of strategy</i>
Appropriate whistle-blowing procedures	<i>Whistle-blowing procedures in place</i>	<i>To be reviewed</i>

There are specific responsibilities for services provided by the City Council identified in the guidance *Making Arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children*. These include:

- **Cultural and leisure services:** staff, volunteers and contractors have different levels and types of contact with children who are users of these services. Appropriate training for staff should be provided, including training on the issues of safe working practices and on creating safe environments for children. Staff should be alert to any indications that a child may need to be safeguarded from harm, and should also be aware of the important contribution they make to children achieving their potential.
- **Licensing Authorities:** the authority has a responsibility to undertake its functions under the Licensing Act 2003 with regard to ‘the protection of children from harm’. The authority is required to indicate in its statement of licensing policy the body it judges to be competent to advise it on matters relating to the protection of children from harm. Guidance is available from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport regarding protecting children from harm in this regard.
- **Housing Authorities:** housing and homelessness staff are likely to identify initial concerns regarding children’s welfare that will need to be referred on to another agency. In addition, housing authorities may hold important information that could assist children’s social care services to carry out assessments under section 17 or section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Housing Authorities are also key to an assessment of the needs of families with disabled children who may require housing adaptations. They also have an important part to play in the management of the risks of harm posed by dangerous offenders, including those who are assessed as presenting a risk to children.

## 6. HOW OXFORD CITY COUNCIL WILL CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This section is organised according to the five key outcomes identified in *Every Child Matters*: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy & achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing. Appendix 2 contains a list of countywide targets directly relevant to the City Council which are linked to these outcomes.

### Be healthy

Overall in Oxfordshire children are generally healthier than in other areas in the country, with low rates of adult heart disease and cancer and infant mortality. However within the City there are some serious concerns over poor health, which is strongly correlated with poverty and low educational achievement. There are 10 areas in Oxford which are in the 20% most deprived areas in England.

Whilst life expectancy at birth across the City is higher than the England average, this hides significant inequalities. Life expectancy ranges from 82.0 years for St. Margaret's ward in the north of the City to 75.2 years in the south. Worst of all is Carfax ward with a life expectancy of 71.9 years. However infant mortality is lower than the national average.

Lifestyles in Oxford are relatively unhealthy – over a quarter of adults smoke and nearly as many binge drink. This is reflected in the high number of alcohol related hospital stays. Compared to England, injury and death on the roads is high.

Tooth decay in 5 year old children is higher than the national and regional averages. The rate of teenage pregnancy is also higher than the national average.

The key health issues identified by health professionals include nutrition, access to health services (particularly for the most vulnerable), accidents, substance misuse (including smoking, alcohol and drug misuse), teenage pregnancy rates, sexual health and emotional well-being.

Countywide 'priorities for improving outcomes' to which Oxford City Council can contribute include:

- To reduce health inequalities for children and young people in Oxfordshire
- To promote healthy and active lifestyles for all children and young people

Oxford City Council actions	Progress	Future actions
Promote health by ensuring that children and families live in warm, safe and secure accommodation	<i>Housing and Homelessness Strategies in place. Community Energy Programme addressing fuel poverty</i>	<i>Improve joint assessment of children leaving care and vulnerable young people entering supported or non-supported accommodation in the City. Development of a foyer project.</i>
Contribute to the Healthy Living Strategy for the City	<i>Healthy Living Strategy being drafted</i>	<i>Implement Strategy</i>

Contribute to the healthy school agenda through the Healthy Living Partnership	<i>Local Food Development Officer in place. Peers School Partnership Action Plan in place</i>	<i>Implementation of Peers Action Plan</i>
Encourage the better use of our community centres for health and well being activities	<i>Included in the Community Centre Strategy</i>	<i>Implement the Strategy</i>

Oxford City Council services contributing to this outcome include:

- Provision of sports and leisure facilities
- Holiday Play Schemes
- Free swimming for under-17s
- Premises licensing for alcohol and entertainment
- NightSafe
- Rough sleeping outreach team
- Supporting people – hostels and supported housing
- Home Choice Scheme
- HMO licensing
- Health promotion
- Positive Futures project
- Blackbird Leys Active England project
- Adopted Local Plan policies on open spaces & cycling
- Health promotion work with PCT
- Developing joint referrals
- Healthy Living and Healthy Eating
- Community Energy Programme
- Reduced fees for environmental health services to low income families

## Stay safe

Oxfordshire is generally a safe place to be but children and young people tell us that they feel less safe in Oxford than other parts of the county. Children and young people also tell us that their biggest concern is bullying. Children and young people want well-lit neighbourhoods, streets, parks and playgrounds where they feel safe.

