

DRAFT BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-11

1.0 Purpose

To seek the Boards comments on the draft Birmingham's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11. The comments from the PEC have been incorporated into the response.

2.0 Introduction

The Birmingham Children and Young People's Trust is required to publish the Children and Young People's Plan to set out the vision and plans for Birmingham over the next three years.

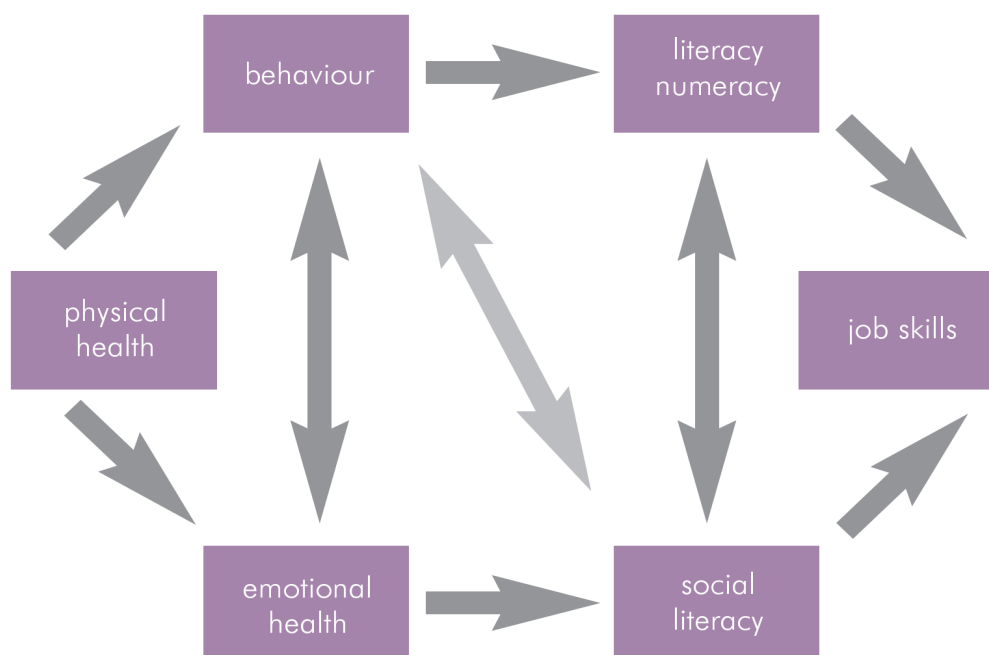
3.0 The Draft Plan

The Vision

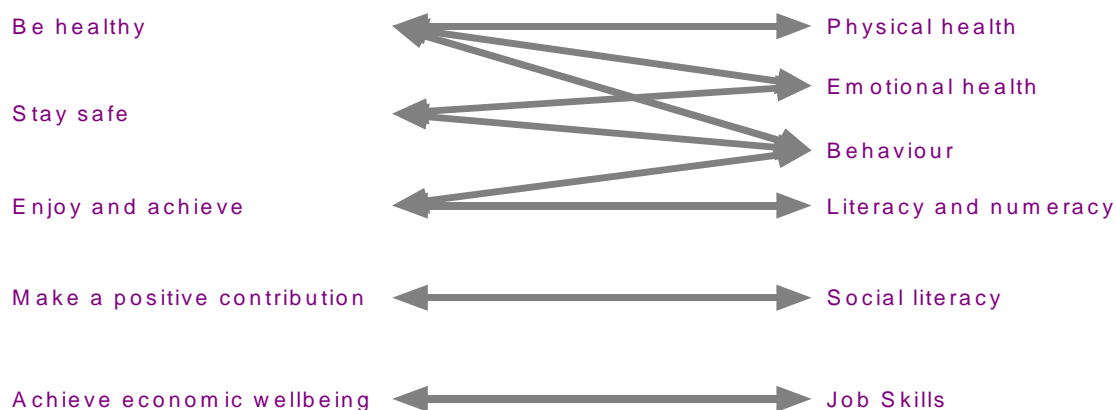
The plan (enclosed) sets out the vision as 'making Birmingham a better place for children to live and grow up in. To do this, we need to make sure we stop problems happening in the first place and quickly try to do something about them when they do.'

