

## **THURROCK CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2010-11**

### **Summary of the 2010 consultation**

#### **First Consultation**

Consultation took place formally on the internet during March - May 2010, in various meetings, such as the 'World Café' event at Culver and in written responses, such as those received from other directorates within Thurrock Council, child-minders and Thurrock VCS.

#### **General**

There were some general suggestions about how the language and layout could be improved to improve clarity. For example, it was thought:

- The Plan seemed primarily to reflect professionals' aspirations
- Some of the language was perceived to be 'journalistic' and could be construed as elitist
- There was a perception that the Plan was excessively 'school-centric' both in the role outlined for schools and in citing where there had been excellent relationships and leadership development
- It was understood that what the Trust wants to achieve should be based on its understanding of the needs and priorities of children and young people (CYP) in Thurrock
- It would be helpful to show who the Plan was for and the age range of the CYP
- It would be helpful to define in the Plan the use of the terms 'pillars', 'priorities' and 'resilience'
- The Plan should provide a clear explanation of personal, social and emotional well-being
- Readers would like to see more detail in the Plan – the actions within the 'pillars' and more clarity on the sources and relevance of data used

#### **Specifics**

It was suggested by different respondents that the following should be included or emphasised:

- A specific acknowledgment of the success of Palmer's College
- An increased focus on children leaving care, children with complex needs and the transition to adult services
- An acknowledgment of the need to address issues of hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual violence experienced by young people
- More on reducing re-offending and how young people are supported whose parents are offenders
- More mention of the importance of parenting and 'home'
- Partnership performance management
- The Children's Trust website developed as the main communications mechanism
- Information sharing protocols between agencies
- Increased reference to being innovative across the partnership
- More focus on the third sector, its role and contribution, and on the role of youth services and health

- How the CYPP is costed out and the opportunities for match funding over the 3-year life of the Plan
- Stating clearly in the appendix the role of the partners in delivering the priorities and expectations of them?
- Clarity about the role of Family Intervention Projects and Adult Learning
- The Plan should indicate that it will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment
- The Plan needs to treat diversity more widely to include men, women, sexuality and transgender
- Health should include sexually transmitted diseases
- Avoid any implication that domestic violence is just a working class problem
- Racist bullying data needs to be sex disaggregated; Female Genital Mutilation data needs to be included
- Make PREVENT separate from youth crime

### **Agencies wishing to have further mention**

- Early years private sector providers
- South Essex College
- Council and Private Sector Housing
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Involvement of community and voluntary groups including Open Door, Thurrock Women's Aid and SERICC
- The VCS would like to work with the Trust to explore the development of an 'offer' that identifies the sector, priorities based on needs-based information and a coherent approach to capacity building
- Make reference to the Olympics

Following the first consultation and the matters raised above, and in the light of resource challenges and policy challenges emerging from the May election of a Coalition Government, the Children's Plan was re-cast with significant changes and the final draft went to a second on-line consultation during July and August 2010.

### **Second Consultation**

There were much fewer feedback responses than in the first consultation, largely attributable to the timing coinciding with the school holidays, but notable responses this time were from several parents/carers and users of children's centres and an elected member.

### **General**

As a result of the changes to the early consultation draft:

- The document was thought clear enough; the readers were able to understand what the Trust wants to achieve
- Its conciseness was appreciated
- The appendix containing the demographic maps was very helpful
- The 'If Thurrock had 100 children...' format was thought to be highly effective in helping the reader to understand the issues and to define the achievement of targets

- It was recognised it was a strategic document but respondents still lamented the lack of specific details about the actions and how they would affect children, young people and their families in a concrete way
- The vision was supported but the 'pillars' were still thought to be conceptually difficult by some
- While there was support for the aims, how they would be achieved and their delivery was not specific enough
- The identification of low performance at Key Stage 2 and the aim to vastly improve this was noted and appreciated
- The delivery of the 'pillars' was positively received but there was suspicion of any use of targets and tick boxes as the means to measure outcomes
- A respondent was glad to note that the new academies would be encouraged to support other schools rather than compete with them
- There was also a critical comment about the timing of the consultation process as the Plan was titled 'Final Draft'
- There was also concern about the time line for some of the proposals to be implemented – some matters are too urgent to wait 36 months and others will need time to embed cultural change

### **Specifics**

There was still concern about the focus. The 'real' issues were perceived to be:

- Disengagement by parents, families and individual children. Too many families have low aspirations and chaotic lives
- The lack of apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers is a concern but the Plan was not clear in the details about what is being done to address this.
- The loss of playgrounds, the changes to children's centres
- Concern was expressed if families only receive social services expertise when children are in need of protection; support is needed earlier
- There was a plea to support non-authority out of school provision i.e. clubs and other groups which are a vital part of the community and which enable low attainers to flourish and achieve in a way not possible for them at school
- There were some reservations about how the 'Big Society' might end up with reduced local authority services providing less support to areas of need which those communities would be unable to compensate for voluntarily
- Information needed on how delivery gaps will be filled by the voluntary, faith and community sectors
- Uncertainty about the levels of finance involved to deliver 'Excellent child care, schools, colleges and services' and how this pillar will be delivered in practice

### **Conclusion**

Many respondents based their views on their perceptions of the plan or their particular individual circumstances. The consultation in its two parts drew some interesting observations from respondents, many of which were absorbed into the final draft. When the plan is refreshed in 2011, these views will re-considered at the re-drafting stage.

B Wilkinson  
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