Child Protection and care arrangements in Oxfordshire generally work well but feedback from families indicate a need to increase and coordinate the early, practical support available to them when problems start to arise. Families tell us that they particularly value the support that they receive from the voluntary sector.

There is still a need to strengthen support for vulnerable families and to prevent the need for children to enter the care system.

Countywide 'priorities for improving outcomes' to which Oxford City Council can contribute include:

- To ensure that young people feel safe from bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- To improve the local environment to make it feel safer for young people
- To improve early, practical support for vulnerable families to prevent abuse, violence, neglect and family breakdown

<b>Oxford City Council actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Future actions</b>
Take a tough approach to racial harassment and bullying	<i>Representation on Multi-Agency Network to Tackle Racism and Harassment; also provision of CANAcT services and Family Support Initiative</i>	<i>Continued involvement in MANTRaH and increase the capacity of the Family Support Initiative</i>
Work with partners to reduce crime and make sure children and young people feel safe	<i>Street Wardens &amp; Police Community Support Officers in place in some areas; free Holiday Play Schemes in deprived areas; Positive Futures and other diversionary activities</i>	<i>Encourage other agencies to jointly fund Holiday Play Schemes in order to be extended to other priority areas. To ensure continued funding for the Active Communities Manager post</i>
Ensure that the City Council's Code of Practice on Safeguarding Children from Harm is implemented and monitored	<i>Code of Practice written and available to staff</i>	<i>Code of Practice to be reviewed in the light of guidelines from OSCB. Identify role of key Business Units</i>
Encourage Area Committees to respond to young people's concerns about personal safety	<i>Neighbourhood Action Groups in place to inform Area Committees of local priorities</i>	<i>Support Neighbourhood Action Groups to consult with young people as part of their priority setting and problem-solving process</i>

Work with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to promote young people's treatment services and awareness raising	<i>Oxford City Council represented on the DAAT Board</i>	<i>Promotion of EVOLVE through City Council's activities for young people</i>
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Oxford City Council services contributing to this outcome include:

- Holiday Play Schemes
- Football Foundation projects
- Positive Futures
- Design out crime in parks
- Park Rangers
- Street Wardens & Police Community Support Officers
- CANAcT
- Premises licensing for alcohol and entertainment
- NightSafe
- Stay Safe roadshows
- Domestic Violence Champions training aimed at supporting children and young people
- Adopted Local Plan policies on designing out crime
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board
- Community cohesion and interfaith groupwork events and projects
- Tension monitoring for GOSE
- Target hardening

## Enjoy and achieve

Educational attainment in Oxfordshire schools is broadly in line with the national average, although at 16 years they are below those of similar authorities. However there is lower educational attainment of children in Oxford schools at a range of ages.

GCSE results across the five Oxfordshire Districts show that pupils at Oxford City schools have consistently attained lower results than their counterparts. In addition, whilst the trend in other Districts is that attainment is improving, in Oxford there is a downward trend. This pattern is also shown at the bottom end of the attainment scale – in 2004 7.5% of pupils at Oxford City schools left with no GCSE passes. The rate in all other Oxfordshire Districts is between 2.5% and 3.1%.

This poor attainment at age 16 is replicated in patterns at ages 11 (Key Stage 2) and 14 (Key Stage 3), with the literacy and numeracy levels of Oxford pupils significantly below the Oxfordshire average at both these ages.

Children and young people tell us that there are not enough fun things to do in their spare time. There is a need to expand the range of affordable, safe, formal and informal play and recreational activities available to children and young people.

