

APPENDIX A

Committee: Cabinet	Date: 11 March 2009	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services Originating officer(s) Anthony Walters - Service Head, Strategy, Partnerships and Performance. Laura Murdoch – Strategy, Partnerships and Performance		Title: Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 Wards Affected: ALL		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-12 which we are required to publish in April 2009. The draft plan can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The CYPP falls under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting on 11 March 2009 for Members' consideration.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Endorse the draft CYPP at Appendix 1 and recommend that full Council approve the plan subject to any appropriate amendments to reflect the views of Members;
- 2.2 Authorise the Corporate Director of Children's Services, after consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to make appropriate amendments to the CYPP in advance of consideration by Full Council;
- 2.3 Agree the proposed change of name from 'Children's Service's Directorate' to 'Children, Schools and Families Directorate' as set out in para 4.6.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004. On the basis of a statutory duty, all local authorities are required to produce a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people every three years (to be reviewed each year in which the authority is not required to publish a plan). The CYPP supports more integrated and effective services to secure better outcomes for children. The last Tower Hamlets three year CYPP was published in April 2006. We are therefore required to publish a new three-year plan in April this year.
- 3.2 The CYPP is 'owned' by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) which is Tower Hamlets Children's Trust Board. The CYPSPG is one of the five community plan delivery groups. Through developing and implementing the CYPP, CYPSPG focuses on all of the community plan priorities as they relate to children, young people and their families in Tower Hamlets. Expert theme groups which focus on developing the more detailed work around each of the Every Child Matters themes¹ report into the CYPSPG which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 3.3 The new CYPP is different to previous plans. It is shorter and more focused on key priorities, outlining what will be done *differently* over the next three years to address these priorities. It has a more developed localisation section and has identified three new cross-cutting themes which run throughout the plan: tackling child poverty, engaging the community and supporting families. The new CYPP does not attempt to outline *everything* that will be done over the next 3 years. Instead, the final plan will be accompanied by detailed delivery plans for each Every Child Matter theme.
- 3.4 The CYPP falls under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting for Members' consideration. **Cabinet is required by the Council's Constitution to take account of the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before submitting recommendations to Full Council.** The CYPP will be considered by full Council in April. A full process timeline can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

4. **THE NEW THREE YEAR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

- 4.1 This strategic three-year Children and Young People's plan does not attempt to cover all the activity going on in Children's Services. External validation of

¹ Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Wellbeing as well as Excellent Children's Services

performance has given the directorate confidence in the core elements of its approach and this plan focuses on the key issues where it hasn't yet made the impact that children and young people deserve.

- 4.2 To help measure progress, performance indicators have been identified for each of the themed sections. Targets for these indicators will be determined prior to publication, using the latest available performance data.

Developing the plan

- 4.3 To develop the plan a needs analysis was carried out alongside an extensive consultation. The consultation was carried out with children, young people and their families as well as those who deliver services for children. The consultation fulfilled all statutory requirements as set out in The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005. The needs analysis and consultation have informed the cross-cutting themes, the theme specific priorities and local priorities, as well as the 'what we'll do differently' sections of this plan.
- 4.4 An emphasis was placed on involving local residents from the start, ensuring they were given an opportunity to shape the CYPP for the next three years. In October 2008 a 'Tag Wagon' was commissioned – a van installed with multimedia equipment - and used to carry out innovative workshops, designed to find out what people think about a range of issues that affect them in the borough. The Tag Wagon travelled around the borough visiting Children's Centres, schools, youth projects, markets and Idea Stores to gather views from children, young people and families. From this consultation, a 'Tag Map' has been created, documenting the views of residents, highlighting what local needs and issues are. Through an online blog, local residents and practitioners were also able to comment on the draft plan. As with previous versions of the CYPP, we have illustrated some of the comments made during the consultation and how we are responding to them in the plan itself. A full consultation report will also be published alongside the new CYPP, a draft of which can be found at [Appendix 3](#).

Delivering the plan

- 4.5 The plan will be delivered through the Local Strategic Partnership. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) is the Community Plan Delivery Group which is accountable for delivering the CYPP and monitors and reviews progress made on a regular basis, taking action where necessary. The CYPSPG also has members from the LAPs to ensure progress against local priorities for children, young people and their families as well as the borough wide priorities. A progress review against the priorities and activities outlined in this plan will be published on an annual basis.

