

Item No.	Classification: OPEN	Date: 25 th November 2003	MEETING NAME EXECUTIVE
Report title:		Green Paper, Every Child Matters	
Ward(s) or groups affected		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Social Services Strategic Director of Education and Culture	

RECOMMENDATION (S)

1. That the Executive endorses Southwark's current position and direction of travel in relation to the Government's Green Paper, Every Child Matters, as outlined in Appendix B.
2. That the Executive agrees the response to Government on their Green Paper, Every Child Matters, as outlined in Appendix C.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Children's Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' was launched on 8 September 2003 by the Prime Minister. It sets out a vision for reforming the delivery of services for children, young people and their families. It proposes a framework for improving outcomes for all children and families, to protect them; to promote their well-being and the support all children to develop their full potential.
4. This report:
 - describes the main proposals of the Green Paper
 - assesses how far Southwark's services for children meet the Government's vision as set out in the Green paper
 - provides a formal response to the Green Paper's consultation questions

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The main proposals of the Green Paper

5. The Green Paper sets out proposals for the modification of political leadership under a single executive member, the creation of a single Chief Officer post to lead Children's Services and integrated governance arrangements (Children's Trusts). It is likely that this Government will introduce legislation in the next parliamentary session to enable these arrangements to be put in place. Whilst welcoming the move towards a child focused form of leadership the council may wish to argue that there should be flexibility at a local level to enable councils and their partners to put in place leadership arrangements to fit their local circumstances providing that the core objectives of integrated services, leadership and commitment to prioritise outcomes for children have been met.
6. The Green Paper sets out a framework for services that cover children and young people from birth to 19 living in England. It aims to reduce the numbers of children who experience educational

failure, engage in offending or anti-social behaviour, suffer from ill health, or become teenage parents.

7. The five positive outcomes the Government wants to achieve for children and young people are:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well-being

8. The proposals within the Green Paper focus on:

- Clear accountability
- Integrating education, health, and social care
- Raising the profile of child protection
- Creating a lead inspectorate for children
- Creating the Children's Commissioner (an independent voice for Children)
- Raising the attractiveness and status of working with children, and fostering children
- Information sharing
- Increased focus on supporting families and foster carers

10. The aim is to build on the "foundations" such as Sure Start and extended schools already in place, and to focus on four main areas of activity:

- Supporting parents and carers
- Early intervention and effective protection
- Accountability and integration – locally, regionally and nationally
- Workforce reform

Supporting Parents and Carers

11. Supporting parents and carers is at the heart of the Green Paper, which includes setting out a long-term vision focusing on how to improve parenting and family support:

- Through strengthening universal services such as schools, health and social services capacity to provide better support;
- Targeting specialist support to parents of children requiring additional support;
- That compulsory action through Parenting Orders to be used only as a last resort.

Early Intervention and Effective Protection

12. The key message here is to ensure children receive services at the first onset of problems and to prevent children slipping through the net by:

- Improving information sharing by removing legislative, technical and cultural barriers, developing a single unique identity number, and common data standards on the recording of information
- Developing a common assessment framework;
- Introducing a lead professional for each child known to more than one specialist agency;
- Developing on-the-spot service delivery including multi-disciplinary teams based in and around schools and children's centers.

- Ensuring effective child protection across all agencies including new statutory duties to raise the priority of safeguarding children and new integrated inspection regimes led by OFSTED.

Accountability and Integration

13. The Green Paper proposes that key children's services be integrated within a single organisational focus. The Government proposes to legislate to:

- Create the post of Director of Children's Services, accountable for local authority education and children's social services;
- Create a lead Council Member for children;
- Integrate responsibility for key services for children and young people under the Director of Children's Services as part of Children's Trusts. Children's Trust will normally be part of the local authority and report to local elected Members. All authorities will be expected to have developed Children's Trusts by 2006. Bringing together as a minimum:
 - Local authority education
 - Children's social services
 - Some child health services
 - Connexions;
- There will be a requirement for the local authorities to work closely with public, private and voluntary organisations to improve outcomes for children. Local authorities will be given flexibility over how this partnership work is undertaken;
- Create Local Safeguarding Children's Boards as the statutory successors to Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC);
- Place new duties on police and health to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and work together through partnerships;
- Place a new duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care;
- Rationalise performance targets, plans, funding streams, financial accountability and indicators;
- Create an integrated inspection framework for children's services under OFSTED's tendership;
- Create an improvement and intervention function;
- Create a Children's Commissioner to act as an independent champion for children and young people.

The Government has already created a new Minister of Children, Young people and Families in the Department for Education & Skills.

Workforce Reform

14. The goal of these proposals is to make working with children an attractive, high status career and to develop a more skilled and flexible workforce. This includes proposals on common occupational standards, common core training, and a review by the Chief Nursing Officer of the contribution that health visitors, nurses and midwives can make to child protection.

15. Along side the Green Paper the government published:

- Keeping Children Safe – a detailed response to the practice recommendations made by Lord Laming.

- Youth Justice the Next Steps – a set of proposals to strengthen the Youth Justice systems response to young people involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour.
 - A report by the social intervention unit on the Education of Looked After Children.
16. The implications of those papers are being considered by the Area Child Protection Committee, Youth Crime sub-group of the Safer Southwark Partnership and the Senior Management Teams of CEA and Social Services respectively.

Southwark's current position in relation to the Green Paper

17. Southwark is extremely well placed to meet the proposals outlined in the Green Paper. The Southwark Vision for Children's Services has been one of integration, placing the needs of the child/young person at the center and developing our services around those needs. We have been working to this vision for three years and have achieved a significant progress as demonstrated in appendix B.
18. The local vision was developed by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership, which has continued to lead on the modernization and integration of children's services locally. The CYPSP has developed and agreed a sound methodological framework, and over the next 18 months will oversee:
- Integration of health and social care commissioning and performance management
 - Integration of health and social care workforce planning and training
 - Integrated services and 'front door' teams (including children looked after, child protection, children with disabilities)
 - Some co-location of services
 - Some areas of pooled finance under a S31 arrangement (i.e., CAMHS)
19. Southwark's Family Support Strategy, launched in November 2002, articulates the local framework: it has a clear focus on early intervention and effective prevention and marks out 4 'levels' of need (from universal to highly specialist), with a rationale for children and families moving between those levels. The focus on early intervention/ effective prevention means that the strategy looks particularly at 'level 2' need, to build capacity, to work in partnership with parents carers and their children to identify risk and protective factors early. Evidence shows that this process empowers staff and their organisations to take appropriate action themselves and other agencies receive fewer but more appropriate, referrals. The underpinning principles of the strategy are:
- Coordinated service delivery
 - Integrated service objectives
 - Effective prevention
 - Working in partnership
 - Social inclusion
 - Children's participation in service design
20. Allied to the Family Support Strategy are the CYPSPB's identified desired outcomes for the children and young people of Southwark. They are:
- Improving children's health
 - Pregnant mothers and newborns to thrive
 - Children are ready for school
 - Children succeed at school
 - Children and young people thrive and are safeguarded
 - Children and young people live in stable, supported families

- Children and young people choose healthy behaviours
 - Transitions are successful for children and young people (early years, primary school, secondary school, preparing for independence)
 - Families, children and young people are engaged and contribute to their communities' decisions and activities
 - Families, children and young people live in safe and supportive communities
21. To support this strategy the partnership has a developed sub groups to support their strategic developments. These include
- A performance Management framework
 - A participation strategy
 - Communications in partnership with the ACPC
 - A joint training strategy in partnership with the ACPC
 - Identification Referral and Tracking
 - Commissioning and Managing a number of initiatives to support the transformation agenda as set out in the driving strategies.
 - Children Centres strategy and implementation
 - Children Fund
 - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
 - Sure Start
22. In addition, Southwark PCT's own priority/ target areas, given by the Department of Health, are reflected through the Local Delivery Plan (LDP). They also fit well with the local framework and targets articulated by the CYPSPB. The LDP names 4 key drivers around children and young people:
- Children Looked After (CLA)
 - Child Protection
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - The Children's National Service Framework (NSF)
23. Operationally, the LDP highlights a number of key local objectives:
- Integrating Child Protection, in part by increasing the capacity of specialist services
 - Improving services to CLA
 - Integrating services for children with severe disabilities
 - Managing the capacity and commissioning issues within pediatric audiology
 - Integrating the commissioning of CAMHS and ensuring CAMHS have an early intervention/ prevention focus
24. All of these goals can be placed within the national strategic framework articulated by the NSF and the local framework articulated by the CYPSP.
25. The green paper proposes the integration of Children's Social Services with Education. Whilst early years and the youth service have been actively engaged in the CYPSP the engagement of schools and Atkins has been more limited. There is much more than can be done to promote a whole systems approach to raising educational achievement and CEA have joined the partnership and are now leading this aspect of our joint agenda.
26. Attached as appendix B is a more detailed position statement, which though not an exhaustive list of all multi-agency activity, it describes and assesses the activity across the system in meeting the green paper vision.