Countywide 'priorities for improving outcomes' to which Oxford City Council can contribute include:

- Raising standards of educational achievement and enjoyment at all ages
- Increasing the number of children and young people accessing sport, play, leisure, youth, out of school, community, cultural, music and arts activities

<b>Oxford City Council actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Future actions</b>
Provide free holiday play activities in the most deprived areas of the City	<i>Holiday Play Scheme implemented in Easter and Summer holidays 2006</i>	<i>Encourage other agencies to jointly fund Holiday Play Schemes in order to be extended to other priority areas</i>
Provide free swimming for children and young people under the age of 17	<i>Free swimming scheme implemented in April 2006</i>	<i>Review to be undertaken to identify who has benefited from the scheme</i>
Implement the Sport England Project in Blackbird Leys aimed at getting more children and young people into sports activities	<i>Sport England project began August 2006</i>	<i>Ongoing work with partners to maximise the impact of the project</i>
Provide support to the Peers School Partnership	<i>Action Plan in place and in progress</i>	<i>Review success of action plan</i>
Support Learning Hubs in our Community Centres and promote their use	<i>Learning Hubs now established</i>	<i>Review success and maximise effect</i>
Support the development of children's centres and extended school activities	<i>Early discussions on terms of reference of locality teams in relation to joint planning of services</i>	<i>Review action to be taken in the light of discussions</i>

Oxford City Council services contributing to this outcome include:

- Sports and leisure facilities
- Grant funding to sports groups
- Free swimming for under-17s
- Cultural events
- Virtual college
- Family Support Initiative
- Support to Peers School Partnership
- Learning Hubs
- Adopted Local Plan policies on school provision, recreation and community centres
- Community cohesion and interfaith groupwork events and projects
- Back on Track
- Dance Development work
- Community Touring Programme



## Make a positive contribution

The vast majority of young people make a positive contribution to their schools and communities. Young people have a huge amount to offer their communities if we can harness their energy and potential – an image which needs promoting to combat the negative image of young people which is so often portrayed, unfairly to the majority. We want every child and young person to be able to make positive choices, and be included as individuals in the life of their local community and economy. We want to support young people in developing as active citizens with an understanding of their role and responsibilities in a democratic society.

Oxford City Council has involved young people in service development in the past – for example, when consulting on parks improvements and through the Youth Council. A special Young People’s Survey was also undertaken in conjunction with two other District Councils in 2004.

Countywide ‘priorities for improving outcomes’ to which Oxford City Council can contribute include:

- To increase the effective participation of children and young people in decision-making at all levels and ensure that it is well coordinated across the agencies. This needs to include children of all ages, backgrounds and ability levels.
- To support the development of children and young people as active citizens, making a positive contribution within their communities, thereby reducing levels of young offending, particularly in areas of high need

<b>Oxford City Council actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Future actions</b>
Promote opportunities for young people to be engaged in the design of services	<i>Parks consultation with young people in the design of play spaces</i>	<i>Establish a database to monitor how young people are engaged in the design of services and the impact of this consultation</i>
Review the processes for involving young people in decision making in line with Oxfordshire Strategy for the Involvement and Participation of Children and Young People	<i>Participation group has been set up. Baseline survey has been designed</i>	<i>Survey to take place March – May 2007</i>
Promote young people volunteering	<i>City Council support to establishing Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action volunteering initiative</i>	<i>Implementation of the initiative through Community Centres and activities</i>
Reduce youth offending through continued support for youth diversion activities	<i>Positive Future, Football Foundation projects and Holiday Play Schemes currently being run</i>	<i>Development coordination of prevention activities by the YOT and CANAcT via a joint database</i>

Oxford City Council services contributing to this outcome include:

- Positive Futures programme
- Football Foundation projects

- Holiday Play Schemes
- CANAcT
- Community Centres
- ABC contracts and ASBOs
- Family Support Initiative
- Street Wardens
- Adopted Local Plan involving consultation with children and young people
- Youth Council
- Full Circle
- Disability Unit

## Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Unemployment rates in Oxfordshire are about half the average for England. However, four wards in the City have jobless rates of over 10% - more than double the Oxfordshire rate. These wards are Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook, Littlemore and Barton. Blackbird Leys and Northfield Brook also feature in the top 10% of income deprived wards in England.

Oxford has a rate for child poverty at 0-4 years of 24% and at 5-19 years of 19%. That is double that for any other district and higher than the national average. As noted earlier, this is strongly correlated with poor educational attainment and raises a concern over the persistence of child poverty through intergenerational transfer. Children growing up in poverty are more likely to be poor in adulthood – and therefore their own children are more likely to experience poverty too.

Although many people in Oxford have a degree-level education, many adults have no qualifications at all – for example in Blackbird Leys ward more than 2 in 5 of adults have no qualifications.

