

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

24 November 2003

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER 'EVERY CHILD MATTERS'

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP POLICY OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the consultation response to the governments' Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' and summarise the key recommendations within the Paper. Responses have been received from representatives of the Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 8 September 2003 the Government published its Green Paper 'Every Child Matters: a vision for children's services'. The paper is out for consultation until 1 December 2003.
- 2.2 The Green Paper has implications for the way that local authorities run their children's services.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- 3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- a) Note the consultation responses to the Green Paper attached at **Appendix A**;
 - b) Consider whether they would wish to make any further responses;

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the proposals arising from the Green Paper are likely to have additional costs for all agencies (Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, Social Care and Health has been consulted on this report – tel 252 8800).

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications in this report. Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services, has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

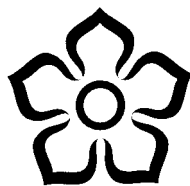
6. AUTHOR

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Assessment and Strategy
Social Care and Health

DECISION STATUS

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



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Director's Board
Cabinet

11 November 2003
24 November 2003

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER 'EVERY CHILD
MATTERS'**

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP POLICY OFFICER

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the consultation response to the governments' Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' and summarise the key recommendations within the Paper. Responses have been received from representatives of the Leicester Children's Strategic Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 8 September 2003 the Government published its Green Paper 'Every Child Matters: a vision for children's services'. The paper is out for consultation until 1 December 2003.
- 2.2 The Green Paper has major implications for the way local authorities run their children's services.
- 2.3 The origin of the Green Paper is the work undertaken in the Home Office on early intervention to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour. A cross-cabinet Committee was formed with representation from each Government Department headed by the Treasure Minister Paul Boateng.
- 2.4 The Paper was also informed by the Cross-Cutting Review on Children at Risk, which was initiated in July 2001 and reported to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in May

2002. This highlighted a number of concerns – a lack of a unified vision, fragmentation of services and an imbalance between prevention and crisis intervention.

2.5 Three key areas of recommendation emerged from the Review to be picked up by 'Every Child Matters':

- Delivering sustainable services, including co-location of services, multi-disciplinary teams, common learning and skills
- Improving the strategic co-ordination of services
- Filling gaps and improving services, particularly youth services, access to cultural and leisure services, child and adolescent mental health services and family support.

2.6 The Green Paper also brings together the Children's Strategy developed by the Children and Young People's Unit, the Government response to Lord Laming's Inquiry Report into the death of Victoria Climbié, and related work on the Education of Looked After Children by the Social Exclusion unit. There are 3 companion papers, 'Youth Justice – The Next Steps' from the Home Office, 'Keeping Children Safe' the Government's response to Laming, including the Joint Inspector's report 'Safeguarding Children', and the report of the Social Exclusion Unit, 'A Better Education for Children in Care'.

2.7 The Paper sets out a framework for services to *all* children aged 0 to 19 in England.

2.8 The Green paper aims to:

- Ensure no child falls through the net and help every child to achieve their potential
- Shift the balance towards prevention through tackling child poverty, improving early years education and childcare, raising school standards and supporting parents
- Ensure services intervene earlier before children reach crisis

2.9 It describes a vision of children's services and will measure progress against the outcomes that matter to children:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Economic well-being

3. Key Recommendations in The Green Paper

3.1 Accountability and Integration.

- A statutory Director of Children's Services accountable for education and children's social services
- A lead elected member for children in each local authority
- A new duty for local authorities, police and health to safeguard children and promote their well-being;
- A new duty for local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care
- integrating children's services into children's trusts, all authorities to have done this by 2006
- The creation of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (statutory successor to ACPCs)
- Creation of an integrated inspection framework for children's services with Ofsted taking a co-ordinating role
- a new Children's Commissioner to act as an independent champion for children.

3.2 Supporting Parents.

- The creation of a Parenting Fund of £25m over 3 years
- A Young People's Fund with an initial budget of £200m for activities for children out of school

3.3 Early Intervention and effective protection.

- A single named professional from one agency to be responsible for an individual child's needs
- Each child is to have a single unique identity number to be used across all agencies
- The development of a common assessment framework with every local authority appointing a lead officer for information sharing

3.4 Workforce Reform.

- Government proposes to develop a workforce reform strategy, a high profile recruitment campaign and develop flexible and attractive training routes
- Common occupational standards across children's practice and a common core of training for those working with children;

- Proposals for a Children’s Workforce Unit based in the DfES which will work with employers, staff and government departments to establish a Sector Skills Council for Children and Young People’s Services.

4. Consultation Process

- 4.1 The Green Paper highlights a number of consultation questions at the end of each chapter. Responses are requested by 1 December 2003. Responses should be made using the consultation form provided.
- 4.2 The Government has stated it intends to proceed immediately to legislation in the new parliamentary session. Given such a tight timescale for feedback, it is crucial that local authorities and partner agencies consider their response to the proposals in the Green Paper.
- 4.3 A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to accompany the proposals contained in this Green Paper has been prepared and is available on the DfES website at: www.dfes.gov.uk/everychildmatters/ria.shtml. This will be revised during the course of the consultation to take account of up-to-date information.
- 4.4 The collated consultation responses are shown at **Appendix A**.

5. Financial, Legal and other Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services - ext 7054).
- 5.2 The implementation of the proposals arising from the Green Paper are likely to have additional costs for all agencies.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Throughout report	
Policy	Yes	Throughout report	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	None directly	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Throughout report	
Human Rights Act	No	None directly	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	None directly	

6. Background Papers

Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'
'Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment'
'Keeping Children Safe'
'Youth Justice – The Next Steps'
'A Better Education for Children in Care'

7. Consultations

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Legal Services

8. Report Author

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Assessment and Strategy
Social Care and Health

Every Child Matters Consultation Response Form

See attached.