

Consultation Process

Consultation with parents of children with special educational needs or a disability

In September 2008 as part of a consultation exercise organised by the City Council's SEN and Disabilities team, and the Liverpool Parent and Carer Forum, more than 1000 parents of children with special educational needs or a disability were invited to take part in a written survey and/ or attend an event on 1 October about the services they receive and what should become the focus for the coming year in relation to early diagnosis and family support.

Workshops with children and young people

As part of a mid-year review, Liverpool First for Children and Young People organised a workshop event in September 2008 which was attended by more than 250 representatives from Liverpool's Schools Parliament/ school councils, together with some of our looked after children, and older young people who are being supported by the Youth Service.

The workshops looked at the following issues identified by the young people themselves:

- Gun, gang, knife and street crime
- Relationships, sexuality and sexual health - secondary age group only
- Healthy diet and exercise
- Accommodation for care leavers
- Public transport
- Enjoying and Achieving at School
- Career opportunities, work experience and financial support
- Extended schools and cultural activities
- Anti-bullying and anti-racism

Pre Consultation Documentation

In order to stimulate discussion on the progress made during 2008/09, and to obtain some input on the areas of focus for 2009/10, a pre-consultation pack was published in November 2008 comprising:

- Summary feedback from the workshops with children and young people (*a DVD containing footage obtained during these sessions was also sent to every school, and to other consultees on request, in order to provide a visual focus and prompt for follow up discussions*)
- 'Report Cards' relating to each priority area within the CYPP
- A summary data report on our key performance targets
- Key dates for the CYPP review and refresh
- A feedback form
- The list of consultees (see next page)

Consultees

Relevant Partners under Section 10 of Children Act 2004
<p>Merseyside Police Local Probation Board Youth Offending Service Strategic Health Authority Liverpool Primary Care Trust Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership</p>
Partners and organisations to be consulted during the preparation of the CYPP – Children and Young People’s Plan (England) Regulations 2005
<p>Local Safeguarding Children Board Church authorities in Liverpool i.e. Archdiocesan and Diocesan Boards of Education</p> <p><i>Relevant partners (not referred to in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004):</i> Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service National Museums Liverpool Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust Liverpool First Strategic Issue Partnerships Liverpool First Forum and Executive Advisory Group Headteacher Managerial Associations Liverpool Governors Forum Drug and Alcohol Action team</p> <p><i>Children, young people and families (including carers) as the LA consider appropriate:</i></p> <p><i>Persons or bodies representing children, young people and families as the LA consider appropriate:</i> Education and Skills Select Committee Health, Care and Safeguarding Select Committee Sustainable Communities Select Committee Children and Young People’s Neighbourhood Partnership Working Groups Ward Councillors Parent Partnership Service SEN Forum Liverpool Schools Parliament Liverpool Parent and Carer Forum Youth Advisory Groups Sub groups of Liverpool First for Children and Young People</p> <p><i>Voluntary Service Providers:</i> Barnardos Merseyside Youth Association Other providers from whom the local authority commissions services</p> <p><i>Representatives of local communities as the LA consider appropriate:</i> Liverpool Community Network (0-25 group) Liverpool Community Network (BRM group) Liverpool Community Network (Disability Group)</p>
Partners and organisations to be consulted during the preparation of the CYPP – Children and Young People’s Plan (Amendment) Regulations 2007
<p>Liverpool Schools Forum Liverpool Admissions Forum The proprietor of every school in the Local Authority area: Headteachers and Governing Bodies</p>

Consultation Responses

Some initial written feedback was received from the following in response to the pre-consultation pack:

- Head of Public Health Strategy and Modernisation and the Head of Nursing (Lead for Children’s Services Redesign): Liverpool PCT Provider Service
- Co-ordinator: Barnardo’s Keeping the Family in Mind
- Team Leader: Barnardo’s Action with Young Carers

This feedback acknowledged the good progress made by the City Council and its partners, highlighting a number of significant achievements notably:

- Raised awareness of children with complex and diverse needs
- Better facilities for working with children and young people (e.g. Children Centres)
- Improved access to recreational facilities
- Stronger multi-agency working and collaborative partnerships in relation to young carers

The consultation draft was published on-line on 18 February 2009. All statutory consultees and key stakeholders were provided with the web link to the City Council’s CYPP webpage along with extracts from the draft in order to provide a summary overview. The consultation was also publicised on the Liverpool First website with a link to the relevant documentation and feedback form.

