

To: City Executive Board

Date: 8th December 2010

Item No: 9

Report of: Head of Policy, Communication and Culture

Title of Report: Oxford City Council: Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: The Board are asked to endorse and adopt the Oxford City Council, Children and Young People Delivery Plan 2010-13.

Key decision? No

Executive lead member: Cllr Antonia Bance, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Community Development

Policy Framework: Oxford's Sustainable Community Strategy. Oxford City Council's Corporate Plan. Oxford City Regeneration Framework.

Recommendation(s):

- 1, To endorse and adopt the Oxford City Council Children and Young People Plan for 2010-13, subject to any changes in available budget that may arise from the forthcoming Budget Review.
2. To receive a report on the Annual Review of the Plan.

Appendices to report

- Annexe 1: Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13
- Annexe 2: Report Risk Register
- Annexe 3: Equalities Impact Assessment

Background

1. The Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013 was adopted by the Oxfordshire Children's Trust Board in January 2010 and the Delivery Plan was agreed in April 2010. Copies of these documents can be obtained on Oxfordshire County Council's web site.
2. The primary aim of the City Council Children and Young People's Plan is to set out what services the City Council will provide during this period for children, young people and families in Oxford City.
3. The Plan identifies some of the different challenges that children and young people in Oxford face compared with the rest of the county and highlights specific actions that Oxford City Council are taking, alone or in partnership, to promote better outcomes for children and young people. A copy of the Plan is attached in Annex 1.

Priorities contained within the Plan

4. There are four key priorities identified by this Plan. These are:
 - 3.1. To ensure that the City Council's policies and practices fulfil its duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people
 - 3.2. To improve opportunities for children and young people who live in areas of deprivation and/or who experience poverty and disadvantage
 - 3.3. To ensure adequate housing for children and young people and families
 - 3.4. To provide support for affordable and positive activities for children and young people.

Services included within the Plan

5. The City Council either directly provides or financially supports a considerable number of services that meet the needs of children and young people and their families. These include:
 - Sport, leisure, parks, play and cultural services
 - Housing services included supported housing
 - Planning services
 - Licensing enforcement
 - Community safety activities
 - Support to youth initiatives
 - Family support
 - Community cohesion and work with ethnic minority groups
 - Home safety initiatives
 - In addition, the Council's grants budget of £1.6 million is used to support a range of projects and schemes run by community and

voluntary organisations, including those aimed at children and young people and information and advice services. Every effort is made to access external funding for projects that support children and young people.

Future developments and potential impact upon the Plan

6. Both the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan and the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan were developed and written prior to the change of Government. With the new Government focussing on reducing the budget deficit it is likely that a range of services provided by the County and the City Council will be impacted by the budget reductions required by Government. Any changes in services that are included in the Plans will be picked up by annual reviews and revisions of the City Council Children and Young People's Plan.

Legal and regulatory issues

7. There have been some delays in producing the City Council Children and Young People's Plan due to the uncertainties mentioned above, as well as proposed changes in the regulatory framework and governance arrangements for Children's Trust Boards. In April 2010 new Government Guidance came into force which made all public services involved in delivering children and young people's services accountable for achieving the priorities set out in the Oxfordshire Children and Young People Plan, including Oxford City Council.
8. When the new Government came into office further new Guidance was issued which withdrew the statutory basis for the Children's Trust and the requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. In addition there are a number of proposals within the NHS White Paper that relate to the children and young people and the proposed statutory functions of Health and Well Being Boards. Further new Guidance is expected in December 2010.
9. The Children's Trust has now agreed to keep the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan in place and to proceed with their current governance arrangements. The situation will be reviewed once the requirements are clearer. However, it is clear that the delivery of children and young people's services cut across a number of agencies in the public, private and voluntary sector and some form of partnership and joint working arrangements will still be required.

Level of risk

10. A Risk Assessment has been carried out and this is set out in Annex 2. A major risk within the City Council Children and Young People's Plan is the need to ensure that the services provided by the City Council and other agencies meet the needs of children and young people in the City. To mitigate this risk an evidenced based approach has been adopted

using data and performance monitoring information which highlight the specific needs of children and young people within the City.

11. Another major risk is the Government Spending Review and the need for all public services to make significant reductions in budgets which will inevitably lead to cuts in services for children and young people. To mitigate this risk the Council will need to work with partners to ensure that the best use of resources is made and to limit the impact where possible. The Council will need to ensure that it is well informed of potential service cuts and that uses its leadership role to influence decisions of partners and other agencies.

Consultation

12. The Oxford City Council Children and Young People Plan sets out what the City Council can contribute towards the delivery of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan. There has been consultation with all relevant officers within the City Council and they have had a substantial input in the development of the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan.
13. The Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan has been significantly informed by the consultation carried out on the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan and this includes the views of children and young people living in the City, through the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Survey and the County Council's Children and Young People Sounding Boards.
14. The Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan has been presented to the Central Area Trust Board for comment by partners, and comments received have been incorporated into the Plan.
15. Children, young people and parent/carers and children in care are represented on the Area Trust Boards and there will be ongoing discussion with them in order to ensure that the Oxford City Council's Plan meets their needs and priorities across the range of services that we provide and influence.

Managing and Monitoring of the Plan

16. The individual elements of the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan will be managed by the relevant service area within the Council. Overall coordination of the Plan will be undertaken by the Oxford City Council Partnership Development Manager.
17. The key actions within the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan are also contained within the Area Board Trust Plan and the Area Trust Board Plan will be reviewed by the Area Trust Board on a quarterly basis. The City Executive Board Member for Regeneration and

Community Development is the Chair of the Area Trust Board and it is also attended by the City Council's Partnership Development Manager.

18. It is proposed that Oxford City Council Officers review the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan on an annual basis and that this is done through the Oxford City Council, Children and Young People Officer Group. This group draws together the relevant staff from across the different services and directorates. It meets on an ad-hoc basis, and only when there are specific tasks to perform that require across service working.

19. Given the current climate, with substantial budgetary and change implications, it is proposed that the outcome of this review is reported to Executive Board on an annual basis.

Climate Change/environmental impact

20. There are no significant climate change or environmental impact issues related to this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

21. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and it is set out in Annex 3. The evidence indicates significant problems in the City in comparison to other parts of Oxfordshire. In particular the Oxford City Council Children and Young People's Plan aims to address the following issues:

- Poor education attainment, in particular for some ethnic minority groups
- Child poverty, the rate of which is higher than the national average
- Exclusion amongst some minority ethnic groups
- Severe housing shortage leading to homelessness and overcrowding and poor quality housing.

Financial implications

22. There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

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List of background papers:

Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan and Delivery Plan