Response to the Green Paper

27. The proposals in the Green Paper offer a positive, challenging and a powerful opportunity to improve Children's Services.
28. Responses to the Green Paper are required by 01.12.04. During November the CYPSP and the ACPC have hosted four stakeholder events on the main chapter in the Green Paper;
 - Supporting Parents and Carers
 - Early interventions and effective protection
 - Workforce reform
29. A Chief Officer Team group including the Primary Care Trust, CEA & OPM, have steered the process and considered in particular the issues of accountability and governance. One aim of this has been to ensure that we worked closely with OPM to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the long-term review of education support services.
30. In addition the Youth Service and Southwark Children and Families Alliance led participation events with over 100 children. Their views are included in the response to government. On Track and Sure Start led a series of discussions with parents on the Green Paper. The view of parents, children, professionals and voluntary sector provide a basis for the response (set out in Appendix D) to the government's questions on the Green Paper. There is congruence between the views of children, parents and professionals. Most importantly they provide rich material to inform the shaping of services for children in Southwark. This is part of a longer-term process of integration, co-ordination and service redesign.
31. Much progress has been made in Southwark particularly in respect of health and social care integration. It will be important locally that this progress is maintained as the integration with education services proceeds.
32. The Green Paper sets a timetable for the establishment of Children's Trust governance arrangements by 2006. It is proposed the work we do to move developmentally to these arrangements in Southwark be guided by the following principles;
 - Outcome focused
 - Children and family focused
 - Multi-disciplinary
 - Build the relationship between strong universal services (schools, GP practices) and specialist services
 - Support the schools improvement agenda
 - Provide common leadership of the whole system
 - Do not de-stabilize the system and maintain safeguarding priorities
 - Take the opportunity for improving services for children.

Next Steps

33. To fully meet the aspirations of the Green Paper a new phase of work is required to consider the different levels of integration needed in Southwark to secure improved outcomes for children.
34. It is proposed that the CYPSP continues to lead this work considering the level of integration required:
 - Local service network – the ways front line staff in education, health, social care, police, voluntary sector link in a locality to provide integrated services.

- Individual service users and their families – how do they gain access to advice in information, have more complex needs assessed and get a co-ordinated response.
 - Whole system level – how different sectors plan, commission / procure and manage services across Southwark.
35. For each set of services judgments will need to be made about whether integrated services are required and if so how much integration, for example in some cases;
- Sign posting – co-ordination will be sufficient
 - Managed processes – integrated assessments; lead workers, care pathways or joint planning will be sufficient
 - Integrated organizations – integrated teams providing services which we commissioned and managed through integrated process
36. A timetable and a method of reporting progress on the achievements of these objectives will be reported to the Executive in the New Year.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications Ref: FI/VN/667

37. The financial implications of these proposals will be substantial including directly provided, partnership and integrated services. Detailed costs will be provided as the council's additional/revised Children and Families service proposals become available.

.A new specific formula grant in 2004/05 has been provided to support councils improve their services to safeguard children following on from the Green Paper. Southwark's Safeguarding Children grant allocation for 2004/05 is £1.519 million. Approximately £1 million indicative growth has been included in the 3 year plan for years 2005/06 and 2006/07 to continue this process.

Human Resource Implications

38. The Green Paper identifies many challenges on workforce reform but offers a positive way forward to develop a new childcare workforce.
39. There are significant and wide- ranging workforce reform implications for the Council, the PCT, police and Connexions. Appendix B Chapter 6 summarises Southwark's position in relation to the proposals on workforce reform.
40. It is evident that much of the reform has a particular resonance for London, where vacancy levels for many professions working with children are often much higher than those found nationally.
41. The Proposals will undoubtedly lead to a more skilled and flexible workforce. Common core training, common occupational standards and continuous professional development for all people working with children sharing this common core of skills, knowledge and competence will allow them to work across professional boundaries and break down barriers between different roles.
42. This should make it a far more attractive career option, particularly as the reforms also propose a review of rewards, incentives and relativities. Whilst some of the reform will be driven nationally (eg establishment of Children's Workforce Unit, national Workforce Strategy, entry-level recruitment campaigns), a significant proportion of action will need to be developed locally as well.

43. Southwark is well placed to respond to these local challenges. For example Southwark already has a number of integrated multi disciplinary teams and is therefore particularly well placed to respond to some of the more challenging workforce implications of this.
44. Southwark already also has in place a Career Grade for Social Workers that provides for a 'consultant social worker' role at a high level seniority.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor & Secretary

45. The Executive is being asked
 - i) to endorse matters set out in paragraph one of this report and
 - ii) agree the response to the Government on the Green Paper "Every Child Matters" as set out in paragraph two.

These are both matters within the Executive's terms of reference.

46. The Climbié Report was presented to Parliament in January 2003. The Government's response to this is set out in Keeping Children Safe, which was published in September 2003. At the same time the Green Paper Every Child Matters was published. This sets out the government's vision for reforming and strengthening services for children, young people and their families.
47. The Green Paper also sets out a number of specific questions for consultation. The outcome from consultation can be expected to form the basis of a White Paper which is likely to come out next year. It is a matter for the Executive as to how it responds to the questions set out in the Every Child Matters
48. This report sets out how Southwark is seeking to improve services. It is for the Executive to decide if it endorses the direction that services are taking in Southwark.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

49. The consultation upon the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' concludes on 1st December 2003 and this paper needs to be considered prior to that date.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

50. The last consultation event took place on 19th November 2003 and the report had to be prepared subsequent to that.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<i>Green Paper: Every Child Matters, Department of Education and Skills</i>	<i>Mabel Goldwin House and DfES</i>	<i>Romi Bowen Or DfES</i>

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	<i>Romi Bowen, Deputy Director Social Services, Head Children's Services</i>	
Report Author	<i>K Macdermott / M Ward / W Powley-Baker</i>	
Version	<i>Final</i>	
Dated	<i>25 November 2003</i>	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	Yes	Yes
Executive Member		
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Service	25.11.03	

APPENDIX B

Green Paper: Every child matters

An assessment of Southwark’s position in relation to the proposals within the Green Paper: Every Child Matters.

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p><u>Chapter 1 The Challenge</u></p> <p>The aim of the Green Paper is to set a framework whereby key agencies such as the local authority, health, education, the police and voluntary and community sectors work together more effectively to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people.</p> <p>The Green Paper focuses on 5 key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being healthy • Staying safe • Enjoying and achieving • Making a positive contribution • Economic well-being 	<p>Southwark has prioritised a multi agency (partnership) approach to children and young peoples services for a number of years. This is reflected in a range of strategies and plans and has been led by the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and the ACPC. The CYPSP is a partnership of local authority, health, education, police, housing and the voluntary and community sectors. Membership fully represented with the exception of schools</p> <p>The CYPSP has an agreed vision and set of objectives that covers all five of the Green Papers outcomes and the achievements over the last two years have included integration of health and children’s services. Establishing a new early intervention service within social services.</p> <p>The ACPC is required by Government Guidance under Working Together to Safeguard Children 1999 and leads the development of interagency procedures, standards, training and review for Southwark agencies in safeguarding children.</p> <p>The CYPSP is involved in a number of work streams that</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			<p>Local Delivery Plan</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p> <p>Anti Poverty strategy</p> <p>Community strategy</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	support its objectives. These include Performance Management, Children and Young People’s Participation, Communications with the ACPC, Training sub group with the ACPC.	√			
<p>Chapter 2 Strong Foundations</p> <p>The Green Paper identifies a number of key ‘foundations’, building blocks, that must be in place to ensure that the various partners are working together in the right direction to ensure the best start in life for children and young people. These foundations cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling child poverty • Giving children the best start (ante and post natal and Sure Start) • Education • Access to health services • Reducing anti social behaviour • Strong communities • Ensuring the safety of our children <p>Tackling child poverty: The aim identified in the Green Paper is to halve child poverty by 2010 and ending it by 2020, through parental employment, minimum wage, tax credits</p>	<p>The Councils Anti-Poverty Strategy includes the extension of affordable childcare to facilitate parents undertaking paid work.</p>		√		<p>Community Strategy</p> <p>Anti Poverty Programme</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>etc. Whilst some of this happens at a national level (minimum wage and tax credits).</p>	<p>Increase quality and availability of childcare provision, through work of Southwark Childcare First.</p> <p>Sure Start, CAB, some GP surgeries and some schools provide benefits advice to parents.</p> <p>Southwark and the CYPSP has incorporated this outcome into a number of its strategies and plans.</p> <p><i>Related work taking place</i> Blackfriars Advice Centre outreach projects (Charterhouse in Southwark, Rockingham Community Centre for Bengali community, Southwark Travellers Action Group for travellers, Copleston Centre) Multi-Lingual Community Rights Shop Community and voluntary sector organisations</p> <p>Numeracy and literacy training (including budgeting and financial management) through Southwark adult education programme.</p> <p>Connexions CREDS Creating Real Employment for Disabled People in Southwark Learning and Skills Council Step into Learning scheme/ Skills for Life (national</p>		<p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>Programme</p> <p>Employment Strategy</p> <p>The NHS Improving Working Lives</p> <p>Community Legal Services Partnership</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p> <p>Health Improvement Plan</p> <p>Youth Strategy</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy) Network for Lifelong Learning: adult education and family learning				
<p>Ensuring children have a Sure Start – improved access to ante-natal and post-natal care; Sure Start Children’s Centres, early years and childcare; better early years support for disabled children</p>	<p>For the past five years Southwark’s Health Improvement Plan has emphasized the need to focus on children and young people. This priority has been reflected in a range of strategies and programmes including Sure Start, Early Years, Health Action Zone, the NRS in addition to mainstream change (PCT modernization plans and the CYPSP strategic plan).</p> <p>There are seven Sure Start areas in Southwark and the Children’s Centre Strategic Plan (04-06) builds on the existing Sure Start programme.</p> <p>Key activities currently provided include: Mother and baby groups, parenting support, mother tongue classes for children, bi-lingual families children’s library, nutrition advice and free fruit, speech and language therapy, oral health, support on housing and employment and benefits advice. Family support, home visiting scheme, child and adolescent mental health services</p> <p>Supporting parents and children where there have been safeguarding concerns. The PCT and Children’s Services have integrated a number of services. This often includes co-located multi-disciplinary teams (such as a Health Visitor placed within a Referral and Assessment team and Nurse Specialists</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>			<p>Sure Start plan/strategy PCT modernisation plans Family Support strategy HAZ Children First NRF</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>a Referral and Assessment team and Nurse Specialists working with CLA teams). There are links with sure start staff and social services district officers.</p> <p>On Track work on transitions for children (4-12) from nursery to primary school. And primary to secondary school. Uses a model of mediated learning. Works to academic and social outcomes. Provides access to specialist services. Maintains home/school link.</p> <p>Supporting people strategy</p> <p><i>Related work taking place</i> Sure start. NEWPIN Ante and Post Natal Project: Provision of care and support for women during pregnancy and after birth, with home visits and workshops, Aylesbury Plus, West Bermondsey, Rotherhithe.</p> <p>NEWPIN: Support to BME teenager in pregnancy and after. Sure start. NEWPIN: Black Teen Parents Project. East Peckham.</p>	 √ √ √ √			
Raising school standards – improving attendance, raising attainment of minority ethnic pupils; special educational needs;	CEA are leading a focused intervention to improve schools and services to school. The C&YPSP is committed to supporting the agenda to raise achievement		√		Education Plan NRS

