

## Annex 2

### Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan Final Draft

A summary of the comments made by Oxford City Council	How these have been addressed in the final draft of the Plan
<p><b>Themes</b></p> <p><b>Difference</b> There needs to be more emphasis on the difference of the City.</p> <p>That the Underpinning Principles are amended to enshrine the principle of difference. This could include:</p> <p>'Work together to meet the needs of all children and young people in Oxfordshire ensuring that boundaries, difference and variety are harnessed as strengths rather than becoming obstacles.'</p> <p>An additional bullet point could be added: 'Support children, young people and families in ways and at a pace to suit their different needs'.</p> <p>Or 'supporting them to help themselves and at a pace that suits their needs.'</p> <p>The second principle has recognition that there is a need to support the case to provide a higher level of service for those who need it most. An additional bullet point could be added.</p>	<p>The context section has been slightly amended to reflect the impact of employment in the recession and further information on ethnicity. However, this has not been reflected as having particular impact on the City. Similarly the needs analysis has not been significantly amended to reflect difference, although homelessness and its impact in the City has been included.</p> <p>The general text has been improved to reflect this principle.</p> <p>The general text has been improved to reflect this principle.</p> <p>This has been included.</p>

<p>Using the evidence from data to demonstrate and support the case for additional provision to meet different needs.'</p>	<p>The wording now reads 'Making excellent use of county and locality qualitative data to drive what we do and where we put our resources'.</p>
<p><b>Partnership</b> Greater recognition that Oxford City wishes to be involved and recognition of what it already does.</p> <p>An appreciation of income poverty and housing need to be included in the Plan.</p> <p>That housing as a commonality across districts and the City Council has a higher profile. One of the bullet points on page 11 should be a housing one.</p> <p>'Children and young people should have the right to grow up in safe adequate housing that is not overcrowded or in a poor state of repair.'</p> <p>The re-commissioning programme funded services for young people offers a powerful example of the impact of housing contribution.</p> <p>That the Children's Trust should produce a map of partnership work that is producing good outcomes as a companion document to the Plan.</p> <p>We would suggest that the boundaries of the area trust boards are refined so that there is one whole on for the City.</p> <p>The partnership box should be completed for the districts.</p>	<p>There has been some improvement made throughout the text which provides examples of good practice within the districts and in particular within Oxford City, although there is no specific comment made in this respect.</p> <p>The themes of income poverty and housing are now embedded in the Plan.</p> <p>The objectives for keeping children and young people safe now includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce and prevent homelessness for families with children and young people.</li> <li>• Provide access to safe and adequate housing that is not overcrowded.</li> </ul> <p>This has now been acknowledged as an example of good practice within the Section 'Improving outcomes and processes'.</p> <p>No comment made.</p> <p>No comment made.</p> <p>This now reads: 'Districts/City will re-commission and redesign services as required. Involve and engage with young people.</p>

<p>The City would like their investment to be recorded in detail. This shows a general fund contribution of £8.5 mil with £850,000 of annual grants to voluntary and community organisations that support children and young people.</p>	<p>Engage in local and strategic partnership structures to shape and challenge service delivery and improve outcomes.'</p> <p>This information has not been included but will form part of the Central Area Trust detailed delivery plan and the Oxford City Council Children and Young people's Plan.</p>
<p><b>Leadership and commissioning</b></p> <p>We would like to see acknowledgement of the City Council in assisting children and young people making a positive contribution that goes beyond volunteering and involvement into ensuring that young people play a role in shaping the place in which they live. Children and young people will need to be equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge as well as having the practical support of organisations.</p> <p>There should be a more locally sensitive analysis of the causes of poverty as a practical way of working together.</p> <p>We would like to see the Plan have a marker about how it sees the Area Trusts operating, particularly in regard to strategic commissioning.</p> <p>Better strategic joints should be constructed between play and early years, between leisure and sport and arts and culture.</p>	<p>The role of the City Council and districts in relation to play, sports, leisure, culture and community engagement has been strengthened throughout the text.</p> <p>The objectives for Raising Achievement (Point 3) includes: 'We will equip young people with skills and practical support to enable them to shape the place in which they live.'</p> <p>It is proposed to develop a Central Area Trust, detailed delivery plan. This will allow for a more locally sensitive analysis of the causes of poverty in the City to be developed.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there needs to be further clarification about the Area Trusts role in commissioning. This will be further discussed at the Central Area Trust Board meeting, at which the City Council Executive Board Member, with responsibility for Children and Young People, is represented.</p> <p>This has been improved through the text.</p>
<p><b>Determined Delivery and Performance</b></p>	

