Newcastle Children’s Trust

Children and Young People’s Plan 2011–2014

Consultation on draft vision, principles and priority outcomes

8 March to 7 June 2010
Introduction

As the Chair of Newcastle Children’s Trust Board, I am delighted to consult with you on Newcastle’s Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) for 2011-2014. This is only the first part of the consultation process and focuses on:

- the vision for children and young people living and growing up in the city
- the principles which will underpin our work; and
- the possible priorities that would be at the heart of the plan.

The 2011-14 CYPP will set out how partners will work together to make a difference to the life chances and outcomes of children and young people in Newcastle. It covers all children and young people in Newcastle aged 0 to 19 years old and some groups of young people up to the age of 25 who have learning difficulties and or disabilities. It includes children and young people from other areas who are attending Newcastle schools or college, and those in the care of the local authority who live outside the area.

It builds on what has been achieved since our first plan was published in 2006 and refreshed in 2009 and 2010. The CYPP also has to demonstrate how the Children’s Trust will improve outcomes in each of the national Every Child Matters outcome areas. These are:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic Wellbeing

It also should show how cross cutting issues are being addressed.

There is clear evidence that the contribution our services are making to improving outcomes for children and young people is good. We are narrowing the gaps but we can and need to do better still.

Who has responsibility for delivering the CYPP?

From April 2011 the CYPP is the responsibility of Newcastle Children’s Trust Board.

The Children’s Trust is a partnership between the city council, schools, health service agencies, the police, Newcastle College, Job Centre Plus and a range of public and voluntary sector partners. Together, we are jointly accountable for producing, delivering and monitoring the effectiveness of the plan.

The Children’s Trust is not a separate organisation in its own right. Each partner retains its own responsibilities, while working together to join up services for children.
How does it fit with other partnerships and strategies for the city?

Newcastle Children's Trust informs, influences and supports the work of other partnerships and strategies in the city where they relate to children, young people and families. It identifies and champions children and young people’s rights and interests.

The CYPP demonstrates how we will deliver the Children and Young People's theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for the next three years. The Newcastle SCS is the overarching vision for 2030 for the whole city and its residents. The SCS aspires that 'All People in Newcastle:

- are healthy
- are safe and free from discrimination
- have economic wellbeing
- enjoy a good quality environment in thriving neighbourhoods
- achieve their learning potential, express creativity and enjoy culture
- make a positive contribution
- have dignity, choices and control

The CYPP and work of Newcastle Children’s Trust is also aligned with:

- The ‘1Plan’ – the new economic masterplan for NewcastleGateshead
- Safe Newcastle, the Local Policing Plan and Youth Crime Action Plan
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and NHS North of Tyne Strategic Plan
- Newcastle 14-19 Strategy and Partnership
- Schools Strategies and Partnerships, including Behaviour and Attendance and Newcastle Education Improvement Partnership

How are we developing the CYPP?

We have looked at:

- what the government requires us to include in the CYPP
- what the data tells us about Newcastle
- what children and young people have told us
- what parents and carers have told us
- what voluntary and community sector agencies have told us
- what a range of people who work with children, young people and families have told us
- what inspectors of services in Newcastle have told us

From this, we have identified a draft vision for the Newcastle CYPP, draft principles for how all agencies will work together and some emerging priority outcomes for improvement.

This is what we are testing out in this initial consultation phase.
What does the government tell us to include?

Statutory guidance from the Department for Children, Skills and Families (DCFS) tells us we must explain in our CYPP what arrangements partners will make for:

- reducing effects of child poverty
- improving behaviour and attendance
- a workforce strategy to deliver priorities
- early intervention and preventative action
- safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- co-ordinating services for families and taking account of the effect of adult’s problems on children within that family
- achieving education, early years, Local Area Agreement (LAA) and safeguarding targets (and reflecting other LAA targets which affect children’s wellbeing)
- agreeing key actions for children with special education needs, disabilities and looked after children

What have children and young people told us?

A Young People’s Steering Group (YPSG) reviewed evidence from participation and engagement work with hundreds of children and young people. This captured views of children and young people from different parts of the city, of different ages, abilities and needs.