An analysis of the housing needs of vulnerable young people and care leavers in 2005 highlighted that existing accommodation-based services are not able to meet the needs of the most demanding and needy young people. Many of those young people most at risk are placed in temporary accommodation in Oxford City.

Countywide 'priorities for improving outcomes' to which Oxford City Council can contribute include:

- Increase access to affordable housing for families and reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation
- Reduce the number of young people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation and ensure that all care leavers have access to accommodation
- Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training or in jobs with no training

<b>Oxford City Council actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Future actions</b>
Target low income families in benefit take-up campaigns and charge reduced fees for services	<i>Benefits take-up campaign in place for 2006/07; reduced fees available for leisure and environmental health services</i>	<i>Investigate increasing resourcing for benefits take-up campaigns, leading to better outcomes</i>
Contribute to delivery of the Area Investment Programme aimed at improving training and employment levels in the areas of highest deprivation	<i>City Council represented on Programme Board</i>	<i>Ongoing support to implementation of Programme</i>
Develop and support community based learning initiatives in the areas of highest deprivation	<i>Learning Communities project established</i>	<i>Ongoing support to the project</i>
Support the development of social enterprise to meet community needs	<i>Support provided through Revitalising Economies Officer</i>	<i>Identify current social enterprises in existence and review level of support required</i>

Reduce the number of young people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation	<i>Establishment of joint assessment procedures between City and County Councils. Funding support to The Bridge and The Gap</i>	<i>Review success of new procedures and identify barriers</i>
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Oxford City Council services contributing to this outcome include:

- Community Housing services
- Reduced leisure charges for low income families (BONUS Slice)
- Virtual college
- Adopted Local Plan policies on economy, transport and affordable housing
- Targeted funding for projects in areas of deprivation
- Grants for projects aimed at supporting families and children
- Community Energy Programme
- Benefits Take-Up campaign
- Social enterprise support
- Benefits in Practice
- Learning Communities
- Rough sleeper outreach team

## **7. RESOURCES**

There are limited resources available for developing services for children and young people.

### **Staffing**

Neighbourhood Renewal Business Unit has:

- 0.8 FTE member of staff to support the work of the Youth Council and to provide support for play schemes in the City
- 1 FTE Active Communities Manager providing support to youth diversion and inclusive leisure activities for children and young people. Future funding is required from 2007/08 to sustain this post
- 1.2 FTE Asian Families Officers working from the Sure Start project in Rose Hill and Littlemore. The funding for these Officers ends in 2007 – at the time of writing discussions are taking place with the County Council about the possibility of joint funding
- 0.5 FTE Family Support Coordinator working to support families with children with anti-social behaviour problems

Although they may not work solely with children and young people, there are many staff in other Business Units who deliver services to children and young people and their families on a day-to-day basis. These include:

- Leisure and Cultural Services
- Oxford City Homes
- Community Housing
- Customer Services
- Environmental Health
- Neighbourhood Renewal (in addition to the above)
- Revenues & Benefits
- Strategy & Review

In addition Human Resources is putting in place arrangements to ensure that the appropriate staff receive training about their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### **Grants to community and voluntary groups**

The Council's grants budget is used to support a range of projects and schemes run by community and voluntary organisations, including those aimed at children and young people. Those agreed for 2006/07 are listed below:

- Oxford Sea Scouts
- Ark T Centre creative arts project
- Asylum Welcome
- Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground
- Crime Reduction Initiatives
- Cutteslowe Community Association Playscheme
- Donnington Doorstep Family Centre
- Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee
- Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club
- Jacqueline du Pre Music Building outreach programme
- Jericho Playgroup
- Lake Street Playgroup

- Oxford Blackbirds Boys & Girls FC
- Oxford Bonn Link
- Oxford Malayalee Club
- Oxford Wheels Project
- Oxfordshire Children's Information Services
- Oxfordshire Play Association
- Oxfordshire Women's Aid
- Parasol
- Rose Hill Community Association Playscheme
- Rose Hill Sure Start Family Centre
- South Oxford Adventure Playground
- South Oxford Community Association
- St Luke's Youth & Community Project
- The Bridge
- The Gap
- Tower Playbase
- TRAX The Oxfordshire Motor Project
- West Oxford Community Association Playscheme
- Wood Farm Youth Centre

### **External funding**

Every effort is made to access external funding for projects that support children and young people. Successes to date have included:

- The Positive Futures Project (funded through Sport England)
- The Active England Project (funded through Sport England)
- The Healthy Living Initiative (application pending through the Big Lottery)
- Refurbishment of the Bridge (Homelessness Directorate)

## **APPENDIX 1 - RELATED PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

The Children and Young People's Strategy needs to link to and influence a series of other related plans and strategies affecting children, young people and families; these include those listed below.