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>education and training in teenage years; integrating services through extended schools & clusters of schools</p>	<p>in schools. It is doing this by ensuring that investment decisions by health, social care, youth services, youth crime and the application of Government funding streams for social inclusion are targeted at this objective.</p> <p><i>Related work taking place</i></p> <p>Young Refugee Project supporting young refugees into school</p> <p>Vulnerable Children grant – encouraging teenage parents’ access to education</p> <p>Youth Offending Team (YOT) early intervention programme</p> <p>Bridging the Gap reaching troubled young people</p> <p>PCT School health service – development of a ‘cluster’ model</p> <p>Various after school programmes e.g. Charter School ‘extension and enrichment hour’</p> <p>HAZ and NRF fund a number of breakfast clubs</p> <p>Healthy Schools Partnership</p> <p>Free fruit in schools</p> <p>Multi agency Behaviour Improvement Support Teams (BEST) are working with clusters of schools to help those pupils with the most serious problems. YOT collaborates with BEST and provides support to pastoral care support programme eg citizenship, crime and consequence.</p> <p>YOT have commissioned Thomas Corm Foundation to provide support to young victims in a range of settings including schools.</p>		√		<p>HAZ Children First Healthy Schools Partnership LDP</p> <p>Young refugee and asylum children and young people’s strategy</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>Karrot bus which rewards achievement</p> <p>QP education project for Children in Public care.</p> <p>Connexions partnership with schools and prospect services</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy awareness programmes in schools</p> <p>Drug education awareness programmes in schools</p> <p>To support young people in public care to remain in education and learning and to provide support to enable this to happen.</p> <p>Development of Archbishop Michael Ramsey as a pilot for extended schools</p>				
<p>Increasing access to primary health care and specialist health services - training for clinicians in primary care, links with Children’s Centres & Children’s Trusts; specialist health services – increase in speech and language therapists; CAMHS increase in 10% over each of 3 years, NSF; reduce unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; reduce drug misuse.</p>	<p>The approach in Southwark has been to strengthen the early intervention tier of our services. The objective has been to target more appropriately designed services more effectively and more quickly assessment to services. This approach has been achieved through the integration and co-location of a number of health and social services.</p> <p>Framework for integrated CAMHs service agreed. Led by CYPSP CAMHs workstream including expansion of current BEST services, tier 2 locality based services and Bridging the Gap (outreach) service.</p>	√	√		<p>Local delivery Plan PCT modernisation plans</p> <p>Children’s NSF due April 2004 Teenage Pregnancy strategy</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>PCT Child and Adolescent Mental Health services integrated Community Mental Health and Social Services teams. Social workers based in each CAMHs team.</p> <p>PCT & SS currently recruiting a joint commissioner fro CAMHs. Agreed to utilise a pooled budget for CAMHs. Completed consultation with CAMHs stakeholders (all professional groups across health, social care, education and voluntary sector)</p> <p>PCT and Children’s Services combining the commissioning of services to young people and their families with mental health needs.</p> <p>Joint funded, co-located, multi disciplinary mental health and social services Carelink service to children looked after</p> <p>Intensive Parenting Project provides CAMHs to vulnerable children and families on the child protection register. The service targets those at the top of level 3 intervening to prevent movement into level 4 services.</p> <p>The joint commissioning of CAMHs is overseen by the CYPSP.</p> <p>PCT modernisation plan on access to specialist child health services (e.g. speech and language therapies and disability services). Achieved 15% reduction in waits for SALT.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>Sexual Health Modernisation Plan DAAT Sure Start Plus</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>First Point of Contact – (co-location of primary care services, social services and police) Better communication about activities to promote sexual health to young people: Promote usage of Sexwise number in schools, in local publications, at statutory and voluntary health sessions and via library services</p> <p><i>Related work taking place</i> Visible confidentiality scheme NRF East Peckham Youth Programme NRF Nunhead Youth Programme NRF Sexual health services for young people NRF SE15 Walk –in: PCT Young people friendly outreach family planning service and emergency contraception Home- visiting tuition service for young mums Quality Protects education project to support foster carer’s and teenage parents to continue education Antenatal care to teenage mothers Sure Start plus</p>				
<p>Reducing anti-social behaviour – see separate proposals for the youth justice; powers to address anti-social behaviour of children under 10, revise Child Safety Order; Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme to prevent</p>	<p>Street Action teams being rolled out across Southwark: multi-agency approach to street crime.</p> <p>Street Warden scheme NRF YOT early intervention service for 8 to 13 year olds pilots</p>		<p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>YOT Hate Crime Strategy Homelessness Strategy. Youth</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
custody; rationalising the number of community sentences available – inc drugs treatment, anger management, parenting programmes, residential placements for young offenders, such as intensive fostering for 10 & 11 year old persistent offenders. Reduce incidents of truancy	multi agency Youth Inclusion and Support Panels. Commissions a Senior and a Junior Youth Inclusion project for children most at risk. YOT Interventions include a dedicated Gangs Disruption project, provides dedicated workers as part of the Anti Social Behaviour Unit, and works with Forum Theatre on a Youth on Youth Violence Reduction project in a number of schools.				Strategy
Building strong and vibrant communities – children need somewhere to go and something to do, Govt intends to widen range of activities for young people through: investment in youth services, Positive Activities for Young People (at risk of anti-social behaviour, offending or truanting – inc school holidays); Young People’s Fund; PE and School Support; LAs to ensure an effective system for identifying and prioritising needs and signposting opportunities.	<p>The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy In Southwark emphasises the need for a focus on children and young people in developing and supporting communities across Southwark. This is supported and informed by the CYPSP that reports directly to the Southwark Alliance.</p> <p>Participation of over 70 children and young people in the design, planning and operation of services to ensure better outcomes and build on the partnership model outlined in the Green paper.</p> <p>Children’s participation strategy in place. Sub group of the CYPSP leads on participation. C&YP event in February 03.</p> <p>ACPC conference spring 04 with Faith communities on safeguarding children to include parents.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p>		<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p> <p>Youth Strategy</p> <p>Youth Services</p> <p>Children’s Fund</p> <p>IRT</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p align="center">Related work taking place</p> <p>Food in Schools programme including Fruit in Schools Mapping of food availability in Rockingham estate and a Fruit and Veg Scheme St Matthews at the Elephant Fruit and Veg Scheme Peckham Healthy Living Network/ food delivery scheme in development Multi -agency holiday activity programmes between schools, LEA, YOT, Police and youth and connexions service</p> <p>Children’s Fund – preventative projects to reduce children’s health social and educational inequalities through arts, education, leisure, sports and personal development and family support</p>				Participation strategy promoted through the CYPSP
<p>Ensuring children are safe – tackling bullying; continuing Safer Schools Partnerships with police in schools etc, PHSE programmes in schools; supporting victims as witnesses in criminal justice system; build on best practice in tackling prostitution; homelessness: provide support, Homeless Act 2002 requires LAs to review; by March 2004 no family with children to be placed in B&B; new standards for temporary accommodation; support for unaccompanied asylum seekers and children who have been</p>	<p>The ACPC working with Police and SSD on prostitution;</p> <p>The new London-wide Notify system will assist Housing, Education and Social Services to work closely on homeless families as will the new London Child Protection Procedures;</p> <p>Southwark part of ‘Operation Paladin’, a Home Office pilot tracking unaccompanied children at Heathrow placed within Southwark.</p> <p>Local stakeholder event held on trafficking of children.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>		Youth Crime Strategy.