From these wider issues, the YPSG summarised these issues into five draft priorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to have someone who is there for us when we need it</th>
<th>to feel safe and happy in our environment</th>
<th>to be recognised as experts in our own lives and issues</th>
<th>to have opportunities and a choice of things to do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>peer mentors and support – in schools and services</em></td>
<td><em>cleaner parks and play areas – all the time</em></td>
<td><em>having young people who have experienced issues talk to us about them</em></td>
<td><em>access to adventure and “dangerous” activities, e.g. camping, extreme sports</em></td>
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<td><em>help with transition into adulthood, life skills, finding jobs, (shared) housing</em></td>
<td><em>street pastors and community police</em></td>
<td><em>we should have a say on things that affect us</em></td>
<td><em>cheaper, safer transport to access different activities and free travel to school</em></td>
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<td><em>open and approachable organisations</em></td>
<td><em>better and safer cycle paths</em></td>
<td><em>we want to see the changes we have made</em></td>
<td><em>more support and advice about careers and next steps</em></td>
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<td><em>all schools should have a counselling service/drop-in for support</em></td>
<td><em>more street lighting</em></td>
<td><em>services should use feedback from children and young people to change how they do things</em></td>
<td><em>having our own space and place to go in the city centre</em></td>
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<td><em>organisations like DnA and Streetwise coming into schools</em></td>
<td><em>night time staff on metros</em></td>
<td><em>more “supervised” play for younger children</em></td>
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<td><em>everyone who works with children and young people should be friendly and approachable</em></td>
<td><em>play opportunities relevant to different age groups</em></td>
<td><em>things to do at night</em></td>
<td><em>“what’s on” guide</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>more green spaces to play</em></td>
<td><em>we want to see the changes we have made</em></td>
<td><em>creative activities – arts and crafts, gardening (community allotments?)</em></td>
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</table>

Children and young people want:

- to live in a city where everyone is respected for who they are
- to feel safe and happy in our environment
- to be recognised as experts in our own lives and issues
- to have opportunities and a choice of things to do
What have parents and carers told us?

A group of parent and carer volunteers reviewed the evidence from parent and carer participation and engagement activities, including responses from over 800 parents and carers to the question “what one thing would you change for children, young people and families in Newcastle?”

Specific focus groups were also held to ensure the views of different groups of parents and carers were heard.

We want…

- affordable childcare
- clean and safe parks and play areas
- earlier intervention and help for families that are struggling
- better quality of teaching in schools
- cheaper public transport
- the council and it’s partners to show they put children first
- more consistent services
- schools to teach values/respect for others
- help for young people to stop drinking and smoking
- young people to be taught how to be parents themselves

What have practitioners and other stakeholders told us?

Practitioner views were gathered through a range of different mechanisms, events and meetings, included specific events with the voluntary and community sector.

We need to:

- reduce impact of poverty and economic downturn on children and young people
- encourage all services and agencies to “Think family”
- improve access to advice services for the most vulnerable including “unseen” groups, e.g. young carers, children of prisoners
- raise aspirations and self-esteem – break the cycle – use mentoring, coaching, life skills
- focus on individual needs
- increase focus on mental health and accessible counseling and mental health services
- support families and communities to find their own solutions to issues
- recognise the contribution and impact of the voluntary and community sector and ensure long term support
- better integrate between statutory and community services
- develop model of peer support for children and young people in all the priority areas
- establish more creative approaches outside mainstream education
- create positive perceptions of young people and promote role models
- support care leavers – corporate parenting shouldn’t stop at 18
What does the data tell us are the issues in Newcastle?

We have analysed a lot of data and information about children and young people in Newcastle. This tells us that we are closing some gaps but even in many areas where we have made good progress we are still below national averages.

The data tells us that:

- Poverty is having a negative impact on too many children.
- There are inequalities in outcomes for some children and young people.
- Too many children are overweight or obese.
- The numbers of children requiring protection or becoming looked after are high.
- Too many children and young people are frequently absent from school.
- Too few children and young people achieve educational qualifications.
- Too many young women become pregnant.
- Too many young people commit crimes.
- Too many young people do not stay in education or training.
Vision, principles and priorities for 2011-2014

We need your views on these.

Our draft vision for children and young people

Newcastle is a great place to grow up where every child and young person:

- is safe and loved, healthy and happy and free from harm; and
- has the chance to make the most of their talents and fulfil their potential.

