

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 November 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education, children's services and leisure scrutiny sub-committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Quarterly Review of the Children and Young People's Plan	
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the education, children's services and leisure scrutiny sub-committee:
  - a. Notes the information contained in this report, which provides an update on progress towards achieving the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)
  - b. Contribute its views, with Southwark Youth Council, on the emerging findings from the recent stakeholder consultations, which are the first step in refreshing the CYPP from April 2013

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report provides a further update to the reports received by the education, children's services and leisure scrutiny sub-committee, most recently in March 2012, on progress towards achieving the priorities outlined in the CYPP.
3. The March meeting included an interview with the cabinet member for children's services, with questions from the sub-committee and members of the Southwark Youth Council. The chosen themes were education and employment opportunities, changes to local youth services, bullying, gang culture, and obesity and sport.
4. Southwark's Children and Families' Trust monitors progress against the CYPP priorities by exception. At its last meeting in September, it reviewed progress achieving the priority 'Independence for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families' and in developing a local Troubled Families programme.
5. Work is underway to develop a new CYPP, to take effect in April 2013. This work takes place in the context of large-scale budget challenges, a raised bar in regard to inspection and regulation, and an increasingly demanding national policy landscape which includes Munro, draft Children and Families' Bill, education reforms and Troubled Families, among others.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Progress on current CYPP priorities

6. Since the last sub-committee meeting, the following highlights can be noted:
7. Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do:
  - a. Reconfigured youth service in place delivering higher-quality, fit-for-purpose arrangements that more young people will be able to access
  - b. Launch of projects supported by the community restoration fund, including pop-up youth clubs over the summer, a community-led grants scheme and the purchase of youth buses
  - c. Work is underway to develop personal budgets for children with special educational needs or a disability, which will give them greater choice and control over the services they receive

- d. A project team under the leadership of the council's senior leaders has been established to deliver the Troubled Families programme, and 419 families identified as meeting the programme's criteria
8. Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all:
    - a. The shadow health and wellbeing board is established, with priorities focused on the physical and mental health of children and families, and on providing early intervention to ensure all children get the best start in life
    - b. Reconfigured early help teams in place, providing locality-based support around the child, school or setting
    - c. Further narrowing of the gap in achievement at early years foundation stage and for pupils with special educational needs
  9. Raising the bar – high-quality provision that meets local needs:
    - a. Further improvements in attainment, with Southwark's school children outperforming their national peers across the phases; for example 83% of children at the end of primary school achieved expected levels compared to 79% nationally
    - b. More schools being judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding, in the context of a tougher new inspection regime for schools
  10. Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing:
    - a. Further reductions in the rate of young people not in education, employment or training, to 9.1% in September compared to a central London average of 10.5%
    - b. Reconfigured Connexions advice and support service focused on the borough's more vulnerable young people
    - c. Completed co-location of services for at-risk young people in care to a single site
  11. Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect:
    - a. Safeguarding and looked after children services judged to be good with outstanding features by Ofsted inspectors in May; inspectors praised the strong, focused and improving services to protect vulnerable children across the borough
    - b. Reconfigured domestic abuse support services launched.

### **Developing a new CYPP**

12. Key foundations for the development of the new plan have been in train over the past few months, including a needs assessment and '1,000 journeys' stakeholder consultation, which ran over September and October. We have collected our target number of stories, all providing powerful new insights into the lives and experience of our service users. This intelligence is currently being finalised and collated. It will be analysed over the coming months to identify key themes and issues which will form the basis of the new plan.
13. Initial analysis suggests that, on the whole, children, young people and families talk positively about living and growing up in Southwark. There is a strong community feeling in the borough and families talk confidently about the significant impact public services have had on their families' lives. The quality of schools and positive opportunities for children and young people have been highlighted as issues that parents feel strongly about. Bullying and concerns of bullying have also emerged as themes.

14. Young people getting into a career and parents getting back to work or developing in their career comes up consistently. To achieve this, young people say they need support and advice from provision such as Connexions which is instrumental in providing a credible CV and understanding the opportunities available to them. Young people also talked about the importance of volunteering and work experience opportunities to build their CV, and also provide valuable experience of a working environment. For parents hoping to get back to work, developing skills and updating their CV with relevant experience are seen as key. Childcare was also highlighted as a concern for many parents going back to work.
15. For many vulnerable parents, support offered by someone who has had a similar experience to them was highlighted as a significant positive, which was strengthened by parents saying they hope in the future to “give back”. The integrated model of support also received very positive feedback. Families talked about better understanding the support that was available to them and feeling that they are receiving a better service as they have a single point of contact for their whole family.
16. The scrutiny sub-committee and Southwark youth council are invited to contribute their views on these emerging findings, with these views contributing to the analysis phase of the plan’s development.