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>seekers and children who have been trafficked</p>	<p>ACPC conference spring 04 on trafficking of children and young people.</p> <p>YOT provides a Young Victims project with two Victim Liason officers in the YOT.</p> <p>YOT and Social Services work in partnership with Camberwell Youth Court to provide a video link to enable young victims of crime and child abuse to give evidence via video.</p>				

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p><u>Chapter 3 Supporting Parents and Carers</u></p> <p>The Green Paper places support to parents and carers at the heart of its approach.</p> <p>The Green Paper outlines a number of national and local services that it would expect to see as part of this strategy including a national parenting helpline; parents’ info meetings at key transition points; family learning programmes; support for fathers as well as mothers; better communication between schools and parents; childcare, early years education, social care & schools working more closely with parents; joint professional training on behaviour issues</p>	<p>In Southwark we have also prioritised support to parents and carers as detailed in the Family Support Strategy agreed by the CYPSP in November 2002.</p> <p>Southwark’s Family Support Strategy details an approach that combines better information sharing, a system of one-stop shops and ‘sign posting’ and working in partnership with parents and carers to allow them to effectively parent and achieve the best outcomes for their children.</p> <p>A Service Directory has been developed by Early Years and Children’s Information Services provide a helpline to parents plans to use Customer Call Centre for family support information.</p> <p>We would need to ensure that the national helpline has relevant and up-to-date local information for Southwark families.</p> <p>Transition point meetings are held regularly between primary and secondary education as part of On-Track. On-Track also provide parent and teacher drop ins.</p> <p>NEWPIN support a programme of support to fathers.</p> <p>The Joint CYPSPB and ACPC Training Coordination group will be devising integrated training for staff from all agencies working with parents and children.</p> <p>Sure start/early years are working closely with parents</p>	<p>√</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>Children’s NSF Family Support Strategy Early Years Sure Start Vol & community sector</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>and carers to strengthen their understanding of child development.</p> <p>Spokes and Webster Stratten parenting programmes are currently used in the On Track programme, YOT service. Southwark one of two pilot sites for the residential component of the Strengthening Family Support programme – for parents under parenting orders.</p>		√		
<p>Targeted and specialist support to parents of children requiring additional support - range to tailored help required – pre& post natal home visiting programmes; parent education programmes; family group conferencing; family mediation; stress and relationship counselling; services for parents of disabled children; services for young carers; & children with parents in prison</p>	<p>The Family Support services currently available in Southwark include a significant proportion of those listed in the Green Paper. Of importance is the home start programme who work very closely with the Sure Start programmes to deliver home visiting and support programmes</p> <p>For transition from children’s to adult services (all areas) a strategy for earlier planning and contact is in place. The protocol and escalation policy are drafted to be finalised Jan 04.</p>		√		<p>Family Support Strategy LDP Children’s NSF</p>
<p>Compulsory action through Parenting Orders - Anti-Social Behaviour White Paper;</p>					

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>Adoption and Children Act 2002 & Recruitment and retention of skilled foster carers – improving adoption and fostering services – need for early permanence planning for children who cannot remain in birth family, extend common assessment framework; Choice Protect Grant for fostering, review pay, national helpline, enhanced training, mentoring, short break provision; & new guidance in 2004 on residential care</p>	<p>Social Services Adoption and Fostering Services are increasing the number of looked after children who are placed in stable family placements.</p> <p>Systems are in place for parallel planning for looked after children to ensure permanence – backed by independent reviews of cases.</p> <p>Choice Protect Grant is used effectively for recruiting, training and supporting foster carers. Southwark has 24-hour helpline support for foster carers.</p> <p>Residential services for children in Southwark are being outsourced to a very experienced voluntary organisation.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p>		
<p>Chapter 4 Early Intervention and Effective Protection</p> <p>Improve information sharing – local information hub in every LA, core identifying information and ‘flags’ for early warnings and involvement when child known to particular agencies; more flags may require intervention; Identification, Referral & Tracking; single electronic identifying number for each child; information sharing protocols; reforming professional cultures on info sharing</p>	<p>Identification, Referral and Tracking – current work includes; developing effective information sharing protocols across all services; Piloting the business processes on signposting referring children flag concerns and tracking children; developing initial assessments; identifying common definitions of risk across all services; piloting a electronic record that could be developed into a signposting, flagging concerns and identifying who is working with a child or has worked with that child; developing the capacity to share information with education social care and health regarding children that are known to those services. Developing service directory</p>		<p>√</p>		<p>IRT Children’s NSF</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>are known to those services. Developing service directory and signposting service.</p> <p>IRT – Information sharing protocols have been written. A seminar in December with Key agencies will begin to examine how they can work and develop an implementation plan. An event on IRT is taking place in December with 6 key services to pilot how IRT will work looking using a hub model to co-ordinate the processes.</p> <p>Social Services and the PCT have begun information sharing, focussing on children with disabilities, children in need of protection and Children Looked after. The PCT are currently scoping the project.</p> <p>The new Government Guidance on protecting children and the London Child Protection Procedures both address this issue for all practitioners. The ACPC is disseminating these widely throughout Southwark to all agencies working with children and/or parents.</p>	√	√		
Establish Common Assessment Framework	<p>A Common Assessment Framework for children with disabilities was piloted in Southwark through the Health Action Zone. Work on developing the underpinning protocols is current.</p> <p>The basis of a common assessment is used in social services with other agencies this is the inter agency referral. This uses the framework for assessment as the model of assessment. This process could be built on to develop a common referral format for all services to use.</p>			√	<p>Children’s NSF</p> <p>National Framework for Assessment; Integrated</p>

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>The Government is saying that the framework for assessment is the format to use.</p> <p>The Framework for Assessment was introduced across key agencies in 2001.</p> <p>The ACPC is now reviewing its use and ensures that it is addressed in all inter-agency training. This will be a good base for introducing locally any new common assessment tools.</p>	√	√		data information system; Asset assessment; Connexions tool for assessment
Identify lead professionals – where child is known to more than one service would come, e.g. from service that has most contact with the child; lead professional would be gatekeeper of the info about the child	<p>For universal health services, young children (under 2) are allocated a Health Visitor. Primary school children have class teachers. Learning mentors, SENCO’s , education welfare officers, school nurses, family resource teams in social services.</p> <p>Connexions (13 to 19) based on the model of lead professional.</p> <p>Youth Inclusion Support Panels allocate a lead professional (YOT or SS).</p> <p>The model of one lead professional for each child who is in contact with more than one service has been accepted in Southwark as an appropriate way forward. This has been incorporated into the development of information protocols and systems and the assessment framework (above).</p>	√ √ √	√		IRT guidance from the children and young people’s unit

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>Children in need or in need of protection are allocated social workers to coordinate the multi-disciplinary action to safeguard them. Young people involved in the criminal justice system may be allocated a YOT worker rather than a social worker.</p> <p>It will be possible to build on this with local protocols about which agency should lead for what type of work as key worker</p>		√		
<p>Integrate professionals through multi-disciplinary teams. The Green Paper highlights the need to integrate social care, health and education around needs of children not the providers; professionals to work alongside each other in teams using the <i>Common Assessment Framework</i></p>	<p>The Council and PCT have agreed to integrate Health and Social Care. Thus Southwark has already achieved a number of multi-disciplinary teams including CAMHS, Health Visitors placed within the Referral and Assessment teams, Nurse specialists within CLA teams.</p> <p>Family resource teams in social services</p> <p>Some social services teams will also include specialist drugs or domestic violence workers. There is a team of teachers working to plan the response to educational needs for each looked after child they are integrated into the Looked After Children’s Service.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary teams also operate within Sure Start, Connexions and YOT.</p>	√	√		PCT modernisation plan
<p>Co-locate services – strong case for basing these around place where children spend most time e.g.</p>	<p>Southwark has adopted a model of both co-location and networks. Where appropriate multi-disciplinary teams are co-located (e.g. YV and Referral and Assessment) to</p>		√		Sure Start

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>children spend most time e.g. school/Sure Start; multi-agency teams supporting clusters of schools, etc; better information sharing</p>	<p>co-located (e.g. HV and Referral and Assessment). In other examples (such as the Family Resource Teams) we have developed a model of a ‘network’ of services with clear ‘sign posting’ and referral pathways from one point to another.</p> <p>Both models have been developed and are currently in use.</p> <p>Police in schools, Family Resource teams, Referral and Assessment teams, Personal Connexion Advisors, On-Track, Family therapists in schools, YOT, BEST, Sure Start, DAAT, Domestic Violence workers in a variety of settings are all examples of co-located services currently provided in Southwark.</p>				Schools
<p>Ensure effective child protection – clear practice standards; new statutory duties; key local lead professional (Director of Children’s Services) for child protection; inspection that looks at working together; workforce reform; revise and shorten guidance on CA1989; joint audits of SSDs, Police and health re child protection; raise priority of safeguarding children for all agencies/organisations</p>	<p>The ACPC has recently led on the introduction of the new national child protection guidance (following the Climbié Inquiry) and the New London Child Protection Procedures which set clear standards.</p> <p>Support is given to agencies (including independent and voluntary) to develop their own standards where needed.</p> <p>The ACPC has an ongoing formal system for joint independent auditing of work across the system from each agency’s perspective to ensure that agreed standards are met and that inter-agency work is of good quality.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
	<p>The PCT and SSD have agreed to jointly audit samples of casework.</p> <p>The Police and Social Services jointly audit samples of work in specialist interviewing of children for criminal evidence.</p> <p>The ACPC has a programme of inter-agency training events to promote awareness and skills in safeguarding at all levels.</p> <p>It is reviewing its communication strategy to ensure that all agencies are aware of the need to prioritise safeguarding of children.</p> <p>This includes a specific project for local independent and voluntary organisations to assist them in reviewing policies and provide training.</p> <p>Stop project works with young sex offenders.</p> <p>Leadership from the highest level in all local agencies, Local Authority Depts, including those whose focus is primarily with adult service users, is essential and the LA may wish to stress this in its response to Govt in relation to the statutory duty to safeguard children being applied to all disciplines/ agencies and not just SSD, health and police as proposed in the Green Paper.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p>		

