

COPELAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Allan Holliday
LEAD OFFICER: Keith Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental Services.
REPORT AUTHOR: Cath Coombs, Cultural Services Manager.

Summary and Recommendation:

The purpose of this report is to introduce the draft Copeland Children and Young People's plan, identify a Lead Member and Lead Officer and obtain Member support for the proposed action plan.

It is recommended that:

- a) That the draft Children and Young People's Plan be noted.
- b) That Cllr Allan Holliday be confirmed as the Lead Member for Children and Young People and that the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services be confirmed as the Lead Officer.
- c) If recommendations a) and b) are approved; that the Corporate Director, Quality of Life, is delegated to make progress on the action plan identified within section 4 of the CYP Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

Members will be aware that the development of a Children and Young People's Strategy was identified within the Forward Plan as due for completion in March 2007.

The Children Act 2004 requires each children's service authority (Cumbria County Council) and partners (including the District Councils) to cooperate to improve the well being of children. Within the Act, a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. District Councils in two tier areas, while not being tasked as the lead agency, are required by law to participate in the wider Children and Young People's Plan being developed and refreshed by Cumbria County Council. To obtain a 'position statement' of this wide ranging area of work, a Copeland Children and Young People's Plan has been developed and is in the process of being consulted on.

The structure on a County wide basis has evolved over the last eighteen months, and is still doing so. The aim of the Copeland Children and Young People's Plan is provide a short and understandable document that explains the background, provides an overview of Copeland's current contribution to meeting the agenda,

outlines Copeland's statutory obligations relating to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, and proposes initial areas for development.

Members should note that this is draft document. To finalise, some internal contributions are expected imminently, a limited external consultation exercise with key partners is planned, and the conclusion section is to be developed following the completion of the consultation phase.

2. ARGUMENT

Please find attached as Appendix A, the draft Copeland CYP Plan.

Within section 4 of the Copeland CYP Plan (Areas for Development in Copeland), there is a requirement to formally identify a Lead Member and Lead Officer for Children and Young People's issues. It is proposed that Cllr Allan Holliday be confirmed as Lead Member and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services be confirmed as Lead Officer.

3. CONCLUSIONS

This plan is the first step to ensuring Copeland Borough Council contributes to and embraces this vital area of work.

4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

The preparation of the plan and implementation of the actions in the 2007-08 financial year are to be delivered utilising existing resources, primarily from within the Cultural Services Department.

5. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

A full risk management appraisal is to be completed, but it is expected that risks will be minimal at this stage. As the agenda evolves participation in, for example, the information sharing index arrangements will have to be considered on a case by case basis.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

The refreshed Corporate Plan for 2005/07 identified the cross cutting theme of Children and Young People that is central to many of the Council's services. To ensure that the Council is aware of its obligations, the Leisure and Environmental Services department are to develop a strategy for Children and Young People that is consistent with and supports the aims and objectives of the Cumbria Children and Young People's Board.

List of Appendices

[Appendix A](#) - Draft 3 of Copeland Children and Young People's Plan.

List of Background Documents: None.

List of Consultees: Cllr Allan Holliday; Corporate Team, John Hughes, Graham McWilliam, Sue Palmer, Toni Magean, Vic Emmerson, Louise Kelly.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Issue covered within draft Copeland CYP Plan.
Impact on Sustainability	Issue covered within draft Copeland CYP Plan.
Impact on Rural Proofing	Issue covered within draft Copeland CYP Plan.
Health and Safety Implications	Minimal at present – but risk assessments to be completed when developing new services.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Issue covered within draft Copeland CYP Plan.
Children and Young Persons Implications	This is the main focus of the report.
Human Rights Act Implications	None specifically.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO