

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet

8 July 2010

**AUTHOR:** Chief Executive /Corporate Manager, Community and Customer Services

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### RESPONSE TO THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP - SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

#### Purpose

- 1 To provide a draft action plan in response to the report of the task & finish group that reviewed how well the Council works with partners to provide services for children and young people; and to seek endorsement of the action plan.
- 2 This is not a key decision.

#### Recommendation

3. Cabinet is recommended to endorse the action plan at **Appendix 1**, subject to any amendments made at this meeting.

#### Background

4. In 2009/10 the Scrutiny and Overview Committee set up a cross-party task and finish group with the following terms of reference:

*To review how effectively the Council works with partners to meet the needs of young people\* and recommend areas for improvement.*

\*This was later amended to 'children and young people' in line with partners' definitions.

5. The Cabinet received a [report of the review on 8 April 2010](#) and instructed officers to report on the feasibility of the recommendations and draft an action plan for consideration. Minute 96 refers.

#### Considerations

6. The action plan at Appendix 1 has been drafted in consultation with the chairman of the scrutiny review and relevant officers to ensure that it includes feasible actions that will meet all ten of the review's recommendations.

7. **Implications**

Financial	Working in partnership allows the Council to access some funds not otherwise available Actions recommended in this report are expected to be achieved within existing resources. They may lead to savings as yet unquantified.
Legal	The Children's Trust has been set up to fulfil the requirement of Section 11 of Children Act 2004

Staffing/ capacity	On average, each partnership requires each representative to invest around 30 hours pa. Recommendations in this report are expected to be achieved within existing resources and may lead to savings as yet unquantified.
Risk Management	Key partnerships are already regularly reviewed for risk. Any reduction in partnership participation would need to be risk-assessed. If recommendations in this report are not implemented, there is a risk that the improvements in partnership-working and services for children and young people may not be achieved
Equal Opportunities	An equality impact assessment of the partnership framework is planned for early 2010. This report will be used as evidence. The actions recommended in this report are designed to help the Council and partners to better meet the needs of children and young people, which is in itself an equalities issue.
Climate Change	None

### **Consultation**

8. The task and finish group consulted a small number of partnership representatives, both elected Members and officers. This asked for examples of achievements or service improvements made for children and young people by their partnership, as well as ideas for improvement.
9. Three members of the task and finish group consulted over 30 children and young people across the District to find out what services and support they would like the Council and its partners to provide. This included interviewing two school pupils who attended a task and finish group meeting as observers during work experience.
10. Consultation of other officers, Members, partners and children and young people was conducted informally as the opportunities arose, during the period of the review.

### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

11. Improvements to the Council's efficient use of partnership working will help to meet all of the Council's corporate objectives.

### **Conclusions / Summary**

12. Cabinet approved the report of the Task and Finish Group on 8 April 2010 and is now invited to agree the action plan as attached at Appendix 1, subject to any amendments made at this meeting.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Report to Cabinet on 8 April 2010

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