Our draft principles for how we will work together

We will:

1. involve and engage children, young people, families and communities in the design and delivery of services
2. be evidence based and outcome focused
3. provide excellent universal services for all children and their families
4. support families to address any problems early before things go wrong
5. act quickly to provide targeted support when children and young people are at risk
6. protect and care for the most vulnerable
7. ensure that every child and young person has someone there for them when they need it
8. identify inequalities, raise aspirations and “narrow the gap” in outcomes
9. recognise the dedication and expertise of our workforce and support their continuing development
10. build effective and trusting partnerships and make the best use of our combined resources
11. recognise the breadth, skills and diversity of the Voluntary and Community Sector and their contribution
Our draft priority outcomes for children and young people

Given what we are required to do, what children and young people tell us they want, what parents and carers say, and what the data tells us, these are the emerging priority outcomes for children and young people in Newcastle. We need your views on these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>This includes:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reducing family poverty and its impact on children and young people</td>
<td>Child poverty and narrowing the gap</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Children and young people are protected from violence, abuse and neglect</td>
<td>Reducing the numbers of children in care and requiring child protection plans, safeguarding</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Children and young people are safe, happy, respected and respect others for who they are</td>
<td>Bullying, safe roads, parks and play areas, respecting other people’s values, challenging stereotypes</td>
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<td>4. Children get off to a good start in life</td>
<td>Breastfeeding, early years foundation stage learning, childcare, early intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Children and young people are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy</td>
<td>Child obesity, physical activity, mental and emotional health</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Children and young people achieve their learning potential</td>
<td>Improving skills, attainment and progression</td>
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<td>7. Children and young people keep on the right track</td>
<td>Youth offending, behaviour and attendance in school, numbers not in education, employment or training after leaving school</td>
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<td>8. Children and young people have healthy lifestyles and avoid risky behaviour</td>
<td>Safe behaviour in relation to drugs, alcohol and sex, reducing sexual infections and teenage conceptions</td>
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<td>9. Parents and carers have information and support when they need it</td>
<td>Parenting, families and risk, Family Intervention Programme (FIP), early intervention and support</td>
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<td>10. Children and young people have opportunities and a choice of things to do</td>
<td>Fun, adventurous, varied activities for children and young people, volunteering opportunities</td>
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<td>11. Children and young people’s rights are recognised and they are treated as experts in their own lives</td>
<td>Participation, Youth Council, Child friendly communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. All children and young people achieve good outcomes whatever their background</td>
<td>Children and young people in care, with learning difficulties and or disabilities, vulnerable groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are inviting all children and young people, parents and carers, people who work with children, young people and families, and other stakeholders to tell us if you think these are the right priorities, whether there are too few or too many and what we might have missed that you think is important.
Why are these emerging priorities?

1: Reducing family poverty and its impact on children and young people.

Because:
Almost a third of children and young people in Newcastle live in poverty. This means that their total family income is significantly less than that of an average household.

Children and young people in the poorest households are:
- at higher risk of living in poverty as adults
- are more likely to be born prematurely and have low birth weight
- are more likely to die from unintentional injury, from exposure to fire or in a pedestrian accident
- are less likely to have opportunities to play safely and access to leisure opportunities
- are less likely to do well at school, achieve low or no qualifications and less likely to participate in further or higher education or training
- are more likely to live in poor quality housing and in a worse physical environment

Although good progress has been made to improve outcomes for children and their families in recent years, including amongst the poorest families, we need to speed up the good work and to make a step-change in our children’s wellbeing. We want to narrow the gap in outcomes between children from low income families and the rest of the city.

2: We want all children and young people to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect.

Because:
Newcastle has high numbers of children and young people who require formal intervention to protect them, such as child protection plans or becoming looked after by the local authority. The main reasons are because of neglect, emotional abuse or physical injury.

It is recognised that earlier support for children, young people and families is needed to prevent problems escalating. Intensive family support, multi-agency approaches to domestic violence, and partners working together using the common assessment framework (CAF) to identify support are some of the successful ways that these issues are being tackled.
3: We want children and young people to be safe, happy, respected and to respect other people for who they are.

Because:
Children and young people have told us that this is a priority for them too. They are concerned about bullying and discrimination, anti-social behaviour, constant negative images of young people in the media, ignorance and stereotypes and safety on public transport and in parks and play areas. They want everyone in Newcastle to be respected for who they are.

Parents and carers have told us they share these concerns. They have highlighted safe parks and play areas as a priority and want all children and young people to learn about respect for other cultures and communities.

We know that one in every four young people in Newcastle has experienced bullying. 13 children and young people were killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents in the last year that data was available. More children and young people were admitted to hospital in Newcastle because of unintentional or deliberate injuries than nationally or in similar areas.

4: We want all children to get off to a good start in life.

