

Committee: COMMUNITY

Agenda Item

Date: January 18, 2007

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Title: EVERY CHILD MATTERS

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Summary

1. This report provides Members with details of the Every Child Matters Agenda in relation to District Councils and sets out an associated Action Plan.

Recommendations

2. That the Action Plan is endorsed by the Community Committee.

Background Papers

3. Every Child Matters, the National Service Framework & the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Action Plan.

Impact

4.

Communication/Consultation	All staff- set out within the body of the report
Community Safety	Implications for Child protection
Equalities	Hard to reach groups frequently do not know or understand how to access available services
Finance	Training of staff will require financial assistance – costs unknown at present.
Human Rights	The agenda has resulted from the Victoria Columbia Report
Legal implications	Statutory Requirement under the Children's Act
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	This work will impact in certain work areas.

Situation

5. In responding to the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, District Councils need to have regard to the provisions of the Children Act and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.
6. The National Service Framework is a 10 year plan. Agencies are expected to have met the standards in it by 2014.
7. The Framework is rooted in the *Every Child Matters* vision of every child's:
 - Being healthy
 - Staying safe
 - Enjoying and achieving
 - Making a positive contribution
 - Achieving economic well-being
8. The Framework is a 10 year programme intended to stimulate long-term and sustained improvement in children's health. It aims to ensure fair, high quality and integrated health and social care from pregnancy, right through to adulthood. Experience before birth and in early life has a significant impact on the life chances of each individual: improving the health and welfare of parents and children is the surest way to a healthier nation.
9. At the heart of the NSF is a fundamental change in thinking about health and social care services. It is intended to lead to a cultural shift, resulting in services which are designed and delivered around the needs of children and families using those services, not around the needs of organisations. The Children's National Service Framework is aimed at everyone who comes into contact with, or delivers services to children and young people.
10. The evidence-based standards in the Children's National Service Framework will feed into the new integrated inspection framework. The Government also envisages Children's Trusts as playing a key role in co-ordinating and integrating the planning, commissioning and delivery of social health, social care and education services. Other key components of the agenda to improve delivery of services are the development of information-sharing arrangements, a Common Assessment Framework, lead professionals and a common core of training for workforce.
11. Improving access to services is a priority for achieving good outcomes for children. The Government intends to put in place more co-located, multi-disciplinary services in providing personalised support as required throughout childhood and into adolescence. There is a growing number of Healthy Schools. In addition, schools are being encouraged to develop into "extended schools", providing health, social care and other services for children and young people, their families and the wider community. Starting in the most disadvantaged areas, the Government is also

establishing Children's Centres, offering integrated early years education, family and parenting support, and health support.

12. The Government acknowledge that the pace of change and immediate local priorities will vary. The NHS and local authorities will, however, increasingly be assessed on the quality of their services and whether they are making progress towards meeting the standards.
13. There are 11 Standards in 3 parts:
 - Part 1 (Standards 1 to 5) applies to all children and young people
 - Part 2 (Standards 6 to 10) applies to children and young people in particular circumstances ie those who are disabled or have mental health problems. Issues in relation to these children and young people are also covered generally in Part 1. This part does not apply to Uttlesford District Council
 - Part 3 (Standard 11) applies only to maternity services. This part does not apply to Uttlesford District Council either.

14. This Action Plan has been prepared in relation to Part 1 (Standards 1 to 5 only). It has been prepared in the context of wider partnership working with the Uttlesford District Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership. Joint working through that partnership is key to the successful delivery of this Action Plan.

15. The Standards are as follows:

Standard 1 - Promoting Health and Well-being, Identifying Needs and Intervening Early

The health and well-being of all children and young people is promoted and delivered through a co-ordinated programme of action, including prevention and early intervention wherever possible, to ensure long term gain, led by the NHS in partnership with local authorities.

Standard 2 - Supporting Parenting

Parents or carers are enabled to receive the information, services and support which will help them to care for their children and equip them with the skills they need to ensure that their children have optimum life chances and are healthy and safe.

Standard 3 - Child, Young Person and Family-Centred Services

Children and young people and families receive high quality services which are coordinated around their individual and family needs and take account of their views.

Standard 4 - Growing Up into Adulthood

All young people have access to age-appropriate services which are responsive to their specific needs as they grow into adulthood.