Outcomes

To do this the Partnership will concentrate on improving outcomes for children and young people's physical and emotional health, their behaviour, their ability to get on with each other, and their literacy and numeracy, and make sure they are ready for work and adulthood.



These link into the five Every Child Matters outcomes:



The plan commits the Partnership to

- Undertake an in-depth analysis of need that will help us secure the services people really need.
- A robust outcomes and planning-driven approach to improvement.
- Moving towards prevention and early intervention, rather than the treatment of problems once they have happened.
- Radical changes to the way we organise, commission and deliver services, especially in how people from different organisations work together at the front-line.
- A relentless drive to integrate service delivery, where appropriate, and work with children, young people, parents, carers and families across statutory, voluntary and community organisations.

Therefore measurable improvements in the outcomes for children's will be developed, in particular ensuring more children are ready for schools, more children are prepared for the transition to secondary school, more young people equipped and ready for work and more young adults ready to make their full contribution to their community's cohesion and well being.

The Partnership is emphasising a major shift of resources to prevention and early intervention and valuing children as creative and productive citizens, celebrating their strengths and helping them when they are in trouble, instead of climbing the ladder of inference and stereotyping them.

Activities

In order to achieve the outcomes the Partnership will develop the following activities:

- Introducing effective public health or population-wide prevention programmes. This activity is aimed at improving the life of the typical child, with the secondary aim of reducing the numbers of children whose health or development is not as good as it might be.
- Prevention can also be targeted in the sense of working to prevent problems predicted for a particular group of children at risk, for example by providing support for mothers suffering from depression.
- Early intervention comes in the first stages of a developmental problem. It may happen early in a child's life, for example when the first signs of speech delay are noticed, or it may come later, say in adolescence, to coincide with signs of late onset anti-social behaviour.
- Treatment is offered to children or young people suffering from an identified need, including recognised impairments to health or development such as dyslexia and recognised disorders of conduct, emotions and other aspects of mental health.

- Social prevention refers to society's response to children with a particular need. Its goal is to prevent other problems, for example placing violent children in secure accommodation for their own safety or to protect others. Altering how people view ordinary children to prevent a damaging gap emerging between generations also falls into this category.

Principles

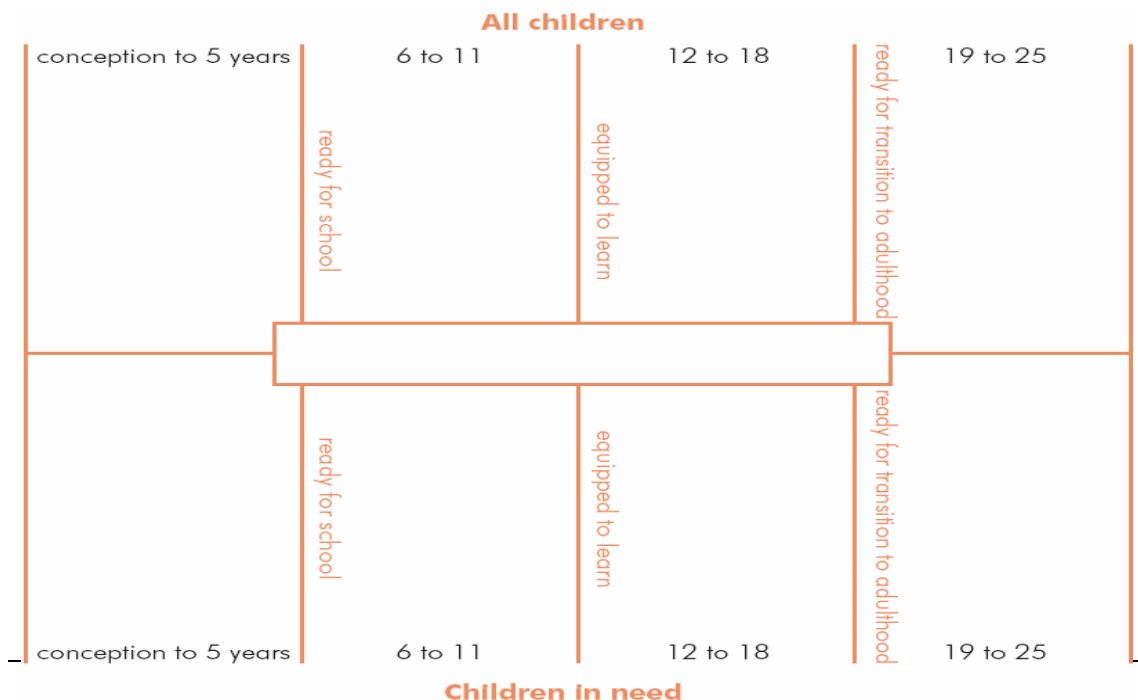
The Partnership has agreed a set of principles that all organisations will deliver:

