Oldham Children and Young People Plan Review and Refresh 2009

A Summary
Reviewing the Plan

In 2008, the second Children and Young People Plan was produced for Oldham, setting out how all organisations would work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Working to the Government’s five ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes (be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing), the original plan identified key priorities based on an analysis of children and young people’s needs and supported by performance data.

One year on, Oldham Children’s Trust has reviewed the progress it has made against these priorities, outlined what difference it has made to children, young people and their families and identified where further improvement is needed.

A full copy of the review and refresh of Oldham’s Children and Young People Plan can be viewed at http://www.oldham.gov.uk/living/every_child_matters/children_and_young_people_plan.htm

Role of the Children’s Trust

Oldham Children’s Trust brings together representatives from a range of organisations which provide services for children and young people across Oldham, including the Council, Primary Care Trust and other health services, the police, schools and a range of voluntary and community sector organisations. It aims to ensure all organisations work together, and with children and young people, to identify and address how the lives of children and young people can be made happy, healthy, safe and fulfilled. Oldham Children’s Trust sets out the improvements it intends to make to the wellbeing of children and young people through developing and resourcing a Children and Young People Plan.

What the review told us

The review highlighted the following themes:

• Together, we are making a positive difference to children and young people’s lives across all five Every Child Matters outcome areas, including for some of our most vulnerable youngsters.

• We are actively involving children, young people and parents/carers in decisions that affect them, as well as in the development and delivery of local services, and must continue to build on this in the development of our new Children and Young People Plan 2011–2014.

• Strong progress has been made on integrating frontline delivery and we have some good examples of inter-agency governance on which we need to build.

• The Every Child Matters priorities contained in the original plan needed to be reshaped and refocused.

• The management priorities contained in our original plan needed to be strengthened in order to progress our approach to effective joint planning, commissioning and management of Children’s Services over the next two years.
Achievements 2008/2009

Examples of where we have made a difference to children and young people in the last year include:

Be Healthy

• dramatically improved children and young people’s participation in high quality PE and sport from 68% of 5–16 year olds taking part in two hours every week in 2007/08 to 93.5% in 2008/09
• reduced the numbers of children referred for specialist mental health appointments
• continued to support schools to achieve Healthy School Status. The majority of schools have either now achieved or are working towards the standard and we expect that, by March 2010, 95% of schools in Oldham will be designated as ‘Healthy Schools’.

Stay Safe

• significantly improved the timeliness of initial and core assessments within timescales
• improved the stability of placements of looked after children
• reviewed all child protection cases within required timescales
• reduced the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
• enabled our pupils to feel safe around the local area and on public transport

Enjoy and Achieve

• significantly reduced the inequality gap in the achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19
• improved rates of progression by 2 levels in Maths between key stage 1 and key stage 2
• narrowed the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
• narrowed the gap between pupils identified as having special educational needs and their peers who achieve 5 A*–C GCSE grades or equivalent, including English and Maths, at key stage 4.

Make a Positive Contribution

• significantly improved (71.4% in 2007-08 to 84.4% in 2008-09) young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training
• continued to reduce first-time offending
• achieved the 7th highest reduction nationally in under 18 conceptions rate since the 1998 baseline

Achieve Economic Well-Being

• reduced the percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training
• significantly increased the proportion of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation
Priorities 2009–2011

Oldham Children's Trust has developed a set of reshaped and refocused high-level objectives for 2009–2011 for convergence, added value and combined impact over the next two years. These refocused priorities complement the wider vision for Oldham.

Be Healthy
We will work together and with children, young people and families to:
- Continue to promote emotional and physical health and well-being, with a specific focus on reducing obesity and improving dental health

Stay Safe
We will work together and with children, young people and families to:
- Continue to progress the quality of service delivery and practice so that vulnerable groups of children and young people are safe
- Ensure children and young people are safe and feel safe in the communities where they live, go to school, play and work

Enjoy and Achieve
We will work together and with children, young people and families to:
- Improve achievement and progression at all key stages
- Narrow the attainment gap between our most disadvantaged communities and the population as a whole

Make a Positive Contribution
We will work together and with children, young people and families to:
- Reduce the number of young people who engage in risk taking behaviour

Achieve Economic Well-Being
We will work together and with children, young people and families to:
- Continue to increase the number of 16-19 year old young people in employment, education or training
- Address the high levels of child poverty within the borough by tackling worklessness

Children’s Trust Management
- Ensure Oldham Children’s Trust is underpinned by strong governance arrangements
- Improve educational opportunities for all
- Involve and empower parents, and respond to children and young people’s views
- Focus rigorously on protection, prevention and early intervention within the context of Oldham’s developing area working approach
- Enhance financial planning
- Develop a data-rich and evaluative approach to strategic and operational planning and evaluation
- Remodel and develop the workforce.

Next Steps
The next 12 months will be devoted to developing a new joint Children and Young People Plan for Oldham for the period 2011–2014. Following significant organisational changes in the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust as well as imminent new statutory guidance, the time is right to do so.

The process for developing the new plan will be led by Oldham Children’s Trust. It will involve children, young people, their parents and carers and professionals from a range of local organisations involved in the planning, management and delivery of children and young people’s services. The work around the new plan will also sit alongside the strengthening of Oldham Children’s Trust governance and accountability arrangements and development of our area working approach across children’s services.

The new plan will provide a shared understanding of what needs to be done across organisations to continue to improve the lives of children, young people and families and identify how organisations will work collaboratively for the benefit of children and young people towards achieving shared targets and objectives. It will be produced in time to ensure financial and service planning arrangements are able to deliver the plan’s objectives from 2011 and beyond.