

## REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF RBWM CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Date: 28 May 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

Contact Officer(s): Anna Crispin, Head of Children's Commissioning (01628 685662)

Wards affected: All wards

### 1. SUMMARY

1.1.1 This report presents Members with an overview of the work of RBWM Children's Trust since its inception in April 2008 as requested by Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1.1.2 The report also presents Members with the Annual Review of the Children and Young People Plan 2008-2011 for the period April 08-09 and the CYPP Action Plan for 09-10 for approval, which are available in the Members Room, Group Rooms, on the Council web site, and also from Democratic Services.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The work of RBWM's Children's Trust be noted.**
- ii) **The Annual Review of the Children and Young People Plan and the CYPP Action Plan for 09-10 be approved for publication and implementation.**

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?

Children and young people in the Royal Borough benefit from the activities in the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) that are designed to support improvements for their safety, health, well-being and attainment. Performance monitoring drives continuous service improvement and in turn ensures the delivery of better outcomes. The Annual Review provides an overview of the effectiveness of the Children's Trust in implementing the 11 key priorities in the Children and Young People Plan in the last year and their impact on the outcomes for children and young people. It also sets out what the Council and its partners need to address in 2009-10 to further improve the life chances of children and young people and their families in the Royal Borough.

### 3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 3.1 Background

##### 3.1.1 Work of the Children's Trust

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 placed a duty on Local Authorities and other key partners to make arrangements to co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people, which is defined as ensuring they meet the five Every Child Matters (ECM) Outcomes - *be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well being.*

3.1.2 Following Cabinet approval in February 2008, RBWM Children's Trust arrangements became fully operational from April 2008 building on the strong partnership working established through the former Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The Trust brings together all those involved in delivering Children's Services locally into a single organisational focus to design and deliver services built around the needs of children and young people in the Royal Borough. Membership includes all the Council's Children's Services, Berkshire East Primary Care Trust, the Police, schools and colleges, the voluntary sector, the Probation Board and the Fire Service.

3.1.3 In its first year RBWM Children's Trust has undertaken the following:

- Developed, published and monitored the second **Children and Young People Plan (CYPP)** for the Royal Borough following a comprehensive needs assessment and in consultation with all staff, partners and stakeholders including children, young people and their families. The CYPP 2008-2011 was presented to RBWM Cabinet and Council for approval in June 2008.
- Agreed and monitored the **Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets** for children and young people, which are fully aligned with the CYPP priorities, and acted as the Children and Young People **Ambition Group for the Community Partnership.**
- The Children's Trust Commissioning Group have developed and monitored a **Joint Commissioning Strategy** and underpinning work plan to ensure available funding is targeted towards those children and young people who are most in need as set out in the CYPP priorities.
- Co-ordinated the work for the **Annual Performance Assessment (APA)** of Children's Services, including completion of a self-assessment and participation in an onsite inspection from Ofsted in November 08. The Trust is also responsible for ensuring the areas for development identified within the inspection are taken forward. Members received a full report on the APA results at the Cabinet meeting in February 2009.
- Developed a **communication programme** to promote the work of the Trust including a six monthly Children's Trust newsletter, which is circulated widely to staff, partners, stakeholders and families.
- Undertaken a six-month **review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements** in October 2008 and taken the results forward in line with findings

from Audit Commission research and new statutory government guidance on Children's Trusts. Key changes include extending the membership of the Trust Board to Job Centre Plus. The Shadow Lead Member for Education has also joined the Lead Member for Children's Services on the Trust Board. The review has led to clearer lines of accountability, improved links with other partnerships and better communication with stakeholders. A formal **Voluntary Sector and Community Forum** is being established to feed into the Trust Board. The Trust has also set up an electronic **Parents' and Carers' Sounding Board** to ensure that their views are central to the planning and development of local children's services. Work is ongoing to widen the membership of the Sounding Board. The Trust is looking at ways to improve mechanisms for **involving children and young people** and is planning to audit their participation through the 'Hear by Right' Framework. The Trust has also ensured that the results of the annual Tellus survey for young people are taken forward and inform its strategic planning.

3.1.4 The joint commissioning and integrated working of the Children's Trust in the last year has contributed to improvements in service delivery and outcomes for children and young people and their families in the following areas:

- In relation to improving young people's emotional health and well being, the Local Authority together with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) have developed a new specification for Tier 3 Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in addition to launching the multi-agency Healthy Minds Hub working across Tiers 1 and 2, in February 2009.
- The alignment of resources with the PCT has enabled the re-commissioning of sexual health services for young people –a weekly sexual health drop in clinic is now operating from St Mark's hospital.
- A new pooled budget for Occupational Therapy, hosted by the PCT and providing increased resources from both the Local Authority and Health, will enable us to significantly reduce waiting times for children and young people and has also led to a redesign of these services across Berkshire East PCT.
- Jointly commissioned specifications for work with the voluntary sector have enabled us to offer enhanced services adding value to our parenting services across the Children's Trust. The Parents and Teens Together service (with Barnardo's) is being rolled out to secondary and middle schools – 36 parents of teenagers attended specialised group parenting programmes from Sept 08 to Jan 09 and 196 children benefited from the Family Support Worker service from Family Friends from April- Dec 08.
- The borough's seven Children's Centres are providing local and accessible services for families with young children, including speech and language drop in sessions. Waiting lists for speech and language services in Early Years have been reduced as a result. The Local Authority is also working with the Speech and Language Therapy Department to develop a new model of service for mainstream schools to ensure collaborative working in schools at universal, targeted and individualised level according to needs.
- Planning for a fully integrated, co-located service for children and young people with complex learning difficulties and disabilities is in its final stages and implementation will begin in 2009/10.

