

Leicester
City Council

All wards

Cabinet

29 July 2002

Leicester Children's Planning Partnership – becoming a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Report of Service Director, Children and Family Assessment and Strategy

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the proposals for developing the Leicester Children's Planning Partnership into a Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership. (Appendix A).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the support of the Health Partnership Executive Board and Directors' Board, for the recommendation of the Leicester Children's Planning Partnership that it become the Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership (LCSP).
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees the proposals outlined within the appended 'Report to Leicester Children's Planning Partnership', 19 February 2002.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 In May 2001, the guidance '*Co-ordinated Service Planning for Vulnerable Children and Young People in England*, issued jointly by the DH, DfEE, EDTR, HO, DCMS, HMT and Cabinet Office, set out the government's aim of bringing together a number of planning requirements affecting vulnerable children and their families.
- 3.2 Local Authorities and partner agencies in the voluntary and community sectors are recommended to establish Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships (CYPSP) and draw up a local planning framework within 2001/02. Within the same timescale it is recommended that a broad strategic statement of joint planning for vulnerable children is drawn up and published as the Children's and Young People's Strategic Plan.

- 3.3 It is not expected that the CYPSP be built from scratch. The Guidance suggests that localities build on local partnership arrangements that are already seen to be working. Where forums have already been established for planning children's services, it is expected that these will evolve to become Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships. There should be no need for more than one such body to exist in relation to vulnerable children, although parts of the strategy will need to be delegated to working groups.
- 3.4 A number of areas have been highlighted for development some of which are associated with new initiatives at national and local levels.
- 3.5 Stronger links are to be developed with Education. The creation of a combined 'Partnership for Education/Learning and LSP Education Theme Group' provides new opportunities for improved partnership working. This new Partnership aims 'to speak with a single voice on behalf of all stakeholders in education and learning' and will have a broader membership than the Education Partnership Board it replaces. It is anticipated that a number of other Partnerships including the LCSP and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership will be key stakeholders.
- 3.6 At Directors' Board on 9 July 2001, it was agreed that the chairing role was more accurately described as being a City Council role that could be performed by either the Social Care and Health or the Education and Lifelong Learning departments.
- 3.7 The National Service Framework for Children will develop new national standards across the NHS and social services for children. The new standards will help to ensure better access and smoother progression in the provision of services for children. The NSF aspires to put children and young people at the centre of their care, building services around their needs. This is supported by a key tenet of the LCPP Joint Family Support Strategy which seeks to ensure that families are supported to care for their children in a way which maximizes their life chances.
- 3.8 The Children's National Service Framework will be an important way of responding to some of the key challenges facing children's health and social care services, for example, mainstreaming the successes of programmes such as Quality Protects and Sure Start. The LCSP will be well placed to respond to this challenge, and could be the local driver for three of the NSF modules: 'Mental Health', Disability and 'Children in Special Circumstances'. A National Service Framework sub-group will be established, to progress this significant new programme of work.
- 3.9 Through its links with the Health and Social Care sub-group of the Leicester Partnership, the LCSP will contribute to the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Community Plan in order to ensure that the

needs of vulnerable children and young people are addressed. Revitalising Neighbourhoods is supported by the Joint Family Support Strategy commitment to targeting investments at those communities most in need, which requires both consultation and planning at a neighbourhood level.

- 3.10 The LCSP will also contribute and be informed by the developing Cultural Strategy, which will promote the quality of life of all Leicester citizens including children.
- 3.11 A further area for continuing development is transitional services. This is being addressed through HAZ funding to co-ordinate services for disabled children, (one of the LCSP workstreams). In addition, in response to 'Valuing People', the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, including representatives from children's services, is developing a local framework for person-centred planning, which will include transitional services. Adult and children's planning are also linked through the Health Partnership Executive Board.
- 3.12 Following consultation during 2001, at the January 2002 meeting of the LCPP it was agreed to seek to develop the Partnership into a Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership, which should be known as 'Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership' (LCSP).
- 3.13 This paper was presented to the Health Partnership Executive Board on 20 May where it was supported, and also at Directors' Board on 9 July where, subject to minor amendment included in this report, it was also supported.

