

REPORT FOR DECISION

Agenda Item	
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MEETING:	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
	20th JUNE 2007 27 June 2007
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN
REPORT FROM:	EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
CONTACT OFFICER:	PAUL COOKE, HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

TYPE OF DECISION: COUNCIL

REPORT STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

Executive received a report on the 21st March 2007 in respect of the Children and Young People's Plan (Minute EX.1182 refers).

The Plan, for the three year period commencing 1 April 2007, had been drafted to reflect the priorities and ambitions of the Local Authority and its partners. However, revised guidance issued belatedly by the Department for Education and Skills required minor amendments to be made to the draft as presented to Executive.

Executives recommendation to Council was:

1. That the draft Children and Young People's Plan be approved in its current form.
2. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the three political groups, and the Executive Member for Children and Young People, be given delegated authority to approve revisions to the Plan in accordance with revised guidance, and the amended Plan to be considered by the Executive at a subsequent meeting.

The plan has now been redrafted in line with the new guidance and approved in

accordance with the arrangements outlined above.

Members are asked to note and approve the Children and Young People's Plan for inclusion in the Council's Policy Framework. A copy of the plan is attached as an appendix to this report.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION (with reasons):

That Members note and approve the revised Children and Young People's Plan.

IMPLICATIONS -	
Financial Implications and Risk Considerations	See DoFEG comment below
<p>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework: Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> The new Children and Young People's Plan involves a change to the Council's Policy Framework by replacing the Children's Services Plan with this Plan.</p>	
<p>Are there any legal implications? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> There is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to have a plan in place.</p>	
<p>Considered by Monitoring Officer: Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government:	None directly arising directly from the report. The plan identifies key performance priorities the funding of which will need to be managed within the resources available to the Council and its partners. Over time there will need to be greater integration between allocation of financial resource and priorities, and this will be reflected in subsequent plans.
Staffing/ICT/Property:	None directly arising from the report
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Children and Young People

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Executive Member/ Chair	Ward Members	Partners
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4 th June 2007			5 th June 2007
Scrutiny Panel	Executive	Committee	Council
	20 th June 2007		

BACKGROUND

The Children's Act 2004 introduced a requirement for each Local Authority to produce a Children and Young People's Plan, setting out how the Authority, in collaboration with partners, will meet their respective responsibilities in respect of services to children and relevant young people.

This annual plan, published for the first time in 2006, is a single, overarching plan covering all services provided to children and young people in Bury, from a range of agencies including the Local Authority; Primary Care Trust; Acute Care Trust; Police; Learning and Skills Council; Colleges, and others, including those in the voluntary sector, brought together to form the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

It is the document that sets out the collective vision of the partners in meeting the needs of all children and young people, but specifically the most vulnerable, through the integration of systems, processes and services; through better use of information and data; and more effective use of resources.

Revised guidance was issued by the Department for Education and Skills and Ofsted in February 2007 outlining changes to the requirements of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The key changes introduced by the new guidance are a requirement to include a specific statement of intent, and a requirement to consult schools, school forums and admission forums on the preparation of the plan.

The Plan will also replace the self-assessment document that the Authority has been required to submit to Ofsted each year as part of the Annual Performance Assessment process. Because of this, the Plan must also consider not just the ambitions, objectives and priorities for future years, but also reflect on achievements to date, providing a detailed assessment of progress and improvement.

Conclusion

The Children and Young People's Plan is an important part of the Council's Policy Framework, being one of a number of statutory plans. It sets out, the priorities of the Council, and of its partner agencies, in respect of the provision of services to children and young people.

The Plan has been revised to reflect the requirements of guidance issued by Ofsted and Department for Education and Skills.

Members are requested to note and approve the Plan.

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