- Making sure that children, young people and their families influence the strategic development of the services they need.
- Engaging and valuing all partners on an equal basis.
- Avoiding duplication and addressing gaps in process and service delivery to make sure resources are used effectively and efficiently.
- Making sure joint strategic commissioning arrangements provide consistency and quality of service delivery.
- Making sure that the voluntary and community sector has the capacity to play its full part in achieving improved outcomes for children and young people.
- Making sure that parents, carers, and families have the knowledge and skills they need to support the achievement of improved outcomes.
- Supporting innovative ways of working underpinned by workforce remodelling, skill sharing and development to empower, value and support staff.
- Focusing on prevention and early intervention so that needs are addressed before problems become intractable and more specialist services are required.
- Making sure services are inclusive and more responsive to the diverse needs of individual children and differing communities.

Development Stages

Children and young people develop in different stages therefore services will be built to support children and young people to the following stages:

- In the early years - from conception to entry to primary school.
- In the first years of school, from 6 to 11.
- In secondary education from 12 to 18.
- During their transition to adulthood, between 19 and 25.



It is acknowledged that children and young people will move in and out of the needs category throughout the transitional periods.

Workstream's and Major Developments

The Plans sets out the following workstreams and major developments which are being worked on:

- Integration and localisation
- Information sharing and the Common Assessment Framework
- Disabled children and young people and transition
- Engagement and participation
- Supporting parents and families
- Integrated Youth Support Services
- Transforming Education
- Improving outcomes for children in and leaving care
- Early Years Outcome Duty and childcare sufficiency.
- Worklessness and child poverty
- Promoting community cohesion
- Ensuring the workforce is fit for purpose

LAA Targets

The following potential targets may be included in to the Local Area Agreements that will help to deliver the outcomes:

- Reducing the rate of infant mortality.
- Reducing the rate of teenage conceptions.
- Reducing the rate of obesity.
- Children's self-reported health and wellbeing.
- Young people not engaged in education, employment or training, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.
- Statutory education targets.
- First time entrants to Youth Justice Service.
- The number of children and young people who have experienced bullying

4.0 Comments and Feedback

The partnership has set out the following questions and comments. The suggested responses are also included:

- Do you agree with what we think is most important?

The vision and outcomes set out in the Plan are outcomes that the PCT shares and was involved in developing. The emphasis on early intervention and prevention for all agencies involved with providing children's services is welcomed since this will increase capacity and ensure early identification to prevent problems at later stages. However, the issue of ensuring the development of targeted intervention at the upstream should not be overlooked. The PCT is committed to ensuring we develop a strong partnership approach to improving the outcomes for Birmingham's children and young people and developing robust evidence based activities to meet the ambitions set out in the plan. The PCT will work through the partnership arrangements on integration and service improvements. The emphasis of resources must be on re-design and shifting existing resources to early intervention and prevention.

It should be noted that the PCT has invested time and resources in developing the prevention and early intervention model within children's services. We would be happy to share this with the City Council.

- Have we missed out things that you think are important?

Yes, the plan has missed out a very important element. The PCT has previously written to the City Council to highlight the omission of sustainable development and the environmental well-being of children. It is disappointing that the Partnership has not included this in the plan.