### 3.1.5 **Annual Review of the Children and Young People Plan**

- 3.1.6 The Children Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce a Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) as the single, strategic plan for all local services for children and young people in order to support more integrated service design and delivery as set out in Every Child Matters agenda. The CYPP is the key driver for the Children's Trust and guides all its work.
- 3.1.7 New government guidance has made the Children's Trust, rather than just the Local Authority, responsible for the *development, publication and monitoring* of the CYPP. In relation to monitoring there is a statutory duty to undertake an Annual Review of the CYPP in each year of the lifespan of the plan. The purpose of the Annual Review is to assess progress against milestones, consider the latest data on outcomes and whether circumstances or needs have changed and to set out how emerging needs will be addressed.
- 3.1.8 The Annual Review of the borough's Children and Young People Plan for the period April 2008-09 has been drawn up in partnership with all members of RBWM Children's Trust. The Review consists of a progress update detailing the impact on outcomes each of the CYPP's 11 key priorities, progress made against a number of key indicators and an identification of the gaps and how these can be taken in the coming year. The messages from consultations with children and families undertaken in the last year and the results of the 2008 APA inspection of Children's Services have informed the Review.
- 3.1.9 There are no proposed changes to be made to the 11 key priorities as a result of the Annual Review. The detailed activities needed to further address these 11 priorities in the coming year are set out in the comprehensive CYPP action plan. The action plan includes information about how we intend to take forward the areas for development identified within the 2008 APA inspection of Children's Services and builds on the overview of actions to address the APA, which was presented to Members with the results of the APA in February 2009.
- 3.1.10 Next Steps
- 3.1.11 Following Cabinet approval the Annual Review of the Children and Young People Plan will be published on the borough's website and shared with all staff, partners and stakeholders.
- 3.1.12 In previous years the review of the CYPP has been a central component in the Local Authority's self-assessment for the APA inspection of Children's Services. There is no requirement to submit the Annual Review to central government this year but it will be an important source of evidence for the Children's Services element of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, which is being introduced in April 2009 and replaces the APA.
- 3.1.13 The Children's Trust will continue to drive forward the priorities in the CYPP and monitor performance in the coming year. The Children's Trust has a robust framework in place to monitor progress against the CYPP action plan. An overview of progress and delays will be reported to the Children's Trust Board every 3 months. Outcome Leads also have the opportunity to flag any key areas of concern on a

monthly basis at the Children's Trust Board meetings. A full six-month progress update of the action plan will be undertaken in the Autumn.

- 3.1.14 A further Annual Review of the CYPP will take place in 2010 before the next full Plan is developed in 2011. The timeframe for the development of the borough's next Plan dovetails with the requirement from national government to introduce a different style of CYPP from 2011. The new style Plans will require the Children's Trust to include information relating to joint commissioning, budget pooling/ aligning and developing other integrated systems and processes, including workforce development.

## OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

### 4.2 Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	To note the overview of the work of RBWM Children's Trust and approve the 2009 Annual Review of the Children and Young People Plan and Action Plan for 09-10 for publication and implementation.	The Children's Trust has a duty to produce an Annual Review of the CYPP in each year of the lifespan of the Plan. The Annual Review has been drawn up in consultation with all relevant partners and is recommended for approval.	Revenue and Capital: Any financial implications from the Annual Review of the CYPP will be considered by the Children's Trust and taken forward through the Joint Commissioning Strategy within existing budgets.
2.	Do nothing	The Children's Trust has a duty to produce an Annual Review of the CYPP in each year of the lifespan of the Plan. Therefore to do nothing would not be in line with this duty.	Revenue: None Capital: None

### 4.2 Risk assessment

The risk of not monitoring progress against priorities through the Annual Review of the CYPP would be potentially not identifying the needs of children and young people leading to gaps in service provision and, in turn, possible poorer outcomes for children and young people locally. There could also be potential negative implications for the next Children's Services inspection within the CAA. If RBWM were deemed not to have adequate Children's Services this would in turn have a detrimental effect on the overall CAA grade awarded to the Royal Borough.

## 5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Government guidance stipulates that during the Review the Local Authority must consult with key partners and stakeholders as it deems appropriate. The Annual Review of the borough's Children and Young People Plan has been subject to consultation with all groups and sub groups of RBWM Children's Trust (including the Parents' and Carers' Sounding Board), Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of RBWM schools, members of the Schools' Forum, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and all Elected Members. The consultation period ran from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April 09. Comments received during the consultation period were taken into account when finalising the Annual Review.

## 6. COMMENTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

The Panel endorsed the report, and commented that it was comprehensive and informative. The Review has been adjusted to take into account Members' requests for clarification and further information.

## 7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓

### Background Papers:

RBWM Children and Young People Plan 2008-11

CAA Framework and Ofsted's proposals for inspecting Children's Services and adult learning (published Feb 09)