4 HEADLINE FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for partners arising from these proposals.
- 4.2 The guidance referred to within the report is advisory - its purpose is to introduce a framework to assist in co-ordinating planning. It does not directly affect the nature or content of the broad universal service plans. It does not alter the requirement under the Children Act 1989 in relation to publishing Children's Services Plans. (Judith Lewis, Senior Solicitor Tel. 252 7022).

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		

Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

See attached report to the Leicester Children’s Planning Partnership on 19 February 2002.

7. CONSULTATIONS

Education Department

8. AUTHORS OF THE REPORT

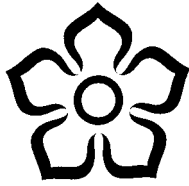
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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



Leicester
City Council



Leicester Children's Planning Partnership

19 February 2002

Leicester Children's Planning Partnership – becoming a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

**Report of the policy and planning officer, Leicester Children's Planning
Partnership**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for developing the Leicester Children's Planning Partnership into a Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the LCPP agree the report's recommendations.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships must be set up within 2001-2 and draw up a local planning framework. Within the same timescale it is recommended that a broad strategic statement of joint planning for vulnerable children is drawn up and published as the Children's and Young People's Strategic Plan.
- 3.2 Following consultation during 2001, at the January 2002 meeting it was agreed to develop the Partnership into a Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership, which should be known as 'Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership' (LCSP), Appendix one describes the aims and objectives of the Partnership.

Structural Relationships

- 3.3 The primary reporting arrangement will continue to be to the City Council Cabinet and Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee and the Health Partnership (current and future).
- 3.4 The Partnership will establish a direct consultative link with the LSP and would link to each of the sub-groups of the Local Strategic Partnership, and develop liaison links with the Health and Social Care and Education sub-groups. This linkage would seek to ensure full consultation and strategic co-ordination of children's services.
- 3.5 It is proposed that all the statutory planning groups (the EYDCP, YOT, DAT, Connexions Board and ACPC) continue to be formally represented on the Children's Strategic Partnership and to submit regular reports, which highlight the strategic issues. This will support the co-ordination of children's services planning across the city.
- 3.6 The relationship with the City Council Executive Director with the strategic lead for children will be through the current Education and Social Services representation. This leadership is shared with the Executive Director for Health and Social Care in relation to his statutory responsibilities.
- 3.7 Appendix 2 shows the structural matrix around the LCSP.

Sub-Groups

- 3.8 The sub-groups of the LCPP are to be retained and their relationship with the forum will be strengthened.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the sub-groups undertake as much of the detailed work as possible on behalf of the Partnership, allowing the Partnership to fulfil its strategic function. The sub-groups will report regularly to the Partnership, and limit the amount of operational issues presented, concentrating on strategic issues.
- 3.10 Sub-groups will submit brief written reports, for distribution with the agenda. This will enable better preparation for Partnership meetings and allow more time for consideration of strategic issues.
- 3.11 There will be variations in terms of reporting and contractual arrangements, for example the Children's Fund sub-group will report to the LCSP and NCH as accountable body, will have a legally bound contractual relationship with the City Council, whereas the CAMHS JSG will be joined through a positive communication link, exchanging information to ensure co-ordination and continued investment.
- 3.12 A Participation Sub-Group will be established (see 3.19); other new sub-groups may be established to progress work as the need arises, for example through the new National Service Framework for Children.

Chairing arrangements

- 3.13 It is recommended that the current arrangements for Chairing continue with the Assistant Director for Social Services as Chair. The role of the Chair is vital particularly with respect to the various mainstreaming agenda (e.g. Sure Start, Children's Fund, and CAMHS etc.) The role of vice-chair, allocated to a different agency, will continue to provide a measure of balance to the stewardship of the Partnership.

