

Executive report

28 May 2010

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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Wards affected: All

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Joint Young Peoples Plan 2010 - 2013

Recommendation

The Executive is recommended to approve the joint young peoples' plan as attached at appendix 1 to this report.

Purpose of Report

1. This report asks the Executive to approve the joint young peoples' plan.

Strategic Objectives

2. This plan contributes to the South Oxfordshire District Council strategic objective to 'Increase access to a wide range of activities for young people, which meet their needs; and support young people at risk of committing antisocial behaviour and crime'. It contributes to the Vale of White Horse District council priorities to:
 - strengthen local democracy and public involvement through access to information, consultation, and devolution of power so that everyone can take part in our community and contribute to the decisions which affect our lives
 - create a safer community and improve the quality of life among Vale residents

- help disadvantaged groups and individuals within the Vale to realise their full potential.

Background

3. The attached draft plan has been developed jointly by South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council to show how the two councils will support the needs of younger residents in Southern Oxfordshire. This is the second plan for both councils and builds on existing good practice to develop key areas of work that have been identified in consultation with young people and other key partners.
4. Working in partnership with others to deliver this plan will provide opportunities and expertise that will help to improve services for younger residents across Southern Oxfordshire. Partners have suggested a number of actions where they can add value to the work of the district councils, and we can add value to their activities.
5. Along with other district councils we are now a statutory partner on the Children's Trust Board and therefore share a responsibility for implementation of the Children and Young Peoples' Plan. This role is reflected in this plan. As we are not an education or social services authority, we have a subsidiary role in providing services for young people. Most of our work with young people involves:
 - providing access to positive activities (as measured by NI 110), including arts, sports, volunteering and participation activities;
 - supporting those who are more vulnerable to crime and antisocial behaviour; and
 - helping young people to have a say on services that affect them.
6. The focus for this strategy is 13 – 19 years as this age group is less well catered for. They are also beginning to face more pressures and needing more advice, support and help to develop life skills enabling them to participate in their communities and become active citizens.
7. The draft plan identifies three priorities which will provide the framework for our work with young people. These are:
 - keeping all children and young people safe and healthy
 - raising achievement for all children and young people
 - narrowing the gap in life chances for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people.

8. It also identifies a number of potential actions we could take towards achieving these priorities. Following approval of this plan, we will develop a detailed delivery plan.

Human resource and councillor implications

9. Councillors at both councils were invited to input to the councils' new strategy and action plan through councillor workshops, and discussion with individual councillors with specific responsibility for young people.
10. There are no human resource implications; the strategy and subsequent delivery plan will be implemented by the new shared Young Peoples' Officer.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this strategy. The actions within the delivery plan will be deliverable within existing budgets.

Risk implications

12. This strategy sets out how the councils' will work to engage, consult and improve circumstances for young people in the districts. Without the strategy both councils would find it difficult to demonstrate that they are meeting their responsibilities under the Every Child Matters legislation. In addition, South Oxfordshire District Council would not be able to demonstrate significant progress on its strategic objective 'To improve opportunities, activities and support for young people'.

Legal Implications

13. This plan sets out how the councils' will act to deliver on their commitments under 'Every Child Matters' and relevant Safeguarding Young People legislation.

Conclusion

14. The attached draft young peoples plan sets out how the councils' will work in partnership to help to improve services for younger residents aged 13 – 19 across Southern Oxfordshire. It has been developed in consultation with councillors, partners and with young people themselves; and sets a framework within which we will contribute to the countywide children and young peoples' plan and implement our responsibilities under 'Every Child Matters'. Councillors are asked to approve the plan.

Background Paper - Oxfordshire Children and Young Peoples Plan