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>Chapter 5 Accountability and Integration – Locally, Regionally and Nationally</p> <p>This chapter outlines a number of national and local proposals. The aim of which are to improve the coordination and delivery of services locally.</p> <p>These proposals include:</p> <p>New local post of Director of Children’s Services – accountable for local authority education and children’s social services</p>				√	
<p>Lead council member for children</p>				√	
<p>Children’s Trusts – the longer term aim is integrate services for children and young people under the Director as part of Children’s Trust, inc. some children’s health, Connexions, YOT, etc. The aim is for most areas to have Trusts by 2006. Each area will have clear objectives, to deliver services of education and health (and others as agreed) and also the co-ordination of children’s services outside the Trust; pooled budgets; joint training; arrangements for dealing with interface</p>	<p>The principles, objectives and outcomes that the structural change of a Children’s Trust aims to promote are the principles, objectives and outcomes that Southwark CYPSP has agreed and been working towards.</p> <p>The PCT and Social Services are in the process of integrating both the commissioning and provision of services and legal expertise has been seconded to Social Services and is currently working with the CYPSP developing an appropriate governance framework for use of the Health Act flexibilities (such as pooled budgets).</p>		√		Family support strategy

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
with services to parents etc e.g. mental health					
<p>The Green Paper require LAs to work with public, private and voluntary organisations to improve outcomes for children – build on current Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Boards.</p> <p>Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards to replace ACPCs. There will be new legislation to ensure that LAs have a duty to set up LSCBs inc. key agencies – chaired by <i>Director of Children’s Services</i>; agree financial contribution; and adopt current ACPC responsibilities as set out in <i>Working Together</i> and child death reviews</p>	<p>The ACPC currently leads on safeguarding children in Southwark.</p> <p>It would be helpful to have its status as statutory, as recommended. It may be that more senior representation from agencies is required to make its work more effective as there have been experiences of slow response or implementation of ACPC recommendations.</p> <p>There is already a history of a jointly negotiated budget for the committees work. More work may need to be done on this in relation to shared training – see below on Workforce reform.</p> <p>A key message will be that local agencies need to ensure that they ‘staff’ the LCSB with members who have the authority and time to undertake the LCSB’s work programme.</p>	√			
Chapter 6 <u>Workforce Reform</u>					

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
<p>This chapter details changes to the workforce, much of which will happen nationally. However, a significant proportion will need to happen locally as well:</p> <p>There will be a national workforce strategy for children’s workforce – to make it a more attractive career option; reviewing rewards, incentives and relativities.</p>	<p>Social Services has been successfully developing its recruitment initiatives for staff to work with children and families through imaginative advertising and pay incentives for staff with post-qualification awards.</p> <p>Work could be done on Southwark focussed adverting and recruitment across agencies so that there is less ‘competition’.</p> <p>YOT has an accredited programme for volunteers to encourage future employment in the sector. Signed up to the Yout Justice Human resources strategy.</p>	√	√		
High profile recruitment campaign					
Comprehensive workload survey	Social Services has a workload system for new workers graded according to workers training, skills and development.	√			
More flexible and attractive training routes into social work	Social services recruits trainees and offers posts that are seen as a step up to social work careers/training. It also offers bursaries to social work students.	√			
Common occupational standards across children’s practice linked to modular qualifications to allow movement between jobs	NVQs are used by a number of local agencies with staff, carers or childminders.		√		

Proposals in the Green Paper – Government’s vision	Our current position in relation to the vision	Meet	In progress	Not met	Linked strategies & plans
Common core training	<p>Joint strategy between the CYPSP and ACPC to establish joint training initiatives and plans in place.</p> <p>The newly formed joint ACPC/CYPSPB Training Group is building on the successful work of the ACPC over a number of years in commissioning and delivering joint and inter-agency multi-disciplinary training.</p> <p>The CYPSPB and ACPC have already agreed a policy or moving towards common training needs analysis and delivery for core knowledge and skills in child welfare.</p> <p>An issue will be the budgets for this that will have to be pooled.</p> <p>It has been agreed that there should be a HAZ funded Inter-Agency Training Coordinator in Southwark to take this forward.</p>	√	 √ √		

Vision Statement of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

Children and young people are the Borough's future and its most precious asset. We must ensure that they have the opportunity to lead a full, healthy and satisfying life. They should become active contributors to their local community and participate effectively, socially, educationally and economically.

To achieve this vision, the Partnership Board want:

- Children and their families to live in safe, secure communities, empowered to have the skills and knowledge to be protected from abuse, harassment, discrimination, prejudice, exploitation and neglect.
- Families to develop the confidence and capability to love, protect and care for their members.
- To meet the needs of the most vulnerable and socially excluded children and families in a timely and effective way.
- Families to know how and where to get assistance when they need it.
- To develop services so that children and families can get help promptly to solve difficulties when they first arise.
- To develop trusting, flexible and innovative partnerships between statutory, voluntary and independent sectors.
- To share information, methods and responsibilities, for example, for managing risk or assessing the impact of services.
- To enhance multi-disciplinary and cross-organisational working by acknowledging the range of skills, experience and expertise of individual workers, as well as valuing the contribution of different professional groups.
- To involve children, young people, their families and communities in the development of preventative services.
- To raise primary and secondary school standards and help and support children and young people achieve their educational potential.

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Strategic Principles

(1) Centred on the needs of the young person

The best interests, wishes and feelings of the child or young person will be paramount.

(2) Family oriented

Full account will be given to the family members including extended and chosen family - as well as carers - who contribute significantly to the well-being of children.

(3) Equitable and non-discriminatory

All children should have access to and be enabled to participate in services that they need, when they need them, in a way which respects diversity and individual needs.

(4) Inclusive

Policies and services will be sensitive to the individual needs and aspirations of every child and young person.

(5) Results oriented and evidence based

High quality research, evaluation, monitoring and review should ensure that decisions that affect children and young people are well informed.

(6) Coherent in design and delivery

Services should be woven together in a coherent and integrated form where it will be evident how the progress and change expected for children will be achieved.

(7) Supportive and respectful

Policies and services will be delivered in a manner that is respectful and supportive of children and young people.

(8) Empowering

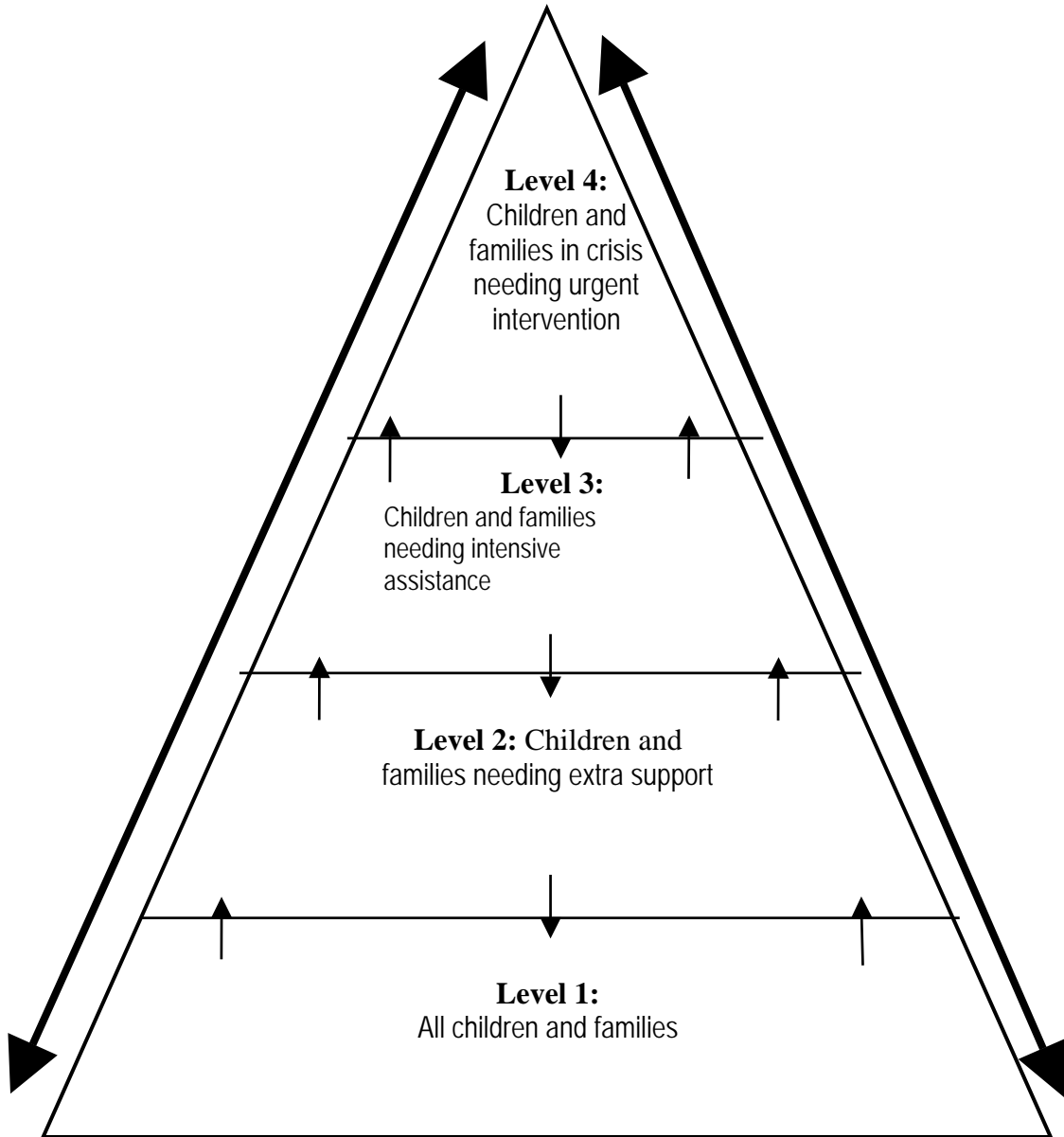
Children and young people will have real chance to take responsibility for their policies and services.