Standard 5 -Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People

All agencies work to prevent children suffering harm and to promote their welfare, provide them with the services they require to address their identified needs and safeguard children who are being or who are likely to be harmed.

16. The National Service Framework sets out the expectations of government and what it considers to be best practice in relation to each Standard. Some of these examples of best practice apply more to large inner city areas and are not applicable to the work of partners in this District. A balance on complying with every aspect of each Standard therefore needs to be achieved.

17. The services which are mainly affected in Uttlesford District Council are:

- ✚ Housing
- ✚ Benefits advice
- ✚ Finance (front office)
- ✚ Policy
- ✚ Community Safety and Development
- ✚ Leisure
- ✚ Environmental Services – Parks and Open Spaces, Health Protection
- ✚ Planning
- ✚ Business Support (Training)
- ✚ Legal Services (Court cases, Child Protection)

18. However all services will need to be aware of the legislation and the statutory responsibility of the authority in relation to ensuring the well-being of children and young people.

19. All of the above services will need to re-assess the way they provide their services in light of the Children Act and the National Service Framework.

Risk Analysis

20.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to have to have met the standards in it by 2014.	Low	High	Annual review of Action Plan

CORPORATE REQUIREMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY / DEPARTMENTAL LEAD
0.1	<p>Produce a Children and Young Peoples Strategy and Action Plan for Uttlesford District Council to link into and be informed by the County Councils Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006 - 2009 and the CYPSP Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Include provision for collection of key data and monitoring of local and national targets from UDC perspective.</p>	Strategic Partnerships Manager (SPM)
0.2	<p>Develop a Comprehensive Training package for all staff who come in to contact with young people and their parents (see 5.2 and 5.3 below).</p> <p>Ensure joint work with partners on training issues and procurement.</p>	HR
0.3	<p>Review all service contracts which could affect children and young people to ensure contract compliance with the terms of the Children Act.</p> <p>Review standard terms and conditions of contracts to ensure duty is extended to providers of services on behalf of UDC</p>	Corporate Governance / Procurement
0.4	<p>Include the duty to identify young peoples welfare as a priority in the review of the Community Strategy to be carried out this year</p>	SPM
0.5	<p>Work with Essex County Council and the CYPSP in piloting and applying the Common Assessment Framework in the District (currently being developed nationally)</p>	SPM

	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY / DEPARTMENTAL LEAD
0.6	Ensure that links between the Community Safety Strategy and its associated Action Plans are put in place and that a seamless approach is established between the CYPSP Strategy and Action Plan and the community safety agenda	SPM
0.7	Work with Essex County Council and the CYPSP in developing a common referral process across agencies. Ensure that this is developed in consultation with service providers at UDC.	SPM
0.8	Work with Essex County Council and the CYPSP in developing through the Information and Sharing Assessment process a system for sharing information across agencies and to ensure that all staff at UDC are made aware of it.	SPM
0.9	Contribute to the development and actioning of the CYPSP Strategy and Action Plan. Ensure UDC officer participation where appropriate.	SPM & Leisure Community Development Manager (LCDM)

Standard 1

Promoting Health and Well-being, Identifying Needs and Intervening Early

The health and well-being of all children and young people is promoted and delivered through a co-ordinated programme of action, including prevention and early intervention wherever possible, to ensure long term gain.

	ACTION REQUIRED	LEAD
1.1	<p>Feed into the development of the work in schools being co-ordinated by the Uttlesford CYPSP Schools Sub-group.</p> <p>Re-assess health promotion priorities based on CYPSP and Local Delivery Plan priorities and review activities where appropriate.</p>	LCDM & Health Promotion Officer (HPO)
1.2	<p>Leisure Connections to demonstrate they are taking necessary action to comply with Council requirements under the Children Act and the NSF</p> <p>Review the contract with Leisure Connections to ensure that a formal requirement to comply with the Children Act is inserted – implement variations where necessary</p> <p>Develop links between CYPSP objectives and direct leisure provision</p>	LCDM
1.3	<p>Establish with the West Essex Primary Care Trust (WEPECT) whether it is feasible for the District Council to provide service users with information about health care, screening, immunisation, accident prevention and other WEPECT services.</p> <p>If it is feasible, to establish a corporate system for ensuring that up to date information is supplied and made available from appropriate District Council outlets.</p> <p>Identify with the WEPECT what support the District Council can provide where it becomes aware that a young person is not registered with a GP in the District</p> <p>UDC staff training issue – see 0.2 above</p>	SPM &HPO