During the consultation period, responses were received from the following:

Strategic partners	Consultant Clinical Psychologist Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust
	Senior Public Health Practitioner – Health Improvement Department of Public Health Liverpool PCT
	Lead Commissioner SEN/Disability Children’s Commissioning Liverpool PCT
	Commissioning Lead for Sexual Health Services and Community Based Provider Services
	Chief Executive Officer, Merseyside Probation Trust
	Youth Engagement Manager, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
	Business Unit Manager, Citysafe Strategy Unit
	Area Manager, Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership
	Operations Manager PSS, Liverpool Personal Service Society
	Team Leader, Barnardo’s Action with Young Carers
	Co-ordinator, Barnardo’s Keeping the Family in Mind
City Council	Chair of Education and Skills Select Committee and Chair of City and North’s Healthier Communities and Older People Neighbourhood Partnership Working Group
	Chair of the City and North District Committee and member of the Education and Skills Select Committee
	Deputy Chair of Health, Care and Safeguarding Select Committee
	Opposition Spokesperson for Education, Skills and Employment
	Opposition Spokesperson for Health, Care and Safeguarding
	Executive Director for Regeneration
	Head of Libraries and Information Services

Schools	Chair of Governors, St Christopher's Catholic Primary School
	Principal, Academy of St Francis of Assisi
Young People	Liverpool Schools Parliament – Upper House

General responses from consultees

Amongst the general comments, there was some positive feedback about the consultation process and the format of the CYPP, indicating that the relevant information was accessible and easy to follow.

Barnardo's complimented the collaborative and partnership approach in relation to young carers and has endorsed the direction that the City Council is moving to in supporting the whole family, indicating that across adult and children's services there is a strong drive to 'think family' and promote understanding.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust welcomed the CYPP, highlighting the ways in which its specialist teams can support the partnership approach towards achieving positive outcomes for children and young people.

PSS similarly highlighted aspects of the CYPP, indicating the ways in which they would seek to support partnership working on specific priority actions.

Liverpool Schools Parliament highlighted the need for the City Council to maintain its financial commitment to the provision of free passes to fitness centres.

Many of the comments received as part of the consultation feedback were in relation to specific priorities and work programmes with measurable targets which could be easily incorporated into the CYPP via amendments to the relevant sections (as indicated later).

However two general comments were received in relation to children's mental health in terms of anxiety and stress, child poverty and infant mortality. There is much debate nationally and locally on these topics and as yet no Government agency (particularly the Audit Commission) has developed a specific measure or indicator for them. Whilst they represent an outcome for children that we would wish to achieve, progress is measured by a combination of 'proxy indicators'. For instance, the general level of stress and anxiety children suffer is influenced by:

- Number of bullying related interventions
- Domestic violence interventions
- Healthy Schools Award
- Development of the Common Assessment Framework and child centred approaches
- Development of mental health services in schools
- Development of child and adolescent mental health services
- Basic counselling training for front line staff
- Accredited diversionary activity programmes

All of the above feature in the CYPP with measured, targeted work programmes. Whilst the degree to which they individually contribute to reductions in child stress is not something that can be measured at this time, the foreword to the CYPP has been extended to reflect these general concerns for the overall well-being of children and young

people, and the wish of some respondents to the consultation to see this overall perspective highlighted.

A further comment referred to the need for an increase in the number of apprenticeships in Liverpool (across the strategic partnership), suggesting that this should become an additional priority in the *Economic Wellbeing* section of the CYPP, targeted at our most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. Corporate workforce planning is looking at the development of apprenticeship models at all levels including graduate apprentices and opportunities for looked after children/care leavers. The funding for such posts is a challenge, given the context of a decreasing population and financial constraints. There will be further reports on this within the corporate monthly performance monitors during 2009/10.

