

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny

DATE: 23 May 2006

SUBJECT: Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09

REPORT OF: The Children's Board

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present Manchester's finalised Children and Young People's Plan.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Towards Unified Children's Services – report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (15/7/03) and Executive (23/7/03)

The Children Bill 2004 – report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (6/4/04)

LOCATION

Pauline Newman,
Director of Children's
Services, – 0161 234
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Unit - 0161 234 7086

Integrating Children's Services – progress report – report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (6/4/04)	Graham Mellors, Head of the Joint Children's Unit - 0161 234 7086
Every Child Matters – overview of national developments and implications for the local change programme - report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (8/2/05)	Graham Mellors, Head of the Joint Children's Unit - 0161 234 7086
Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 - Report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10/1/2006)	Graham Mellors, Head of the Joint Children's Unit - 0161 234 7086
Respect Action Plan – report to Executive (18/1/06)	Steve Mycio, Deputy Chief Executive (Performance) – 0161 234 3031
Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 – report to Executive (15/3/06)	Graham Mellors, Head of the Joint Children's Unit – 0161 234 7086

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 31 March 2006, Manchester published its first Children and Young People's Plan and in doing so met one of the new statutory requirements set out in the Children Act 2004. The plan is the single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people. It sets out the agreed vision for children and young people in the area, and a set of top-level performance measures and targets and plans to achieve them. It does, however, remain a living document, and will need to keep pace with national and local developments, not least the outcome of the Joint Area Review.
- 1.2 A copy of the Plan has been circulated to Members. This report provides feedback to Members on how the comments made in the January Committee meeting informed the development of the Plan. It also summarises arrangements for communication and performance management.

2. Scrutiny Process

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a draft of the Children and Young People's Plan in January 2006. A number of comments and observations were made, which alongside the outcomes of other consultation processes, helped to inform the final version of the Plan.
- 2.2 Key examples include:
 - The increased prominence given to mental health and its inclusion in the suite of the Plan's top level performance measures (as you will see from the Plan, the precise measure and baseline will be defined during the first year of the Plan);
 - More information about the attainment of black and minority ethnic pupils, celebrating good comparative performance for some groups as well as areas for improvement;
 - A greater emphasis on homelessness and a commitment to gain a better understanding of the causes of high levels of mobility and hence develop more effective interventions for prevention;
 - A greater emphasis on the positive participation of children and young people, including volunteering – both volunteering and young people's perception of how much say they have are included in the suite of the Plan's top-level indicators;
 - More value placed on the role of participation in play, sport, leisure and cultural activities – an 'enjoy' strategy is proposed.

3. Communication Process

- 3.1 The Government's basic minimum requirements for publicising the Plan have been met. The Plan has been published on the internet (www.manchester.gov.uk/education/cypp), copies are available in Public Libraries and a copy has been sent to those organisations that have a duty to cooperate under the Children Act 2004.
- 3.2 An executive summary of the Plan will be produced and made available to all those working in children's services. By June, more accessible versions will be made available for public circulation. The aim is to have a version for children and young people available in June for circulation via schools. Documents will be made available in the usual formats to ensure full access.

4. Performance Management

- 4.1 The Children's Board will ensure that the lines of accountability for all the top-level performance measures and Key Actions in the Plan are clearly in place. The Board will continue to assess and, where necessary, challenge performance.
- 4.2 Performance management processes will need to be further refined and integrated as the inter-agency governance arrangements are finalised. This will include taking advantage of the opportunities provided the Local Area Agreement to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people are a priority across the whole of the Manchester Partnership.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Children and Young People's Plan provides an excellent basis for partners to deliver across a shared set of priorities, actions and outcomes.