How can we improve the life chances of young people if they are in danger of climate change, or car accidents, due in part to the neglect of the environment or the poor planning of estates which put young people in danger? If the Partnership is truly committed to ensuring Birmingham values its children, then the Partnership and in particular the Local Authority must champion the interests of children and young people in every sphere of the Local Authority and the partnership, for instance ensuring a child friendly check on all new regeneration and housing developments to reduce the risks associated with pollution and car accidents; improving open space and parks to enable children and young people to stay safe and enjoy a healthy lifestyle; reclaiming the streets for children to walk and cycle safely.

The Plan must include at its core the five principles of sustainable development, which are:

- Creating a just, fair and healthy society
- Living within environmental limits
- Sustainable economic growth
- Good governance
- Sound science

The plan addresses the principles of creating a just, fair and healthy society and good governance, but neglects to address the other important principles, namely living within environmental limits and sustainable economic growth.

The PCT would urge the City Council to incorporate the findings of the Sustainable Development Commission Every Child's Future Matters into the plan.

The Department of Children's, Schools and Families has highlighted environmental well being as a key area for development and will be assessing Children and Young People's Plans on this. This is also a key element of the national Children's Plan.

Furthermore, BEN PCT has also worked in partnership with the NRF Infant Mortality Project to develop a new model of care for midwifery services, ensuring better integration of health and local authority services, however, due to the design of most children centre's and space available, it is proving difficult to enable health professionals to provide services at these centre's. We have moved some Health Visitors into Children's Centre, however, our plans for further integration have stalled. We would urge the City Council to ensure that the PCT is fully involved and consulted in the development of any further children and family building developments, to ensure the specific requirements are planned into the buildings.

The PCT is required to fulfil the obligations as set out in the National Service Framework for Children and Maternity Services. However, this has not been mentioned

in the document. It would be beneficial to ensure it is acknowledged as a key document in the plan.

It should be noted that the Incredible Years, Triple P and Family Nurse Partnership will require the input and commitment from the PCT, therefore these initiatives are a partnership initiatives and not just as a result of the City Council's Transformation Plan. The PCT has yet to agree the implementation of these schemes and would welcome further discussion in this regard.

Teenage pregnancy is a key target area under the LAA and other Government initiatives; however, the plan does not highlight this as a key area under the Workstreams section of the plan. The PCT believes that this will 'take the eye off the ball' and undo the hard work by all partners to reduce the teenage conception rates in Birmingham, if this is not explicit in the plan.

The major capital developments in improving school buildings, provides an excellent opportunity to consider co-location of health and local authority services, therefore we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

The PCT welcomes the emphasis on worklessness and community cohesion. As one of the largest employers in the country, the PCT would encourage the City Council to ensure initiatives are planned jointly. The PCT is committed to promote good race relations and community cohesion and would work with different partners in this. The PCT believes it would be beneficial if the plan provided some clear actions under these headings and should include initiatives across the partner agencies.

The PCT would suggest that under the 'Principles for Service Developments' should include the principle of partnership working and agreement for any service development.

The PEC asked that the following be included in the response

The PCT had been redesigning school nursing services based on prevention, etc. which supported the approach taken in the Plan.

It was not entirely clear what could be done differently in practices to improve children's health and, in terms of commissioning, clarity was needed about expectations from different parts of the service.

The paragraph on NSF needed to be strengthened to relate to all agencies, not just Health.

Initiatives being undertaken in Education and Public Health should be highlighted and related to the vision to be achieved.

- What could we do to make it better?

It may be helpful if the plan incorporates an action plan to take forward the vision and aspirations highlighted in the plan.

- Have the appropriate conclusions been drawn from the needs analysis?

Yes the plan sets out the conclusion of the needs analysis.

- Does the plan adequately explain arrangements for performance management and review of services?

The plan needs to strengthen the partnership arrangements and decision making process at levels below the Children and Young People's Board level. Most of the groups under the partnership are chaired by the City Council, however, consideration should be given on other partners chairing strategic groups to foster partnership working.

- Are the arrangements for co-operation clear?

Further work should be undertaken to review the different groups under the partnership structure to ensure they are fit for purpose and are required.

5.0 Recommendations

To note the contents of the report, provide any further comments on the plan and agree the PCT's response to the consultation.

Waheed Saleem
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