

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Foreword

The local authority has a statutory duty to prepare the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and secure co-operation among its strategic partners.

Liverpool City Council published its three-year CYPP in April 2006. This was reviewed and refreshed in 2007 and again in 2008. In preparing our new CYPP, the current plan has been reviewed and extended until 2011 given the Government's intention to consult on changes to statutory regulations in the autumn of 2009 which will extend the ownership of the Children and Young People's Plan from the local authority to all statutory partners via a new Children's Trust board, requiring an entirely new CYPP to be developed.

The CYPP is a single strategic and overarching plan for all services which affect children and young people across the city. It sets out how the City Council, with its strategic partners, intends to achieve improvements in each of the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes with specific reference to the following:

- a. the integration of services provided by Liverpool City Council and its relevant partners to improve the well-being of children and young people across the city;
- b. arrangements made by the City Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- c. arrangements for early intervention and preventative action.

This latest refresh of our CYPP also includes a summary of our achievements and progress to date, together with a needs assessment which has determined where the focus needs to be during the next two years. The CYPP also indicates the resources and related activity that will enable us to achieve our goals efficiently and effectively, and the key risks that will need to be managed along the way.

The CYPP focuses on specific challenges. Whilst not intended to be a detailed operational plan, it is underpinned and complemented by several local authority and partner plans that translate these priorities and actions into business plans and personal targets within individual performance plans; all of which are intended to contribute to the achievement of better outcomes for children and young people in Liverpool.

This focus on specific challenges with key actions, performance measures and targets are the detailed steps, or proxy indicators, towards a general improvement in the physical, emotional and economic well-being of children and young people.

Liverpool First for Children and Young People will seek to play its part as described here in contributing to sustainable improvement in the overall quality of life issues such as childhood poverty, infant mortality, and the physical and mental well-being of children and young people. In doing so, we recognise that it is the combined work and focus of all the strategic issue partnerships within Liverpool First that will bring about a significant and long term improvement in the quality of children's lives. This CYPP will only be as successful as the wider partnership succeeds in its endeavours to support the delivery of the over-arching city vision for Liverpool (*referred to in section 3.*)

## **Liverpool CYPP 2009-11 Introduction**

The CYPP is a key part of the City Council's policy and performance management framework, providing a structure for analysis and scrutiny of performance at all levels of the organisation, as well as setting out the strategic direction for the Council and its key partners in relation to children and young people.

As the most deprived city in England, Liverpool continues to have a very challenging agenda but we firmly believe that a clear and committed focus on the priorities set out in the CYPP will enable the City Council and its partners to deliver our shared vision for children and young people.

**Stuart Smith**  
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Children Families and Adults

**Councillor Keith Turner**  
Executive Member  
Education Skills and Employment

## Liverpool CYPP 2009-11 Introduction

### Children and Young People in Liverpool

Liverpool is home to 92,380 children and young people aged 0-19. Our children and young people come from diverse backgrounds. There are 65052 pupils. 15.1% are from ethnic backgrounds other than White British. 6.9% speak a first language other than English. There are an increasing number of asylum seekers entering the city. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children provide a significant challenge to health, care and accommodation resources locally.

Many children in Liverpool grow up in disadvantaged circumstances. Liverpool is ranked the most deprived local authority area in England and the most deprived local authority for the level of concentrated deprivation.

Liverpool's children experience poorer health than in many other parts of the UK. One third of 10 year old children in the city are overweight and 50% have experienced dental cavities by the age of 5. Poor health is strongly linked to poverty and 31.4% of children in the city are eligible for free school meals compared to 29% nationally.

Liverpool has one of the highest rates of children in need in the country. At any one time there are around 840 looked after children (almost 20 of whom are unaccompanied asylum seekers) and there are 380 children on the Child Protection Register (as at January 2009)

### Children's Services in Liverpool

Liverpool has 179 maintained schools (131 primary, 28 secondary, 3 City Academies, 5 nursery and 12 special schools), and 24 Children Centres, and we provide children and young people with a wide range of universal, targeted and specialist services.

#### **Universal services** (many also have targeted elements)

- Early years education, childcare and play
- Statutory education
- Services to ensure school improvement and high standards
- Educational and recreational programmes for young people, including sports programmes in schools and community settings
- Services to support young people in their transition to adulthood, including their understanding of the world of work
- Student support, mandatory and post-16 education awards
- Further, adult and community education programmes
- Children and Family Information Service

#### **Targeted services**

- Support for schools and pupils with special education (SEN) and additional needs
- Support for schools and pupils to improve behaviour and access to education
- Early intervention programmes
- Support for young people through advice, guidance and positive activities

#### **Specialist Services**

- Specialist assessment and family support services, including services for children with disabilities
- Child protection and safeguarding services
- Services for looked after children, including fostering and adoption services

## **Liverpool CYPP 2009-11 Introduction**

- Services for young offenders and those at risk of offending

### ***Support Services***

- Services to schools and other settings, health and safety and asset management
- Strategic planning, including admissions, performance management and management information services
- Staff development and training
- Finance, contracts and property services

Children's social care services in Liverpool are provided through 300 foster carers, 4 residential homes and 20 social work teams.

Universal, targeted and specialist health services for children and young people are delivered through Liverpool PCT.

The City Council has a legal duty to promote co-operation across agencies to deliver better outcomes for local children and young people. It works closely with health services, the police and the voluntary and community sector; all of whom are represented with other key partners on Liverpool First for Children and Young People (see Appendix 6).