Launching the plan

- 4.6 The new CYPP will be published at the end of April 2009. The plan will be published online and will be interactive. However we will also produce a small number of hard copies. We are planning a high profile media launch of the plan at the end of April which will involve all of our key partners.
- 4.7 As part of the launch it has been proposed that we change the name of 'Children's Services' Directorate to 'Children, Schools and Families' Directorate to reflect the important work we do, not only with children and young people, but also their families. The proposed change in name will reflect locally the change in name of the national government Department to the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 5.1 The CYPP is concerned with planning and directing the resources allocated through the budget process to the Council's priorities in relation to these services, and providing targets against which the use of resources can be assessed. Thus it contributes to achieving value for money for the use of these resources.
- 5.2 At this stage, there is no identified impact on Children's Services revenue or capital budgets arising from this plan. As indicated by the Medium Term Financial Plan considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11th February, the CYPP coincides with a period of tightening resources and greater financial risk for the authority. Any additional resource requirements to achieve the agreed priorities will be identified through the budget process and will need to be contained within existing budgets.
- 5.3 The costs associated with the consultation and publication of the CYPP will be contained within existing budgets.

6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend the draft Children and Young People's Plan ("CYPP") at Appendix 1 of the report to Full Council.
- 6.2 Pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 the Council is required, as a children's services authority, to prepare and publish a plan setting out the Council's strategy for discharging its functions in relation to children and relevant young persons.

- 6.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the CYPP is part of the policy framework and falls to be approved by Full Council.
- 6.4 The regulations require the Children and Young People's Plan to set out the following matters:
- a. Improvements which the Council intends to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and young people;
 - b. The Council's vision for children and young people;
 - c. An assessment of needs in relation to the outcomes;
 - d. Priorities and key actions planned to achieve the improvements;
 - e. A statement of how resources will be deployed to achieve the outcomes;
 - f. An explanation of how the plan relates to arrangements for performance management and review of services;
 - g. The arrangements for co-operation under the duty to co-operate and with other partners;
 - h. An explanation of how the CYPP is consistent with the strategic plans of local partners.
- 6.5 Alongside the statutory duties and the plan, new non-statutory CYPP guidance for local authorities was published in January 2009. This guidance brings together a check list of the 2005 and 2007 CYPP regulations and sets out the necessary steps a Local Authority must take in preparing, consulting, reviewing and publishing their CYPP. It also provides guidance on the scope, content and delivery of the CYPP.
- 6.6 The preparation of the CYPP as set out in the report fulfills the statutory requirements and it is open to Cabinet to recommend approval by Full Council.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

Reduce inequalities

- 7.1 The CYPP specifically addresses the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. It also explicitly articulates how we plan to tackle high levels of child poverty. The Council's policies and functions that underpin the delivery of this plan are subjected to equality impact assessments looking at the six equality strands (Age, Disability, Ethnicity, Gender, Faith and Sexual Orientation). In addition every new policy or function arising from this plan will be equality impact assessed.

Ensure strong community cohesion

- 7.2 One of the three overarching themes of the plan is "engaging with the community" and it explicitly articulates how we are going to better meet the needs of our diverse community as a whole over the next three years. A specific

priority around promoting community cohesion can be found in the 'Make a Positive Contribution' section of the plan.

Strengthen community leadership

7.3 An extensive consultation about what the CYPP should include has ensured a high level of community involvement in developing the plan. In terms of implementation, the plan also has a more developed localisation section which focuses on tackling local priorities within the paired Local Area Partnerships (LAPs).

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 In the plan there is a commitment to "build environmentally sustainable buildings, re-using existing buildings wherever possible". The plan also highlights sustainability as being part of a broader more engaging curriculum (see the 'Enjoy and Achieve' section of the plan).

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 We have a statutory duty to publish a CYPP every three years. The last three-year CYPP we published was in April 2006 and therefore there is a risk if the plan is not agreed that we will fall short of legal requirements.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

Through clearer prioritisation in the new CYPP, we can better align resources against the delivery of priorities therefore maximising their impact

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "back ground papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
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NONE

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12

Appendix 2 – Process timeline for developing the new Children and Young People’s Plan 2009-12

Appendix 3 – Draft CYPP Consultation report