Representation

- 3.14 In considering the make up of the membership, importance was attached to retaining access to a broad range of professional experience including a high level of direct practice experience, whilst also being able operate effectively as a strategic body. The role of the sub-groups will be critical to this aspiration.
- 3.15 It is proposed that two levels of membership be created, full and associate. Full members will have voting rights and associate members will not have these rights. Full members should attend every meeting whereas associate members could attend less frequently and stay in touch through the minutes. Full members must commit to ensuring that their agencies are fully informed and consulted as appropriate to achieve full involvement in the forum. Associate members are expected to distribute information to appropriate key colleagues, but they will be specifically approached for partnership agreements.

Social Services (Chair)
Leicester City West Primary Care Trust (Vice Chair)
Education and Lifelong Learning
Housing
Environment and Development
Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust
VAL & Voluntary Organisations (4 voting places)
Leicestershire Partnership Trust CAMHS
Leicester city west PCT Children's Community Services
EYDCP
YOT
DAT
ACPC
Connexions
Sure Start
Children's Fund
Parent's Council
Children and Young People (via the LCSP pilot participation programme)

Associate Members will include:

Police
Probation
NCH
Chief Executives (City Council)
Council of Faiths
UHL

The LCSP Executive Support Team

- 3.16 The Executive Support Team will be revised, to encourage representation from key agencies who will co-ordinate the work of the LCSP and drive the agendas forward. This group is open to all full members who are able to commit sufficient time to undertake the work required. It will be chaired by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the LCSP and will be serviced by the Partnership Policy Officer.

The LCSP Planning and Policy Officer

- 3.17 The role of this post holder is to support LCSP by undertaking liaison and policy development between meetings, working closely with the LCSP support team and co-ordinating the agenda, minutes, and supporting papers. The officer will also undertake additional tasks related to sub-groups and the work-streams and have responsibility for writing the Children and Young People Strategic Plan.

Effective empowerment and Participation

- 3.18 Listening to and consulting with children and their families is vitally important, and their views must be sought at the beginning of the planning cycle. The National Service Framework for Children, announced by the Secretary of State on 28 February, aspires to put children and young people at the centre of their care, building services around their needs.
- 3.19 The developing involvement of the groups of young people that LCPP has been working with over the past 12-15 months will be key to this aspiration. The Parents Councils involvement is also crucial.
- 3.20 A balance of methods is needed to support participation and empowerment. A Participation Sub-group will be established, supported by the Partnership Planning Officer, to progress the participation of and consultation with children and young people and their families. It is also proposed to seek joint funding for a development worker, from the Health Action Zone, Community Empowerment Fund and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. This will fully develop the consultation work stream of the Partnership.

Values and Principles

- 3.21 All partners are of equal value and the statutory agencies will continue to support the participation of the voluntary sector.

- 3.22 The Partnership will develop a top down *and* bottom up approach to planning which supports the participation of stakeholders at or close to the point of service delivery, as well as enabling the aspirations of agencies to be included in partnership planning.
- 3.23 It is proposed that the Partnership adopts the principles for services to children proposed by the Children and Young People's Unit (Appendix 3): with a few small improvements.

Summary of Recommendations

- (I) That the LCPP agree to become the Leicester Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership (LCSP).
- (II) The LCSP will report to the City Council Cabinet, Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee and to the current and future Health Partnership Fora, and will develop a formal consultative link to the LSP. Links will be established with the sub-groups with liaison on specific issues as appropriate.
- (III) Reporting arrangements to be formalised, with representation and submission of reports, to be sent out with the agenda with published dates and processes.
- (IV) Existing sub-groups to be retained and developed to undertake operational and strategic business.
- (V) The present chairing arrangements to continue.
- (VI) Two levels of Membership will be created, full and associate members, with the former having voting rights. Membership expectations will be published.
- (VII) An executive support team will be established, to consist of representatives of the key agencies who will co-ordinate the work of the LCSP and help to drive the agendas forward. This group will be chaired by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the LCSP and will be serviced by the Partnership Planning Policy Officer.
- (VIII) A Participation Sub-Group should be established supported by the Partnership/Planning Officer, to progress the participation of and consultation with children and young people and their families.
- (IX) The draft Principles for children and young people's policies and services developed by the CYPUP be adopted by the Partnership with the final amendments proposed.