OUTCOMES – Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board

The Partnership Board has committed itself to the delivery of the following outcomes for children through the Preventative Strategy:

- Improving children’s health
- Pregnant women and newborns thrive
- Children are ready for school
- Children succeed in school
- Children and young people thrive and are safeguarded
- Children and young people live in stable, supported families
- Young people choose healthy behaviours
- Transitions are successful for children and young people (early years, secondary transfer, preparing for independence)
- Families, children and young people are engaged and contribute to their communities’ decisions and activities
- Families, children and young people live in safe and supportive communities

The four levels of service: universal, targeted, specialist and rehabilitative



Every Child Matters

Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is 01/12/2003

Note when completing Electronically: Use: • **Mouse** to access hyperlinks and input boxes;
• **Scroll** bar to navigate the form;

The information you send us may need to be passed to colleagues and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

We may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available on public request, individual consultation responses. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

Please insert 'X' if you want us to keep your response confidential

Name

Bob Coomber, Chief Executive

Organisation (if applicable)

Southwark Council & Southwark PCT, CYPSPB & ACPC

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If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact:

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Please insert 'X' in **one** of the following boxes that best describes you as a respondent.

Social Services Department

Sure Start

LEA

Connexions

Inspectorate

Professional Association

Voluntary Organisation

Trade Union

Parent

Other (please specify)

Council, PCT, CYPSPB, ACPC, MAPPP

Chapter 2

Views are invited on the proposals set out in this Chapter. In particular:

Question 1

How can we improve support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, building on the work of the Children's Panel?

Comments:

There is a need to map and understand the prevalence of unaccompanied minors nationally and locally in relation to possible 'hidden' young people and their needs.

To provide A more effective support system of sharing information across the whole system - including faith communities and voluntary agencies - needs to be prioritised.

With regard to unaccompanied minors who are privately fostered we recommend a major publicity campaign and the introduction of telephone hotlines for advice and reporting of possible private fostering.

Consideration should be given to the use of publicity in key countries from which it is understood that unaccompanied children come.

Question 2

How can we ensure that serious welfare concerns are appropriately dealt with alongside criminal proceedings?

Comments:

Statutory agencies will need to make referrals and share information at the investigation stage of criminal proceedings as well as in any pre-sentence reports recommending disposal.

Consideration should be given to a 'flagging system' to trigger fuller information sharing and joint assessment of a family where there have been several criminal incidents within an agreed period of time. (IRT would assist this).

All agencies should be required to have Child Protection protocols or to sign up to the ACPC/LSCB agreed policies, including YOIs and prisons.

Question 3

How can we encourage clusters of schools to work together around extended schools?

Comments:

Clusters of schools will be encouraged where benefits can be identified.

These benefits could include: - easier and faster access to a wider range of services e.g. health or social care, the pooling of resources, sharing of buildings and facilities, sharing of information and advice (e.g. careers advice etc) and allow some extended schools to take on specialist roles such as language teaching and work with disabled children.

Chapter 3

Views are invited on the proposals set out in this Chapter. In particular:

Question 4

How can good quality decision-making by social services in relation to achieving permanence for the children for whom they are responsible best be achieved?

Comments:

good policies and standards and Independent Reviews of looked after children as set out in the current draft guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers which is already being introduced in Southwark.

Clear quality performance management systems (e.g. Southwark's Quality Assurance Unit)

We recommend that the Government reviews the consultation processes for looked after children and young people, in particular the paper booklets currently used, and to make these accessible electronically and by other innovative means. (Southwark is working on these and has introduced a Life Pack for all children looked after permanently)

Question 5

Building on Choice Protects, what more can we do to recruit and retain more foster carers who are able to meet the needs of looked after children?

Comments:

- Coordinated national or regional fostering recruitment campaigns will avoid competition and maximise publicity; these could be voluntary agency or SSD led.
- A national review of terms and conditions for foster carers in relation to remuneration and support so that it is a viable alternative to paid employment.
- Local agencies and national organisations should develop collaborative recruitment and training with fostering and childminding / other children's day care services so that experiences and resources can be shared or to permit movement between the systems.
Kinship carers should be seen as possible substitutes to foster care for children who cannot return to their birth parents. There should be a review of their status, assessment, minimum standards, and remuneration.
- A review of minimum standards of training and support for foster carers.
- Fostering services to develop more multi-disciplinary partnerships to make supporting foster carers the business of other agencies/professions so that foster carers get the best support infrastructure possible.
- Government should review tax rules for some types of foster care to remove disincentives - more complex and difficult situations currently may attract payments which are taxable.

Question 6

How can local authorities, working with the voluntary, community and private sectors, develop a range of specialist parenting support services?

Comments:

Each Local Authority to map and evaluate the range of specialist parenting support services available within a given area - Southwark has agreed to do this.

Set indicators that signal thresholds for referral to statutory agencies for children in need or at risk with regard to assessment and ensure training across the whole system in these indicators.

Incorporate these into the common assessment processes at the universal level including triage systems to ensure smooth and speedy transition to additional interventions.

Regional and local signposting and service directories for both professionals and parents - these may need to be different in format and should link into helplines and other advice systems. Neighbouring Local Authorities and other local agencies should work collectively on these.

Question 7

Working with local authorities and other existing providers, what steps should the Government take to make home visiting services more widely available?

Comments:

A Review of what services can be more effectively delivered in family homes and what services need to be delivered through care centres, extended schools, clinics, etc.

Government to issue guidance, targets, training and resources to deliver home visiting services, following the review above.

Fund should be made available for family support services, such as Sure Start or Children's centres to develop homevisiting.

Question 8

What further action could be taken to extend the use of direct payments by families with disabled children?

Comments:

To support families to navigate the system so they know what services are available and how to access them.

Access to independent advice and advocacy.

An agency should be given responsibility for Accreditation and Approved Lists of Providers to assure parents of minimum standards of service/care. These will have to be independent of the local service providers to ensure impartiality.

Question 9

What more could be done to improve services for children and families of offenders?

Comments:

Services are needed that target risk factors such as offending, education failure, disrupted peer relationships and social and psychological behaviour disturbance of either and /or both parent /child, including substance and alcohol misuse.

Parenting education programmes developed in Youth Offending Insitutions and Prisons.

Chapter 4

Views are invited on the proposals set out in this Chapter. In particular:

Question 10

What currently gets in the way of information-sharing, and how can we remove the barriers?

Comments:

Barriers include the lack of agreed thresholds, - knowledge of levels of risk, - gaining consent, - legislation, - use of "jargon", - professional ownership, responsibility, accountability and security of systems .

Joint training, "selling" the benefits to professionals, information technology solutions, protocols, accountability, ensuring accuracy, sharing core information, access to information in a timely manner, common understanding of assessment models are all key to removing barriers.

Question 11

What should the thresholds and triggers be for sharing information about a child?

Comments:

Clear guidance including examples. Southwark has been working on this with a joint information sharing protocol. The thresholds are attached as an example. Appendix C1.

Question 12

What are the circumstances (in addition to child protection and youth offending) under which information about a child could or must be shared without the consent of the child or their carers?

Comments:

see question 11 above

Question 13

Should information on parents and carers, such as domestic violence, imprisonment, mental health or drug problems, be shared?

Comments:

Yes

see question 11.

Question 14

How can we ensure that no children slip through the system?

Comments:

Common Assessment Framework

Lead professionals

information sharing and co-ordination

Question 15

What issues might stand in the way of effective information transfer across local authority boundaries?

Comments:

Differing interpretations of the law and guidance, non-compatible IT systems, differing perceptions on vulnerability/ thresholds for intervention between agencies and different areas, differing data sets and lack of protocols or agreements between Local Authorities all stand in the way of effective transfer.

Question 16

Should a unique identifying number be used?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

Yes

The NHS number is the favoured unique identifier.

There will need to be robust systems in place to allocate this number to children arriving from abroad quickly.

Views are also invited in the proposals relating to multi-disciplinary teams:

Question 17

What are the barriers to developing them further in a range of settings?

Comments:

Barriers to multi disciplinary teams include :

Maintaining professional identities within multi -disciplinary teams.