<p>We would welcome a Plan that says more in respect to the performance management process.</p> <p>There is no performance targets associated with measures such as household income or housing adequacy for families – not just young homeless.</p>	<p>This section has not been significantly revised. However greater emphasis within the Plan has been given to the development of Area Trust Delivery Plans.</p> <p>Targets have not been included list of key targets (these primarily relate to the Local Area Agreement Targets). However baseline statistics have been included within the body of the report on households with low income, numbers of families with children, homelessness acceptances of households with dependent children and number of families living in overcrowded conditions. These will provide a baseline for service improvements.</p>
<p><b>Risks</b> There is no consideration of risk either in the draft plan or the delivery plan.</p> <p>The poorer results across all indicators in the City cannot be improved without explicit improvement in the City.</p>	<p>The Performance Management section now includes reference to having a risk assessment, including action plans to alleviate risk.</p> <p>No comment.</p>
<p><b>Keeping all children and young people safe</b></p> <p>The following should be added to the Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people should have the right to grow up in safe adequate housing that is not overcrowded or in a poor state of repair.</li> <li>• Reduce and prevent homelessness amongst families and young people.</li> <li>• Improve safety for children and young people who live in households of domestic abuse.</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives for keeping children and young people safe now includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce and prevent homelessness for families with children and young people.</li> <li>• Provide access to safe and adequate housing that is not overcrowded.</li> </ul> <p>This has been included.</p>
<p><b>Prevention and early intervention</b></p>	

<p>The City Council is the only pathfinder authority for Preventing Extremism in the County and we find it strange that the contribution is not acknowledged. The delivery plan could be enhanced by reference in the detailed strategy for the City.</p> <p>Prevention, early intervention and protection should be applicable to all forms of violence against children.</p>	<p>The promotion of community cohesion and reference to early identification of children and vulnerable young people to radicalisation is included in the objectives, although the City Council is not directly referenced. This will be done within the Central Area Trust delivery plan.</p> <p>The Plan has been strengthened throughout in terms of child protection and safeguarding.</p>
<p><b>Abuse and neglect</b> We are concerned that the emphases of services that respond to instances of neglect is towards young children, although it is frequently teenagers and young adults who are also in need of protection.</p> <p>Emerging evidence from local data suggest that Oxford City receives a lesser social work service than the rest of the County. This applies to safeguarding referrals, assessments and services to looked after children. Concerns have been raised about how thresholds are being applied in the City.</p>	<p>The plan has been strengthened throughout in relation to preventing abuse and neglect for all age groups. This includes implementing a more structured approach to handling neglect cases.</p> <p>The Plan includes the following objective: 'Keeping children and young people safe by ensuring practice, across all agencies working with children at risk of harm and .or in care, is of the highest standard, complies with national and local guidance, and is consistent across the county.'</p> <p>There are no comments specifically in relation to Oxford City in this regard, although this is an issue that has been highlighted by the Central Area Trust and will be addressed within the Central Area Trust detailed delivery plan.</p>
<p><b>Raising achievement</b> Concerns have been raised that there is evidence from OFSTED that school improvement is not happening consistently in the City and that there is a lack of sustained focus from the local authority in deprived areas and in relation to particular BME groups.</p>	<p>The Plan now gives greater recognition to the role of local communities and extended school activities, both in and out of school, such as leisure, play and cultural activities.</p>

<p>We have no problem with the key objectives and support the targeting of resources towards those in greatest need and vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>The Raising Achievement objectives includes:  ‘Targeting resources where they are most needed and will have greatest impact, by focusing on raising the achievement of vulnerable groups and in paying particular attention to meeting their needs.’</p>
<p><b>Narrowing the Gap</b>  The City Council supports as a priority that the aim should be to narrow the gap in outcomes between vulnerable and excluded children and their peers.</p> <p>However, the draft Plan offers little to share about the case being made, which gaps need to be narrowed and how to prioritise and tackle the problems.</p> <p>The City Council requires further clarification about who the gap is to be narrowed for, the type of activity which will work and how the approach is to be applied.</p> <p>There are three overarching comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach to NEETs cannot be more of the same and there is a need to change tack with the deployment of youth workers.</li>   <li>• The mention of learning disability, and disability in general is welcome but comes across as an add on.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan has not been significantly changed in respect to this issue. Clearly further work needs to be done within the Central Area Trust detailed delivery plan.</p> <p>The Plan has not been significantly changed in respect to this issue. Clearly further work needs to be done within the Central Area Trust detailed delivery plan.</p> <p>NEETS have been identified as a priority group within the Plan. The Narrowing the Gap objectives includes:  ‘Reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET by intensively tracking all those who receive free school meals and offering them additional information, advice and guidance that will encourage them to take up the offer of learning and training at the age of 16 and continue in at least part-time learning to the age of 19.’</p> <p>The Plan has been slightly amended throughout to address this issue.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key objective which lists the greatest areas of deprivation as Banbury, Oxford City, Abingdon/Berinsfield and small pockets of deprivation does not reflect a true picture and does not reflect the scale of deprivation on Oxford City. The Plan should contain more relevant information, for example the 12 Super Output Areas in Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• There are also hidden areas of deprivation, not reflected in the Indices of Deprivation, in urban as well as rural areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan has not been amended to take these comments on board.</p> <p>The Plan has not been amended to take these comments on board.</p>
<p><b>Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>A number of detailed comments were provided on the Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>The Children and Young People's Plan has to be agreed in January 2010, in order for the County Council to meet the statutory duty that a new Plan is produced every 3 years.</p> <p>However, this does not include the detailed delivery plan. Therefore further work is being undertaken to develop a county wide delivery plan and the Area Trust delivery plans. There will be a number of workshops held in January / February 2010 to inform the delivery plans, ready for implementation in April 2010.</p>