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Purpose and Scope of the Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership

The Partnership will co-ordinate the planning and delivery of services across statutory, voluntary and community sectors for all children and young people in Leicester. Particular attention will be paid to those children who are 'vulnerable' bearing in mind the fluid relationship between 'vulnerable' children, 'children in need' and all children. (See overleaf for definitions).

Aims and objectives of the Partnership

Aims

- To reduce health and social inequalities. Children experience disadvantage on the basis of race and ethnicity; gender; sexuality; disability; environment; poverty and social exclusion. All children are entitled to universal services and a good start in life. The Partnership aims to improve the life chances of all children and young people in the City
- Ensure children's developmental needs are the first consideration when planning, providing and evaluating services to children, young people and their families,

Objectives

- Build on the existing planning framework for services for children and young people
- Develop a Vulnerable Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.
- Support the co-ordination of existing planning frameworks and initiatives relating to children and young people.
- Co-ordinate the mapping of needs and services across the city.
- Monitor and evaluate progress against agreed objectives and targets.
- Ensure that the planning process delivers better outcomes for children, particularly those at risk of social exclusion without some kind of service response.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

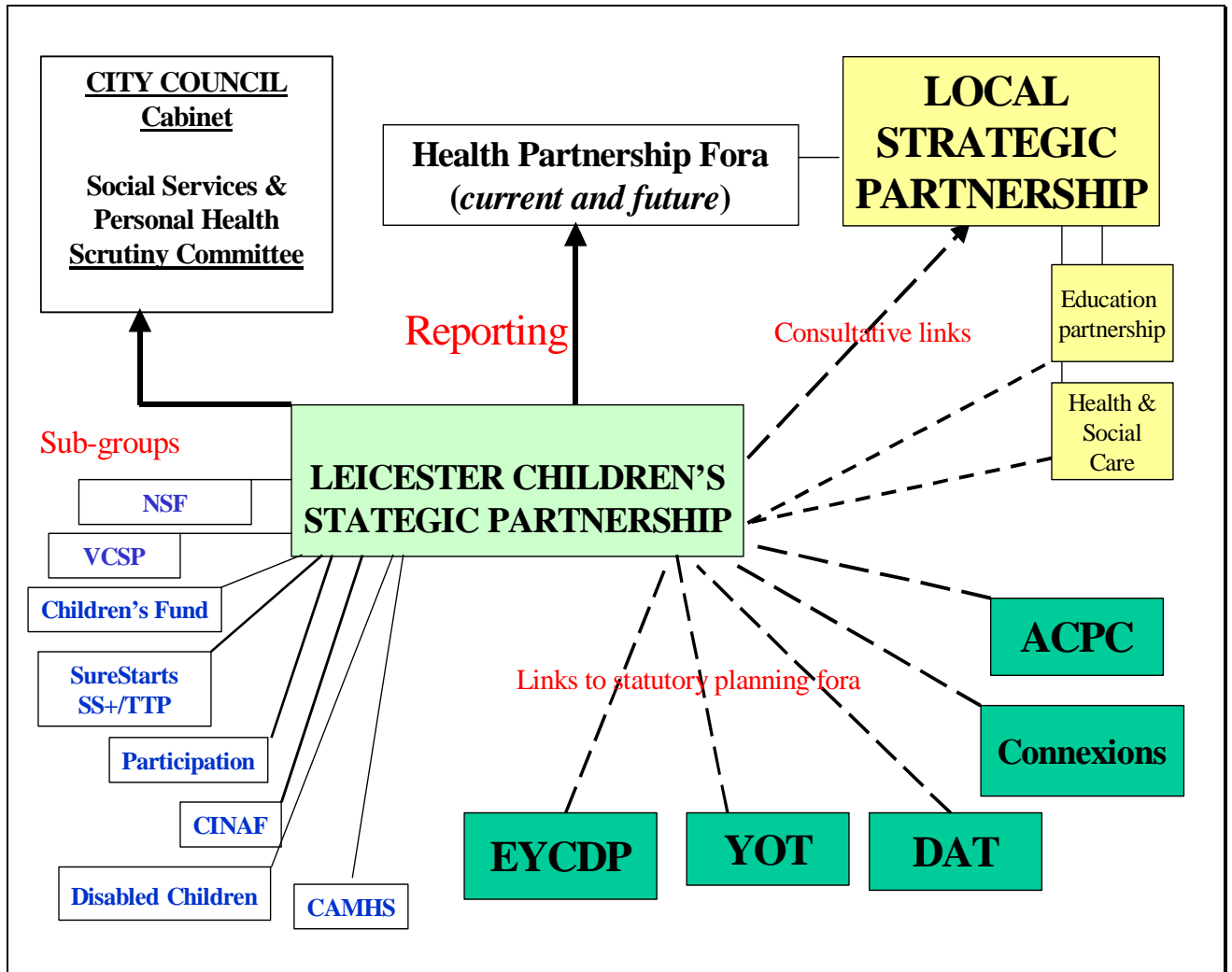
'Children and young people' are all those below 19, plus all those young adults who receive ongoing help from statutory agencies above this age during their transition into adulthood, for example young people who have left public care, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

