

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

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| Children & Young People's Plan 2011/14 - Strategic Needs Assessment |
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Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

31 March 2011

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with information regarding the strategic needs assessment that has been produced to guide the development of the local Children & Young People's Plan for 2011-2014.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board note the availability of the strategic needs assessment.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

BACKGROUND & EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

5. The strategic needs assessment has drawn on a wide range of sources to try and present a comprehensive view of the life experiences of children and young people living in Middlesbrough. Rather than re-presenting the detail of the extensive range of data available to local children's services, the document has tried to use key bits of evidence for each issue to highlight the story that emerges consistently from the full range of information and data.

6. Each section of the needs assessment sets out the data sources that were used in its development. This includes a number of detailed service and/or issue specific needs assessments (e.g. teenage pregnancy, mental health and substance misuse), which have undergone separate consultation exercises as part of their development.
7. The final document was shaped by a consultation exercise that included detailed discussions at the Children & Young People's Trust's theme groups and direct feedback from children's services managers and practitioners.
8. A number of services have already made use of the document to support the preparation of funding bids and to inform their service planning activity, including the development of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the development of a local child poverty needs assessment and the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. It is also being used to inform the emerging priorities for the Children & Young People's Plan for 2011/14 (Appendix 1).
9. Work is underway to develop a web-based resource to improve access to the content of the document and to provide links to the wide range of information, data and supporting documents used in its development. It is envisaged that this resource will also make it easier to keep the document up to date, facilitating a programme of rolling updates as and when new data becomes available for key sections, rather than relying on a significant re-write at one time of the year.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. There are no specific issues arising from the strategic needs assessment itself. The document includes a wide range of information on vulnerable groups of young people and their families, which will be useful to service managers in developing and assessing service delivery plans.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The strategic needs assessment identifies a number of emerging key messages under each of the Children & Young People's Trust's priority areas. These are set out in Appendix 1 and will be guiding the development of local services' response to the needs of children and young people and their families.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no immediate implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board note the availability of the strategic needs assessment as a service planning tool.

REASON

14. The analysis provided in the strategic needs assessment supports the development of evidence-based service planning, which will help drive improved outcomes for local children and young people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Children & Young People's Plan 2011/14 - Strategic Needs Assessment available at:
<http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/public/MGrid/docs/CYPP%20Needs%20Assessment.pdf>

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Children & Young People's Strategic Needs Assessment – Emerging Priorities

Demography

- The scale and spread of deprivation and its impact on outcomes.
- The percentage of children living in single parent families is almost double the national average.
- The rapid growth of black and minority ethnic groups and the proportion of young people who speak English as a second language.
- Significant changes in the age profile of child population over the next five years.

Reducing Child Poverty

- Health and education outcomes are poorest where poverty rates are highest.
- The spread and range of childcare provision meets most of the needs of local parents but there are gaps around provision at weekends and during holiday periods and in the provision of lower cost childcare options.
- The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) has reduced significantly, but the proportion of vulnerable young people in the NEET cohort presents a particular challenge for further reductions.

Raising Attainment

- The gap between young people's attitudes and aspiration and their actual levels of attainment.
- The gap between local results and comparator averages despite continued upward trends in achievement.
- The development of communication, language and literacy skills at all key stages, especially for boys.
- Underachievement in both English and maths as a major barrier to progression for local school leavers.
- Service provision and support for hard to reach and vulnerable group.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

- Geographic pockets of young people who do not feel safe where they live, at school or at home.
- Hospital admissions due to injuries are 60% higher than the national average.
- The significant increase in the number of referrals to children's social care services over the past five years.
- The prevalence of domestic violence.
- A 26% increase in the number of children looked after over the past 18 months, with the majority of cases coming from the most deprived areas of the borough.
- The availability and accessibility of suitable accommodation for young people, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Awareness of, and support for, some vulnerable groups, particularly young carers, runaways and the victims of crime.

Reducing Risk Taking Behaviour

- Relatively high levels of absence and fixed term exclusion in secondary schools.
- A significant and growing minority engaging regularly in risk taking behaviour.
- The teenage conception rate remains comparatively high.
- Common characteristics and life experiences amongst the most prolific offenders.
- Young men commit the vast majority of crime committed by young people.
- Participation in positive activities remains well below the national average, with young people identifying some barriers to participation.
- Young people are less engaged in decision-making processes outside school.

Improving Children's Well-being and Emotional Health

- The prevalence of the key risk factors for poor mental health outcomes indicates significant, unmet demand.
- Reported bullying is a serious and persistent problem.
- Physical health outcomes for primary school age children are poor, with obesity levels above regional and national averages.
- The impact of falling school meal take-up on promoting healthy lifestyles.
- High levels of smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy and low levels of sustained breastfeeding.
- Poor oral health.