Who has management responsibility for issues around professional supervision and line management;

Different conditions of service, pay etc;

Information sharing;

Different priorities and targets;

Solutions to overcome these barriers include;

Common standards and training for core competencies;

Multi-disciplinary teams are located together with a single clinical governance structure;

Ensuring clarity of the role of each professional within the multi disciplinary setting

Set joint priorities and targets

Question 18

How can we ensure multi-disciplinary teams have greater leverage over mainstream and specialist services?

Comments:

By establishing pooled budgets; joint commissioning frameworks; joint mangement and strong protocols working with providers and users.

Strong protocols will be need to be in place.

These will need to include pooled budgets , planning and commissioning processes.

Chapter 5

Views are invited on the proposals set out in this Chapter. In particular:

Question 19

How can we encourage better integration of funding for support services for children and young people?

Comments:

A shared and national community needs assessment approach is required to agree priorities across all commissioners/providers.

The key elements include: Joint Commissioning frameworks, agreed joint performance management frameworks, joint Quality assurance systems, used pooled budgets..

Question 20

Should all authorities and other relevant local agencies have a duty to promote the wellbeing of children?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments:

This must be a statutory duty rather than guidance only expressed as part of the annual business planning for all services.

A shared duty should be required for all those working with children and that this is underlined as a core duty to work together to meet children's needs and ensure that they reach potential as the outcome.

The Children & Young People's Partnership should have responsibility and accountability for the whole system in ensuring the promotion of children's wellbeing.

Question 21

How best can young people be involved in local decision making and should the Government, for example, establish minimum standards for this?

Comments:

Southwark has consulted with local children and young people through a variety of meetings to prepare this response and has recently developed a strategy to include children and young people in all levels of decision making.

The minimum standards should include practical arrangements in place to include training and preparation to participate including young / parents as facilitators to the process as well.

Initiatives will be needed for adults working with children and young people to work within a participation framework.

Expenses are met and incentives be considered.

Finally a variety of forums and methods are used to facilitate this.

Participation should be part of the core business processes for all organisations working with children young people and their parents and carers.

Question 22

Should Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships and Local Safeguarding Boards be statutory, and what should their powers and duties be?

Comments:

Yes.

For Local Safeguarding Boards responsibilities should be extended to all local agencies delivering services to children and parents.

The duties of ACPCs be carried over to the Local Safeguarding Children Board's(LSCB). The levels of representation and authority needs to be mandated to ensure compliance and that the work of the LCSB's is carried back into local agency objectives and business plans and monitored.

Children and Young People's Partnerships and LSCBs should both be in position to co-ordinate, plan, commission and performance-manage the whole system and bring in those partners that contribute to services for children such as adult services, Police, YOT's.

Question 23

How can we develop, enhance and encourage the Children's Trust model?

Comments:

There needs to be good governance arrangements for the model to work.

Guidance on appropriate governance arrangements with appropriate legislative amendments are needed.

It has to incorporate managed processes, performance management, commissioning processes and support services, with a basket of indicators based on outcomes for children's commissioning systems.

Children Trusts will need to be focused on leadership and services with the emphasis on integration accountability and outcomes.

Trusts should be introduced developmentally and also to be flexible enough to develop outsourcing of services where necessary. Trusts must also be allowed to develop according to their local populations and needs within agreed national parameters.

Question 24

What services should be required to form part of Children's Trusts, and what are the risks involved in involving more services-for instance, aligning Connexions geographical structures with Children's Trusts?

Comments:

A model of children trusts to be agreed by each Children and Young People's Partnership in line with the needs of the local area . Mix to include the Local Authority children's services and child health.

Locally the involvement of the YOT has enhanced the whole systems ability to build high quality early intervention for behaviour management and crime reduction.

Question 25

How can inspections be integrated better?

Comments:

Develop an integrated health, social care and education model based on processes such as the Comprehensive Performance Framework with enhanced criteria focusing explicitly on integration.

Chapter 6

Views are invited on the proposals set out in this Chapter. In particular:

Question 26

What are the priorities that the workforce reform strategy should tackle to improve recruitment, retention and incentives for those working with children?

Comments:

The following priorities would help tackle and improve recruitment retention and incentives for those working with children.

Joint advertising and recruitment across agencies within a given geographical area.

To train up local residents to join the work force, and provide for example local traineeships .

Continuity across agencies will be needed in terms of pay and conditions of service to ensure that transfer across or within sectors does not lead to disadvantage or to discourage movement that are either financial or relativity disincentives.

Create career pathways for unqualified staff into work with children.

To set up career pathways to enable staff to acquire new skills, make sideways career moves, remain in frontline services if they want.

Common recruitment across Early Years, Health and Social Care for 'assistant and support' type posts where initial qualifications are not needed. Better pay and conditons in the south and east and London where the problem is acute.

This to include access to housing and child care affordability incentives. Joint training and mandatory common core training, workers serving adults (who are parents) to be included. Joint local training and mandatory common core training including for all children and family workers serving adults (who are parents). Shared / joint training strategies and departments .

This will be developed as Children's Trusts take shape.

Question 27

Should all those working with children share a common core of skills and knowledge?

Yes**No****Not Sure****Comments:**

This is to include the following:-

Child development and parenting and family life cycle

Managing transitions. Understanding risk and protective factors and the pathways to services that are needed.

Listening and involving children and their parents and carers and working in partnership with them.

Common language among professional and practitioners that ensures effective communication

Record keeping. Understanding the needs of black and ethnic minority and new communities, children with disabilities and complex needs.

Question 28

Should there be a common qualifications structure for all those in key roles working with children? If so, which roles should it cover?

Yes**No****Not Sure****Comments:**

There should be a common compulsory module for all professional training to work with children or parents. This does not need to be a common qualification but allows professional and practitioners such as teachers, children's nurses and social workers etc to do the same module but also learn for their own role and a separate qualification.

Additional specialist training would be required in areas where specialist knowledge and training is needed.

Question 29

We welcome any further comments you may have on this Green Paper or on the Regulatory Impact Assessment which can be accessed on line at www.dfes.gov.uk/everychildmatters

Comments:

The views expressed in this document are based on whole system consultation exercises within the borough of Southwark involving professionals across disciplines and of different levels.

Children and parents were also consulted and their views have been incorporated.

The children's views are also being submitted separately Appendix D

The exercise has been co-ordinated by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board and Area Child Protection Committee on behalf of Southwark Council and Primary Care Trust.

The Southwark Children and Families Alliance co-ordinated responses from the voluntary sector.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel was also consulted. In any future exercises it is recommended that there is a clear process for parents to be involved.

We welcome the Green Paper which offers a positive, challenging and powerful opportunity to improve Children's Services. Given the progress made locally to integrate Health and Social Care we would want to maintain this progress as integration with education proceeds.

We welcome the move towards a child focused form of leadership but consider there should be flexibility at a local level to enable councils and their partners to put in place leadership arrangements to fit their local circumstances providing that the core objectives of integrated services, leadership and to prioritise outcomes for children have been met.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

As your views are valuable to us, would you allow us please to contact you again from time to time for the purposes of research or to send consultation documents?

Yes

No

Code of Practice on Written Consultations

The following seven standards from the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on written consultation should be reproduced in all consultation documents. This is binding on Departments. Ministers' reasons for any departures should be explained.

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Timing of consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left at each stage.
2. It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.
3. A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.
4. Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.
5. Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.
6. Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and the reasons for decisions finally taken.
7. Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation co-ordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the questions set out on this Green Paper “*Every Child Matters*”

Completed questionnaires and other responses, should be sent to the address shown below by **1 December 2003**.

Send by post to: **Children’s Green Paper, Consultation Unit, Level 1, Area B, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2GJ.**

Send by e-mail: Once you have completed the questionnaire, save it on your hard drive and then open an e-mail to: Consultation1.CHILDRENSGP@dfes.gsi.gov.uk attach the completed questionnaire file and send the e-mail.

APPENDIX C1

Southwark Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

Definition of vulnerability – Identification, Referral and Tracking

Educational Vulnerability

7 Child indicators	8 Family indicators	9 Environmental indicators
Informal school exclusion Truancy Under-achievement Bullying others Lack of punctual attendance	Parents / carers do not value education Condone unauthorised absence Reluctance to accept their child may have SEN	Home not conducive to education Victim of bullying Isolated from peers Truants with peers Multiple recent moves

Health Vulnerability

Child indicators	Family indicators	Environmental indicators
Developmental delay Child's disability Anxiety Depression Not registered with GP/Dentist Multiple A+E attendance Missed medical appointments Self harm Weight loss Substance misuse Poor nutrition Teenage Pregnancy Early sexual activity	Parent / carer disability Mental health problems Learning disability Substance/alcohol misuse Poor maternal health ante/post natal Poor parent/child relationships Inability to recognise health care needs Inappropriate anxiety regarding child's health	Inadequate housing Frequent mobility Isolation Lack of extended family support Absence of stimulation (e.g. toys, play equipment)

Social Vulnerability

Child indicators	Family indicators	Environmental indicators
Abusing / molesting behaviour	Domestic violence	Isolated
Behaviour problem	Poor parenting skills	No other agency support
Social isolation	Family wishes	Low income
Unmet physical needs	Pre-occupied with own needs	Siblings caring for younger children
Suffering actual harm	Parental criminality	Financial problems
Missing child	Parental substance misuse	Significant bereavement
Violence towards parents	Family conflict	Homelessness
Anti-social or criminal behaviour	Parent / carer refuses support	Anti-social friendship network
Refusing to return home	Private fostering	Racial harassment
Being left alone	Young people caring for adults within the home	High crime neighbourhood
Extreme changes in behaviour	Animal cruelty in the home	Drug availability
Child's own wishes		
Illegal employment		
Racial, cultural, gender, disability discrimination		
Fatigue		
Disclosed substance misuse		

Tell us what **YOU** think?

