

<b>Item No.</b> 5	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Scrutiny and Southwark Youth Council monitoring of 2010-2013 Children and Young People's Plan	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Jane Bailey, Assistant Director, 11-19 and Youth, Children's Services	

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Education and Children's Services' Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the change in statutory status of the Children and Young People's Plan and the local children's trust's response, as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6.
2. That the Education and Children's Services' Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the progress against the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), as outlined in paragraph 11 and Appendix 1.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The CYPP is the overarching strategic framework for services for children, young people and families in Southwark. It was approved by Council Assembly on 24 March 2010 and came into force on 1 April 2010.
4. At the 12 January 2011 Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, members agreed to jointly monitor the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) at quarterly progress meetings with Southwark Youth Council, and in line with the statutory duties set out in government guidance regarding plans' development and delivery.
5. Following the 6 May 2010 general election and formation of a coalition government, the Department for Education announced that it would introduce legislation to remove the requirement on local authorities to set up children's trust boards and the requirement on those boards to prepare and publish a joint CYPP. It has already revoked the regulations underpinning the CYPP and withdrawn the statutory guidance on children's trusts. Local authorities and their partners are now free to decide how best to provide for the needs of their area, whether to publish a strategic plan, and what format this should take.
6. At its December 2010 meeting, Southwark's Children's and Families' Trust upheld its commitment to partnership working and the CYPP as local experience had shown the benefits of working together to improve outcomes for children and families. It agreed, however, to suspend arrangements to develop an infrastructure of 'delegated authorities' and joint commissioning to monitor implementation of each CYPP priority while new arrangements and policy changes, such as public health and wellbeing boards, took shape.
7. However, the CYPP and the commitments within as agreed by partners and

informed by stakeholders through “1,000 voices” has been the backbone of decision-making around budget planning and efficiencies savings, and has driven local decommissioning arrangements and plans for transformation of services. The budget plans identify opportunities to transform how we deliver services alongside releasing significant efficiency savings. Service transformation will be based on the principles underpinning the CYPP: of strong universal services; targeted early intervention to improve agreed key outcomes and reduce the call on costly specialist interventions; and smaller, high-quality specialist services that meet the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. Responsibility for implementing each CYPP priority sits with a strategic lead, most usually the head of service or assistant director in whose portfolio the service sits, and is delivered through the service’s business planning process. Where there are multi-agency dependencies these have formed the basis of items at the children’s trust (see paragraph 9). The children’s trust holds overall oversight, and monitors progress through an outcomes-based risk and assurance framework, through which CYPP priorities are brought to the board’s attention by exception. When the children’s trust considers a CYPP priority, it does so through a ‘deep-dive’ analysis of key policy, performance, statutory, governance and financial risks and issues.
9. Using this framework, the following priorities have been tabled for discussion and decisions at the children’s trust’s quarterly meetings since June 2010:
  - Fewer children and families experiencing domestic abuse
  - More effective support for families most in need
  - Less crime by and against young people
  - Child poverty (a CYPP sister strategy)
10. Following discussions at the most recent children’s trust meeting in March 2011, it is anticipated that the CYPP priorities relating to health and education services will be reviewed at board meetings in 2011.

## **Policy implications**

11. There has been good progress against all five themed priority areas of the CYPP, as follows:
  - Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do: As well as implementing an improved young people participation model, reconfiguring integrated and targeted youth provision and improving the range and quality of provision for young people, work is also ongoing to increase the number of families who are a healthy weight through a good range of programmes to promote healthy lifestyles, including our thriving Healthy Schools programme. In addition there has been strong performance improving the health, educational attainment and independence of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; while provision for families most in need has been reconfigured to provide a holistic spectrum of intervention and support
  - Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all: There have been further improvements in educational outcomes for a number of ethnic groups across all key stages and subjects, with many performing in line or

above national or statistical neighbour averages, while at early years foundation stage, the gap between the lowest 20% of children and the rest of the cohort has further narrowed for the third successive year. In addition, ongoing investment and reconfiguration of maternity and antenatal services is leading to improved performance, such as early access to services, breastfeeding and immunisation rates

- Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs: There has been sustained improvements in attainment, including above-national average rises at key stages 2 and 4, as well as strong leadership, support and challenge to schools and settings resulting in continued improvements in standards across all key stages, particularly at early years foundation stage. In addition, there has been above-national average increases in attainment at 19 and the successful development of foundation learning provision
  - Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing: Successes include strong improvements in both participation and attainment at post-16, falling numbers of those not in education, employment or training, declines in reoffending and first time entrants rates for young offenders, and reductions in teenage conceptions, which have fallen over 25% in the ten years since 1998
  - Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect: A comprehensive range of services and support continue to ensure children and young people have a safe environment including further reductions in the numbers of fatalities and serious injuries from road accidents. There has also been solid performance in identifying, assessing and safeguarding children, alongside effective multi-agency work to support children with a child protection plan, as well as ongoing work to transform domestic abuse provision to better support families in need
12. More detailed progress can be found in Appendix 1.
  13. The local authority and its children's trust partners remain committed to ensuring the active participation of children, young people and families in the design and delivery of services.
  14. With individual services responsible for implementing actions in regard to the CYPP, and for reporting to the children's trust by exception, it is the strategic leads' responsibility to monitor implementation of the CYPP and ensure the active participation of young people.
  15. Young people are routinely consulted about services which affect them. For example, Speakerbox representatives are routinely consulted about services for children in care and care leavers.
  16. Young people have been involved in a range of activities in support of the CYPP. For example, Southwark Youth Council (SYC) members are currently working with the council's housing engagement team to produce films about different estates across the borough. These films capture the young people's perspective of issues and concerns, and will be used to inform future service developments. SYC has also recently met with the independent chair of Southwark Safeguarding Children Board to discuss youth crime and their views were fed into the children's trust discussion.

17. In addition, SYC members have worked with Central London Connexions to help develop a new phone application which will provide information about a range of services and opportunities including jobs, training and health.
18. Parents and young people, including representatives of SYC, have been active in the implementation of the CYPP priority 'Lower rates of teenage conceptions' through participation in the Teenage Pregnancy Commission. This is currently finalising its recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services in relation to actions which will greatly reduce the borough's teenage conception rate.

### Community impact statement

19. Although this report is an update briefing, the issues covered clearly affect all sections of the community. Equality and diversity issues were central to the development of the CYPP, and underpin its priorities. Further, potential impact on the community is central to the children's trust's risk and assurance framework, ensuring that any potential issues are flagged for the trust's consideration.

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Progress against CYPP priorities

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Jane Bailey, Assistant Director, 11-19 and Youth Services, Children's Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Fiona Russell, Principal Strategy Officer, Strategy, Planning and Performance, Children's Services	
<b>Version</b>	1	
<b>Dated</b>	31 March 2011	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	31 March 2011	