

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 March 2012	Meeting Name: Education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee
Report title:		Quarterly Review of the Children and Young People's Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director, Strategy and Support, Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. To receive an update on progress since November 2011 towards achieving the priorities outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Children and Young People's Plan (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.
3. This report provides a further update to the reports received by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee in April and November 2011.
4. At the November meeting, youth council members and the committee discussed the format of the progress reports, noting that it was important to highlight achievements. There was also discussion about the key issues facing young people, including the provision of quality youth activities, and employment support. Following the election of a new youth council in February, the new members would like to propose working with the sub-committee to identify key CYPP priorities on which to focus at future meetings.
5. Southwark's Children and Families' Trust monitors progress against the CYPP priorities by exception. At its last meeting in December 2011, it reviewed progress achieving the priority 'Every school and setting aspires to excellence', and also considered early proposals to develop an early help strategy.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Since the last report to the sub-committee in November, the following highlights can be noted:
7. Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do:
 - a. New youth council elected, plus reconfigured youth offer to be in place from April delivering higher-quality, fit-for-purpose arrangements that more young people will be able to access
 - b. Community restoration fund in development, to offer additional positive opportunities for the borough's young people
 - c. Short breaks statement for support for children with disabilities and their families published
 - d. Family focus team, under the local strategic partnership, is undertaking

a strategic needs assessment to enable an effective response to the Prime Minister's Troubled Families' agenda

8. Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all:
 - a. Health and wellbeing board on track to begin shadow arrangements from April
 - b. Reconfiguration of integrated child support service underway to further localise support around the child, school or setting, and improve effectiveness and efficiency
 - c. Refocusing and streamlining of services to ensure support is focused on the most vulnerable and delivers greatest positive impact on children and young people's outcomes
 - d. Education lead for children in care appointed

9. Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs:
 - a. Reconfigured school improvement support into a single 0-19 standards team supporting increased value for money arrangements and further improvements in quality of schools and settings, with over three-quarters of nurseries, primaries and secondaries judged good or better
 - b. Reduction in number of underperforming schools, with our most 'stuck' school being removed from category
 - c. Review of SEN provision underway to improve support for children with disabilities and their parents, including streamlined pathways and processes enabling more effective working and greater value for money

10. Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing:
 - a. Youth Fund fully operational, with scholarship scheme open to next round of applicants
 - b. Successful youth offending service inspection which highlighted effective practice around young offenders engaging in education, employment and training
 - c. Implementation and effective discharge of enhanced 'staying put' policy for vulnerable care leavers
 - d. Completed first phase of moving services for at-risk young people in care to a single site, with the second phase underway, in order to increase integrated working and value for money

11. Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect:
 - a. Successful implementation of the multi-agency duty desk is effectively deferring inappropriate referrals to targeted and early intervention services
 - b. Recent inspections judged adoption services to be good with outstanding features, and fostering services to be good
 - c. Reconfiguration of the system has been completed to provide a single point of access to early intervention and child health services
 - d. Plans to implement the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) have been brought forward to include Southwark in phase 2 of the programme
 - e. The programme to embed the common assessment framework across the system has seen a significant rise in its use as the referral mechanism
 - f. Contract awarded for reconfigured domestic abuse support services, which will be in place from April

Community impact statement

12. Although this report is an update briefing, the issues covered 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.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director, Strategy and Support, Children's Services	
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Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to the Scrutiny Team		