### **Broad Level Overarching Plans**

- Oxford Community Strategy
- Oxford Plan 2007-10
- Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement

### **Major Universal Plans**

- Oxfordshire Children & Young People's Plan
- Connexions Partnership Business Plan
- Community Safety Strategy for Oxford 2005-08
- Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership Plan
- Education Plan
- Learning & Skills Council Business Plan
- NHS Primary Care Trusts' strategic plans for services for children and young people

### **Thematic Plans**

- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Strategy
- Children's Fund Delivery Plan
- Oxfordshire DAAT Treatment Plan
- Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Strategy
- Family Learning Strategy
- Housing Strategy for Oxford 2005-08
- Oxford Cultural Strategy
- Oxford Homelessness Strategy 2003-08
- Oxford City Council Community Centre Strategy
- Oxford City Council Consultation Strategy 2004-07
- Oxford City Council Corporate Equalities Policy
- Oxford City Council Leisure Strategy
- Oxford City Council Social Inclusion Strategy
- Sure Start Strategy
- Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

### **Business Unit Plans**

Oxford City Council Business Units have their own specific business plans which will also connect to the above plans.

## APPENDIX 2 – RELEVANT OXFORDSHIRE CYPP TARGETS

This table shows a list of those targets in the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan which Oxford City Council can directly contribute towards. Some work needs to be done to break these down to a City level to quantify the Council's contribution.

CYPP ref	Indicator
<i>Be healthy</i>	
105/02*	Percentage of Year 10 pupils who, when surveyed, claim to be able to buy alcohol
<i>Stay safe</i>	
201/05*	Number of incidents of domestic violence reported to the police
201/07*	Number of domestic violence champions
204/01	Percentage of children and young people who say they feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour
205/01	Number of parents/families accessing support through Children's Centres
205/02	Number of families accessing up-to-date, coordinated information about services: enquiries per month
<i>Enjoy and achieve</i>	
304/06	Number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups
<i>Make a positive contribution</i>	
401/01*	Number of young people consulted about services
401/02*	Number of young people participating in democratic decision-making processes
401/03	Increase the percentage of young people involved in volunteering (1+ hr/week formal and accredited volunteering)
401/04*	Participation in Positive Activities for Young People – increase participation in a broad range of high quality activities, especially by priority groups
402/04*	Number of entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 years
402/05*	Number of young offenders who re-offend (re-offending)
402/06	Known offending by young people 10-17 years: year-on-year percentage reduction in number of offences by young people (up to 17)
<i>Achieve economic wellbeing</i>	
501/03	Percentage of teenage mothers in education, employment or training
503/01*	Reduce number of homeless young people (16-17 year-olds)
503/02	Percentage of families in temporary accommodation
A05/01	Increase the proportion of careleavers in suitable accommodation at the age of 19 years
A05/02	Percentage increase in care leavers accessing permanent accommodation at the point of leaving care

\* = also a target in the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement



## Document Control

<b>Document</b>	Oxford City Council Children & Young People's Plan
<b>Owner</b>	Val Johnson, Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager
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<b>Date</b>	03/11/06
<b>Review due</b>	Autumn 2007
<b>Version</b>	5
<b>Notes</b>	For approval before Executive Board.

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	10/08/06	First redraft (based on earlier 2005 version)
2	10/10/06	Updated CYPP outcome statistics, listed relevant County-level priorities and targets, listed relevant City Council services. Distributed to Officers and Portfolio Holder for comment.
3	24/10/06	Updated and reorganized existing sections. Added sections on community cohesion, infrastructure, safeguarding responsibilities. Added document control page. Distributed to Area Coordinators for Area-related comments and priorities.
4	31/10/06	Actions added to five outcome areas and safeguarding section. Distributed to portfolio holder and partner agencies for comment.
5	03/11/06	Draft for approval to legal & finance and portfolio holder. To Scrutiny without amendments. To Executive Board without amendments.