

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 March 2013	<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. Note the ongoing steps to develop a new CYPP, to take effect from July, including the findings so far through the children's services joint strategic needs assessment, and the planned approach to implementing and monitoring the new CYPP

## 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 November 2012, on progress towards achieving the priorities outlined in the CYPP.
3. Southwark's Children and Families' Trust monitors progress against the CYPP priorities by exception. At its last meeting in December, it undertook a stock take of early help provision in the early years, including progress developing the shadow health and wellbeing board and the healthy child programme, an introduction to the newly established early help team's objectives and a review of key policy, performance and budget developments in this area.
4. 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

5. Since the last sub-committee meeting, the following highlights can be noted:
6. Thinking family – families at the centre of all we do:
  - a. Successful delivery of projects supported by the community restoration fund, including a community-led grants scheme and the purchase of youth buses
  - b. 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
  - c. The Troubled Families programme submitted a payment by results claim for families who met national success criteria, in the last quarter
7. Narrowing the gap – better and more equal life chances for all:
  - a. Development of a health and wellbeing strategy, 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
- 8. 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
- 9. Succeeding into adulthood – at-risk young people achieve wellbeing:
  - a. Further falls in the rate of young people not in education, employment or training, to 6.4% in February compared to a central London average of 7.4%
  - b. Participation of years 12 to 14 also rose to 87.8% in February, compared to a central London average of 85.1%
  - c. Implementation of cross-borough care proceedings pilot to improve partnership arrangements between council and family courts
- 10. Working together – children are safeguarded from harm and neglect:
  - a. Successful local safeguarding children board annual conference, including sessions on child exploitation and missing children
  - b. Ongoing implementation of the local multi-agency safeguarding hub, which seeks to improve the identification of risks to children at the earliest possible point and ensure a timely effective response

### **Developing a new CYPP**

- 11. The new CYPP has been under development over recent months. The intelligence-gathering phase of the plan’s development has been completed through the children’s services’ joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA). This comprised three key strands:
  - a. Analysis of performance to explore local and national policy drivers with key stakeholders
  - b. Data ‘deep dives’ on the journeys of key cohorts of children to identify common experiences of current service design, pathways and outcomes
  - c. Service user experience, as collected through the 1,000 journeys’ work; these stakeholder consultation events ran over September and October, culminating in a celebratory closing show in December
- 12. The JSNA reinforces the high levels of need and challenge of this diverse borough – Southwark has the 15th highest level of child poverty in London and is the capital’s largest social landlord. The population is highly mobile and ethnically diverse, with interwoven complexities including high levels of worklessness, no recourse to public funds, substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental health concerns, and housing risks such as overcrowding.
- 13. The ‘1,000 journeys’ stakeholder consultations have provided powerful new insights into the lives and experience of our service users, and offer service users the opportunity to co-produce the borough’s strategic framework for improving outcomes for local communities.

14. The 1,000 journeys work included a number of events specifically engaging young people, including one at the Ministry of Sound, which also showcased local Southwark youth talent. The event was attended by over 400 young people who vividly and articulately described their lives and experiences, including their high aspirations and plans for their futures. Their stories demonstrated resilience, passion and focus, and showed how local youth provision can support young people to successfully transition to adulthood. The resulting stories have provided powerful evidence which is shaping the children's trust's priorities going forward particularly for those with additional needs and the type of services they would like to access.
15. Initial analysis of the 1,000 journeys work shows 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. Many parents praised the timely interventions of practitioners, from health visitors, GPs, hospital staff and midwives to children's centre managers, outreach workers, voluntary agencies and school staff. Others described struggling to access support, with help not forthcoming until needs had escalated to crisis point.
16. The quality of schools and positive opportunities for children and young people have been highlighted as issues that parents feel strongly about, with the need to find new ways to engage with local academies highlighted as a potential concern. The role of how schools support pupils with additional needs or who are struggling educationally was highlighted as a particular concern. Parents also spoke positively of the support they receive for children with additional needs including special educational needs or disability. A common theme was the desire for this support to be timely, easily accessible and holistic.
17. Many respondents stressed the importance of parenting courses to gain skills and confidence, and in training courses and opportunities as help to get into work. A common theme was the value of mentoring, befriending and volunteers, and of the nimble, bespoke response of support commissioned from voluntary providers. Helping young people getting into a career was another common theme. To achieve this, young people say they need support and advice to develop a credible CV and understand the opportunities available to them. Young people also talked about the importance of volunteering and work experience opportunities.
18. A celebratory show is planned for 21 March, to which members of the scrutiny sub-committee and youth council have been invited, alongside council and partner leaders and stakeholders. This event will showcase some of the stories and experiences gathered throughout the 1,000 journeys work, providing a further platform for service users to share their experiences with and influence senior leaders.
19. All of these emerging findings are now being analysed to develop the transformational priorities for the next CYPP. Service users, including young people, will continue to be involved, including joining a strategic conversation event on 25 March. This event will showcase the findings so far and invite participants to join a conversation about what the evidence is telling us about users' journeys and what this means for how local provision needs to transform. The resulting analysis will be presented as a draft plan to the children's trust in April.
20. This meeting will also consider how the CYPP will be implemented and progress monitored going forward. It is anticipated that future children's trust meetings will be themed to reflect the transformation areas of the CYPP, with reporting by exception according to planning, performance or policy developments. Scrutiny sub-committee

members and the youth council are invited to consider how the committee could best scrutinise the CYPP and progress towards achievement following its refresh.