Standard 2

Supporting Parenting

Parents or carers are enabled to receive the information, services and support that will help them to care for their children and equip them with the skills they need to ensure that their children have optimum life chances and are healthy and safe

	ACTION REQUIRED	LEAD
2.1	In partnership with Essex County Council and through the CYPSP, to re-assess the situation in the District with regard to looked after children and children who act as carers in their families. Identify any changes needed to service provision and/or support available in relation to such children and their carers in light of the Children Act	SPM
2.2	Work with Essex County Council and through the CYPSP to ensure that we are made aware of young people with special needs so that we can ensure they have information and access to our services	SPM
2.3	All services to demonstrate that the needs of disadvantaged parents and their children are taken into account in accessibility planning for services.	SPM
2.4	Work with Leisure Connections to re-assess what swimming and leisure facilities are currently available for expectant mothers / family sessions / children with disabilities or special needs. Where any gaps exist in service provision, work with Leisure Connections to consider ways of filling them	LCDM
2.5	Re-assess Housing policies and procedures to reflect the need to have a family focus where we are re-housing former prisoners who are parents as part of a resettlement plan (if appropriate)	EM Housing
2.6	Re-assess Housing policies and procedures and develop close joint working with partners in relation to the housing of teenage parents and addressing their associated needs	EM Housing
2.7	Re-asses other UDC 'advisory' services (ie benefits) to ensure that a wide range of advice about services is available to teenage parents	EM Housing
2.8	Check provision of nursery and child care facilities through Town and Parish community halls and identify any change to procedures required as a result of the NSF or the Children Act	CDO Cultural Services

Standard 3

Child, Young Person and Family-Centred Services

Children and young people and families receive high quality services which are co-ordinated around their individual and family needs and take account of their views

	ACTION REQUIRED	LEAD
3.1	<p>Review our consultation processes for any services which affect young people to ensure that the results can show the views of parents and young people.</p> <p>Develop joint working with appropriate service providers through the CYPSP to ensure that the views of children with disabilities, looked after children and children who are carers contribute to our service planning</p> <p>Develop a way of feeding these views into the CYPSP</p>	Coms Manager & SPM
3.2	<p>EMT to identify a senior officer lead for children and young people in the organisation who will have responsibility for having an overview of the Councils response to its duties under the Children Act and who will co-ordinate all referrals and ensure links with partners in relation to services for children and young people</p>	EMT
3.3	<p>Develop a corporate system of ensuring that where young people with special needs come to the attention of any service that, with their consent, other UDC services are made aware of them and can direct information to them</p>	EMT
3.4	<p>All service reviews to include specific issues in relation to young people using this action plan and the Children and Young Peoples Plan to be prepared.</p> <p>Improvements identified need to be highlighted and documented.</p>	EM – Quality of Life

Standard 4

Growing Up into Adulthood

All young people have access to age-appropriate services which are responsive to their specific needs as they grow into adulthood

Action Points in relation to Standard 4 are covered in other Standards

Standard 5

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People

All agencies work to prevent children suffering harm and to promote their welfare, provide them with the services they require to address their identified needs and safeguard children who are being or who are likely to be harmed

	ACTION REQUIRED	LEAD
5.1	Review the Councils Child Protection Policy to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Children Act and takes into account the County Councils development of Safeguarding Boards and associated issues	EM Corporate Governance
5.2	Work with partners to develop a means of delivering training on child protection and other issues required under the Children Act – particularly on identifying young people who are potentially at risk, how to use the Common Assessment Framework how and when to make referrals and partnership working	HR
5.3	All new staff who, as part of their employment may come into contact with young people or parents of young people, to undertake training on child protection issues and their responsibilities in relation to the Children Act. Participation in training to be monitored and evaluated. Competency framework to be adjusted to reflect these requirements	HR
5.4	Re-assess UDC policies on Freedom of Information in light of the Councils responsibilities under the Children Act – specifically in relation to child protection issues and associated referral processes	EM Corporate Governance
5.5	Re-assess current procedures for ensuring Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checking of staff in light of the Children Act and any changes to UDC's Child Protection Policy	HR