In addition to the above, the following points were also highlighted in consultation feedback:

- The need for the separation of commissioning and provision of multi-agency services for looked after children
- The need for the Executive Member and the Executive Director to review and report on current management and structural arrangements whereby scrutiny of the CYPP is split across three Select Committees, and the impact of this on safeguarding.
- The ways in which some of the consultees will contribute to the proposed priority actions and outcomes through ongoing partnership working arrangements.
- The absence of specific detail relating to some of the proposed priority actions - reflecting the fact that the CYPP is a high level strategic document rather than a detailed operational plan. (*In several cases, consultees sought further clarification or put forward suggestions; the relevant points are being referred on to the designated lead officers*).

Specific Changes made to the CYPP arising from the consultation process

Section 3: Leadership and Management

Additional text has been included to emphasise our ambition in relation to the quality of the physical environment in which children and young people can thrive (i.e. schools, playgrounds and other assets) and the ways in which young people are being prepared for the world of work.

Section 4: People and Resources

The financial summary table indicating typical contributions from key partners now includes two programmes involving Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Section 7: Policy Developments

This now makes reference to the Commissioning Support Programme, and to Sure Start.

Appendix 1: Priorities and Key Actions

Priority A.1 now makes reference to play in the fifth priority action. The key measures of success now include the increased number of sporting playgrounds.

Priority A.3 now includes Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust as a named partner. One of the key measures it will lead on relates to the development of an inter-agency service to children who have repeat admissions to the Accident and Emergency department at Alder Hey following (largely alcohol) ingestion.

Priority A.4 has been re-titled. It is now *Reduce under-18 conceptions and improve young people's sexual health (Chlamydia Screening)*. The priority actions and key measures of success now make specific references to sexual health.

Priority B.2 now includes the Merseyside Probation Trust in the list of key partners.

Priority C.4 now includes Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust as a named key partner.

Priority C.5 now includes two additional priority actions relating to the development of a community occupational therapy team, and a sustainable key working resource for 0-19 age range.

Priority D.3 has been re-titled. It is now *Increase access to positive activities for children and young people, and continue to develop and strengthen a community based, sustainable, flexible and high quality network of play and youth service provision within communities*. The second key priority action refers to an increase in detached/outreach teams to engage targeted groups of vulnerable young people.

Priority F.1 now includes Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust as a named key partner.

Appendix 2: Needs Assessment

This now makes reference to a consultation exercise completed in January 2009 with children under 5 years of age attending children centres.

Appendix 3: Key Achievements

The Be Healthy section now makes specific reference to the development of a targeted mental health service in schools, together with a number of achievements relating to Alder Hey's specialist child and adolescent mental health service.

Appendix 4: Key Performance Indicators and Targets

Several of the national indicators for local authorities and local authority partnerships have been updated. A new set of definitions was published in February 2009 by the Department for Communities and Local Government, with supporting guidance. This gave formal notice that the following indicators would be dropped from the national indicator set from April 2009 – following the Government's announcement of the end of Key Stage 3 assessments:

NI 74 Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3

NI 77 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3

NI 83 Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3

NI 95 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

NI 96 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

NI 97 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

NI 98 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

The dataset has been amended accordingly, with complementary changes also made to the table of key indicators in the Needs Assessment summary overview within Appendix 2.

Appendix 5: Financial Information

The table titled *Growth - Savings Analysis for the 3 years 2009-10 to 2011-2012* has been updated in order to correct the split across social care business units.

Appendix 6: Arrangements for Partnership Working

This has been amended to include some additional groups that relate to the partnership structure and the priorities for children and young people.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is now represented on Liverpool First for Children and Young People by its Youth Engagement Manager. The schedule has been updated.

Appendix 7: Related Plans and Strategies

This now includes the titles of the two strategic documents (and web links) that underpin the work of the Libraries and Information Service in Liverpool, which supports the implementation of key priorities for children and young people across the city.

The Fire and Rescue Service National Strategy for Children and Young People has also been added to the list of related plans and strategies (with the web link). This is intended to deliver effective reduction of fire risk and fire crime, and ensure excellence in work with children and young people, especially those in deprived communities, supported by effective partnership working and early intervention.

Appendix 9: Glossary

Some additional entries have now been included or information has been provided to supplement the original text.