'Vulnerable' children are those life chances will be jeopardised unless action is taken to meet their needs better, and reduce the risk of social exclusion. Most children will not be 'vulnerable' throughout their whole childhoods but will go through periods of vulnerability.

'Children in Need' are as defined in part III of the Children Act 1989, include disabled children, and are, in the main, a sub-set of vulnerable children. Children in need constitute an important legal category who may receive services under the Children Act. Other vulnerable children receive services delivered under other powers, for example the Education Act 1996.

The above definitions are from the guidance *'Co-ordinated Service Planning for Vulnerable Children and Young People in England'*, May 2001.

Appendix 2



From: *Building a Strategy for children and young people: Consultation Document, November, 2001.*

We believe that all policies and services for children and young people should be...

- 1. Centred on the needs of the young person**
The best interests of the child or young person should be paramount, taking into account their wishes and feelings.
- 2. High quality**
Policies and services should aspire to and reach high standards of quality for the benefit of their customers – the children and young people who should gain improved life chances and outcomes from them.
- 3. Family oriented**
Full recognition must be given to family members – including extended and chosen family – who contribute significantly to the well being of children and young people. It is recognised that families are the best place for children to grow up, and services should be strategically designed to support this.
- 4. Equitable and non-discriminatory**
All children and young people should have access to, and be enabled to participate in, services that they need, when they need them, in a way that respects diversity and their individual needs.
- 5. Inclusive**
Policies and services should be sensitive to the individual needs and aspirations of every child and young person, taking full account of their race/equality, gender, sexual orientation, ability or disability, health and social class.
- 6. Empowering**
Children and young people should have opportunities to play an effective role in the design and delivery of policies and services.
- 7. Results oriented and evidence based**
High quality research, evaluation, monitoring and review should ensure that decisions that affect children and young people are well informed.
- 8. Coherent in design and delivery**
Services should be woven together in a coherent, integrated and cross-sector form where it is evident how progress and change expected for children and young people will be achieved.
- 9. Supportive and respectful**
Policies and services should be delivered in a manner that is respectful and supportive of children young people and their families, and ambitious for their futures.
- 10. Community enhancing**
Communities should be empowered to make positive changes for their children and young people, so that improvements can be owned and sustained locally. Services should promote community cohesiveness and enable young people to have opportunities to develop a sense of belonging.

