

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting 20 January 2011
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Corporate Manager (Community and Customer Services)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Purpose

1. To monitor progress against the action plan agreed by Cabinet following a Scrutiny and Overview Committee review into 'working in partnership to support children and young people'.
2. This not a key decision, however, has been brought before the Leader for monitoring purposes following agreement at Cabinet to maintain an overview of progress against targets.

It was first published in the November 2010 Forward Plan.

Recommendation

3. That the Leader notes the progress made against the action plan and highlights actions that require further attention.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The purpose of this report is to review progress against the action plan. No further options were considered.

Background

5. On 5 November 2009 the Scrutiny and Overview Committee agreed to set up a cross-party task and finish group to review how effectively the Council works with partners to meet the needs of children and young people and recommend areas for improvement.
6. On 8 April 2010 Cabinet welcomed the report from the Children's and Young People's Task and Finish Group and instructed to report on the feasibility of the recommendations and draft an action plan for consideration at a future meeting of Cabinet. Cabinet agreed an action plan on 8 July 2010 and the Leader agreed to maintain an overview of progress against targets.

Considerations

7. An update on the actions can be found at **Appendix A**. The majority of actions are either on target or in progress. Where progress has been delayed this has been for a valid reason and there are plans in place to ensure that the action is taken forward.

Options

8. To note the progress made against the action plan and highlight actions that require further attention.

Implications

9.	Financial	Working in partnership allows the Council to access some funds not otherwise available. Actions in this plan 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	On average, each partnership requires each representative to invest around 30 hours pa. Actions within 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 actions are not implemented, there is a risk that the improvements in partnership working and services for children and young people may not be achieved.
	Equality and Diversity	The actions are designed to help the Council and partners to better meet the needs of children and young people, which is an equalities issue.
	Equality Impact Assessment completed	No. This is not a policy or strategy.
	Climate Change	Actions may result in fewer meetings attended by encouraging representatives to consider the cost/benefit of participation. This will potentially reduce travel.

Consultations

10. No consultations have taken place as part of this monitoring update report.

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. The majority of actions are either on target or in progress. Where progress has been delayed this has been for a valid reason and there are plans in place to ensure that the action is taken forward.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Report of the Task and Finish Group – Services for Children and Young People through Partnerships (Cabinet, 8 April 2010)
- Working in Partnership on Services for CYP - Draft Action Plan for consideration by Cabinet 8 July 2010

Contact Officer: Gemma Barron – Partnerships Manager, Telephone: (01954) 713340