Because:
It is important that babies and children develop physically, emotionally and socially from the outset. Experiences during the first few years of life form the foundation for future learning, behaviour and health. Parents and carers sometimes want and need support to be confident and able to enjoy their parenting role. They have told us that affordable childcare and earlier support for parents that are struggling are priorities.

In Newcastle, we are improving but still perform worse than other parts of the country on:
- rates of breastfeeding
- children’s early learning
- immunisation rates; and
- take-up of formal childcare by low income families.

Through Sure Start Children’s Centres across the city, a range of partners are working together to support children and their families, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
5: We want children and young people to be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy.

Because:
Childhood obesity levels have risen dramatically, particularly in the last 20 years. The latest data (2008) shows that 27% of 5 year olds and 39% of 11 year olds in Newcastle are overweight or obese. Eating healthily and taking part in physical activity are essential to children and young people maintaining a healthy weight.

Being mentally and emotionally healthy means that children and young people are better equipped to cope with changes and challenges in their lives. We estimate that over 6,000 children and young people in Newcastle might have a mental health disorder. A range of projects and services across children's centres, schools, community facilities and specialist health provision are focused on improving mental and emotional health of all children and young people or those who need particular help.

6: We want children and young people to achieve their learning potential.

Because:
More children and young people in Newcastle are doing better in school, staying in learning beyond the age of 16 and progressing to university.

But there are still considerable gaps to national levels particularly in those achieving 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths. Some children and young people are not achieving their potential and too many are frequently absent from school.

7: We want children and young people to keep on the right track.

Because:
Most young people are already on the path to success. They do well at school; make a successful transition to adult life and go on to build successful careers and families. But some young people experience difficulties in their teenage years and need support to overcome them. Newcastle has high but reducing numbers of young people who:
- are frequently absent from school
- are excluded from school for a short period
- become pregnant under the age of 18
- become involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- abuse alcohol or other substances
- are not engaged in education, employment or training beyond 16

Being in one of the above categories increases the risk of being in more than one. This is why partners are working together to co-ordinate and target support for young people who are at risk of poor outcomes.
8: We want children and young people to have healthy lifestyles and avoid risky behaviour.

Because:
Our needs analysis confirms the need to address teenage pregnancy, sexual health, misuse of alcohol, drugs and high rates of smoking by young people.

We want children and young people to have the knowledge, skills and confidence to make healthier choices and access relevant services. As stated above, these issues are also closely related to other factors.

9: We want parents and carers to have information and support when they need it.

Because:
Bringing up children is demanding as well as rewarding, which is why we want to make sure that parents have access to the right information and help at the right time. This might mean having access to childcare or suitable activities in the local area, or taking part in family learning to support their child’s learning. Others may want to increase their knowledge and skills or to deal with particular issues they face. For some families, there might be more complex or longstanding difficulties that require a lot more support. This help should be tailored to the needs of individual families when they need it.

10. We want children and young people to have opportunities and a choice of things to do.

Because:
Newcastle residents identified activities for teenagers and facilities for young children as important priorities for improvement locally (Place survey, 2008/09); and children and young people have identified this as one of their top five priorities, including transport to access activities and opportunities. Delivering improvements in this area links to a number of the other issues, such as physical and emotional health and keeping young people on the right track.
11: We want children and young people’s rights to be recognised and them to be treated as experts in their own lives with a role to play in shaping the future.

Because:
This is one of the priorities identified by children and young people in Newcastle. We are already recognised as having a strong reputation in this area for a range of work including: U Decide participatory budgeting; Investing in Children; school councils in every school; participation of children and young people in assessments and decisions about their own lives; peer education and support; engagement in consultations; levels of engagement by young people in UK Youth Parliament elections. We are already building on this by establishing a Youth Council and want to go further to make Newcastle a child-friendly city.

12: We want all children to achieve good outcomes whatever their background or situation.

Because:
In addition to poverty, other factors can make children and young people more vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes. It is important to understand these factors and support these children and young people. Examples of particular groups of children and young people identified as vulnerable include: those who are in care or moving on from care; those with learning difficulties or disabilities; those whose first language is not English; and those who have caring responsibilities.

Do you think we are getting it right?

We are inviting all children and young people, parents and carers, people who work with children, young people and families, and other stakeholders to tell us what you think about our draft vision, principles and priorities.

You can complete a consultation questionnaire online at:

www.newcastlechildrenservices.org.uk

Or email us at:

childrens.services@newcastle.gov.uk

Or complete the paper questionnaire and post it back to us (no stamp required):

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