Summary Response Form

You need to do this by 1st December 2003

Note when completing Electronically: Use: • **mouse** to access hyperlink and input boxes;
• **scroll** bar to navigate the form;

The information you send to us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Department for Education and Skills and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. You will not be identified by name in anything we publish.

Name	Karl Murray
Organisation (if applicable)	Southwark Connexions
Address	15 Spa Road London SE1

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Tina Eckart at:

Telephone: **0207 273 5185**

Email: tina.eckart@cypu.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact:

Telephone: **01928 794888**

Fax: **01928 794 311**

Email: Consultation.Unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Please insert 'X' in **one** of the following boxes that best describes you as a respondent.

Individual

Young Persons Organisation

School

Other (please specify) ▶

Views of 70 young people from sevl meetings

We would find it really useful to have some more detailed information about you, if you are filling in this form as an individual.

By inserting an 'X' in the relevant boxes overleaf you will help us to understand more about what different young people think of our plans.

You do not have to answer all of the questions if you prefer not to.

All your answers will be kept private and confidential.

Are you...

Male

Female

Under 16

16-18

Over 18

Do you have a disability or special needs?

Yes

No

What is your ethnic group?

Choose one section from A to F, then put an 'X' in the box which best describes your cultural background.

A: White

British

Irish

Other (please specify) ▶

B: Mixed Heritage

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Other (please specify) ▶

C: Asian or Asian British

Indian

Bangladeshi

Other (please specify) ▶

Pakistani

D: Black or Black British

Caribbean

Other (please specify) ▶

African

E: Chinese

Chinese

Other (please specify) ▶

F: Other Ethnic Group

Please Specify:

Question 1

We need local services that make sure children and young people are healthy and safe, enjoying life, learning skills and able to make a contribution to society. **How can we best involve young people like you in improving those services?** (See page 5)

Comments:

Writing a letter or petition, arranging a meeting with Young People, or an open forum suggestion box, talk to friends and mentor or youth worker through a youth club or a tutor and provide a crèche.

Have a school council to help make a decision, to have a group of youth to do the lecture and to get the view from the youth forum. A Youth Forum to be provided at school as people predict that young people have interesting ideas!

Local Councils to carry out more questionnaires or to send out leaflets with a catch phrase giving away prizes for responses within 10 days. • More youths clubs to be opened to help young people keep out of trouble. • A group session with a council member who will not lecture but use terms that is understood. Preferably a good-looking! young adult who can relate/understand young people.

The use of interviews, questionnaires, emails and telephones to gain more input.

Question 2

Apart from education, what services would you like to see in your school? (See page 8)

Comments:

Also sport after hours, football for girls and a crèche for teachers' children and young mothers to do work experience in.

Other sports activities such as volleyball and swimming.

A full time school nurse or a doctor, councillor and police to help and advise children.

Library and extra classes needed.

Support services, mentors, legal advice social services and connexions needed but all should be confidential.

Connexions needed to offer advice on career moves and they are more understanding.

Stop pupils going outside of school and to have extended school.

Improved P.E. and science equipment and better school lunches. Also to have an animal club at school.

Slow learning centre.

A member of the youth offender team to help young offenders to 'strive for excellence'.

More trips to places such as House of Parliament. Evening classes.

–School disco or dance and parties, a Health Clinic, part-time job opportunities with presentations from colleges and 6th forms and free papers.

Question 3

How do you think we should use the Young People's Fund to give young people more and better things to do?
(See page 9)

Comments:

Extra activities for young people to enjoy in the spare time for example on a Saturday.

More youth clubs, meeting younger people, more outings and outdoor activities, more games (computer and board).

More availability for sports not just one option to be chosen but more than one. Money to be spent on science and P.E. equipment and to improve the toilets.

MC facilities in a music room, with a music sound system available and opportunities to enter music competitions. More dance classes to learn dance and arts in schools.

A room to be available to escape from bullies.

A language class.

Separate clubs for boys and girls to get them off the streets, and to have fitness centre which has books for children to read if they wish.

More theme parks with more funfairs'.

Better cafeteria and better food at schools not just chicken and chips!

Question 4

How do you think the Government can best help families at difficult times? (See page 11)

Comments:

Support for both parents and a child, free counselling for parents, financial support where needed, vouchers and holidays.

Schools to have an area for families or support centres for parents who can go in and talk about the problems they are having.

Also more support centres for families to go to for help in Connexions and more financial support.

Kids to have a secure temporary home for a few months to give time to both parents and children apart.

Nurseries to be available for working parents to help look after children while they work.

Families should be helped through times such as financial shortage and or divorces.

Government to help people who have lost their jobs to find other jobs rather than keeping them unemployed and near Christmas for the family to be helped as they wont have enough money.

The government should help keep families together.

Government to inform families of problems are faced by other people and encourage families to deal with problems together as families.

Focus should be put on to families with small babies and advice to be available where families need it, for example in hospitals.

To help with funeral costs when families lose someone close.

The government to provide more services to help with the following::

People who have emotional problems

People with no money

People that feel lonely.

Question 5

Do you have any suggestions for encouraging people to become foster carers and making sure they feel good about their work? (See page 11)

Comments:

A lot of children in need of foster care inform people that they can change lives, and that something can be gained in the future.

Create more awareness of the need of fostering. More posters and persuasive letters and perhaps offering some sort of certificate or reward for the help they have given.

Encourage their love for children and target those people who do not have children but love children.

Highlight the fact that they will be helping children in need for example giving a home to homeless children.

People who are considering going into foster care should be able to talk to other foster carers for advice and information.

Question 6

When do you think services should talk together about a child without the child knowing or saying it is OK?
(See page 13)

Comments:

Permission should be asked or the child should be present.

Services should not talk about the child if s/he is not there. Depends on the situation of the child, only if s/he is connected to child abuse or under really bad or legal situations for example drugs.

People can get hurt if they hear that others have been talking behind their back. Also if a child has said something in confidence and that is repeated with his or her knowledge, this would break the child's trust, which may cause him or her to do something, silly or if the child is suicidal!

If a child has been brainwashed then to deal with the situation no permission is needed.

It may also be best for the child not to know what is being said about him or her in certain situations and concerns their future.

Question 7

How do you think children and families should have a say in deciding what services they get? (See page 13)

Comments:

- If child is in danger then child is to be removed no discussion, however if the matter is less serious then the family and children should be involved in discussions with the authority.
- The child's social worker should be involved and to work along side professionals to help but not over the telephone but in person.
- Families and children should write down how they feel and the problems.
- Families and children should have the choice if they want help and want to talk to someone unlike social services who interfere.
- Families should be sent a present or a letter informing them of how help is available. A social worker to be responsible for them. A free help-line and centre for parents and carers. A questionnaire to be sent to everyone on behalf of the government.
- There should be an adult club, which covers issues of what help is needed and the suggestions can then be passed on to the Local Council.
- Families and children need to have a say in what help they need for example going to groups such as mother and daughter groups, meetings and lectures to help.

Question 8

What ideas do you have, for encouraging people to consider careers that involve working with children and families, such as social work, or childcare? (See page 15)

Comments:

Job fares, advertising and work experience with people who are involved in the field, training and it is only for people who can are willing to and want to work in this field.

A course for people to go on to learn about children's needs or to gain first hand information on the field by talking to people who already work in that field. The people who have experience to hold lectures. Talk to connexions. Look on the Internet web site. Also to look at how it helps young children.

Through work experience, getting an inside view. By reading leaflets and having a good reputation.

Please use this space to provide any additional comments that you may have.

Comments:

The views expressed above and in this section were collated from the responses of over 70 young people through a series of meetings organised by the Youth Service and from voluntary organisations.

Some of the comments from the young people were about local issues as well as about national issues but they are all included here:

Funding of £200M (young people's fund) not enough to cover England, very little if divided amongst all boroughs

Need for more clubs for young people/youth

Need to fix the parks

more facilities and activities for young people

Damilola Taylor Centre – not a multi-purpose centre, should be improved - not child-friendly/youth-friendly during winter time

Need for more practical skills training for youth which they can avail of and use for future employment. Skills in mechanics, welding, cooking, plumbing

Connexions/youth services activities not widely disseminated, info not accessible to young people from all walks of life.

Voluntary sector provision are okay but limited due to funding constraints.

Their families need affordable decent housing.

They even fear that when they become adults, they will also find it hard to acquire housing for themselves. Long term solution should be thought of this early

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We will not acknowledge individual responses unless you insert an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires and other responses, should be sent to the address shown below by
1 December 2003

Send by post to: **DfES Consultation Unit, FREEPOST, Area 1B, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ**

Send by e-mail: Once you have completed the questionnaire, save it on your hard drive and then open an e-mail to: consultation3.CHILDRENSGP@dfes.gsi.gov.uk attach the completed questionnaire file and send the e-mail.