CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY

Working Together For The Rights, Respect and Responsibilities

Of

Our Children and Young People
In The
Borough Of Eastleigh

2007 - 2010
Children and Young People Locality Group Partnership Strategy

Introduction

The aim of this partnership strategy is to help ensure that resources in Eastleigh are best utilized for the benefit of children and young people.

For the purpose of this strategy, children and young people are defined as being between the ages of 0 and 25.

This strategy recognises that the Children and Young People’s Partnership group aims to inform and influence how organisations deploy their resources across the Borough of Eastleigh. It does not have any management responsibility or resources other than its collection of knowledge and strengths. This will be reflected in the strategy. The intention is therefore, through positive partnership work, to enable organisations to work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

As stated in ‘Every Child Matters’ (2002), all organisations involved with providing services to children and young people, will team up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve their full potential.

A key focus of this strategy is to help improve three areas of work:-

- To improve Communication between different agencies and councils.
- To develop Collaborative working practice across agencies and councils.
- To ensure that Consultation with children and young people is at the heart of all developments.

This strategy will link with other strategies and initiatives (appendix 1) helping partnership agencies to achieve their targets, and will be measured against the five outcomes of ‘Every Child Matters’:-

- Be healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution to society
- Achieve economic well being
This strategy not only offers the opportunity to strengthen partnership working, but to work creatively, to take some risks, and to engage local communities using their skills and knowledge to develop new and exciting projects. Having a solution focus approach to this strategy, and by listening to children, young people and their families will help achieve real improvements against the above five outcomes.

In line with the Local Area Agreement (2006-2009) and the Hampshire Plan this strategy will also seek to:-

- Improved life chances for children and young people.
- Support initiatives to skills and workforce development and address barriers to employment.
- Work with partners to improve transport and access to services across the Borough.
- Work with partners to improve access to housing and accommodation.
- Work with the Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour amongst young people, recognising the harm of drug and alcohol misuse.
- Promote and improve the health and well being of young people in Eastleigh.
- Use material resources more efficiently.
- Empower young people to have a greater voice and influence over decision making and the delivery of services.

This strategy will reflect the functions and responsibilities outlined in the Children and Young People’s locality group terms of reference (appendix 2). There are also particular targets which have resulted through consultation with young people (appendix 3).

There will be some real challenges in the delivery of this strategy; it will need commitment from partner agencies and in return offer support to agencies, managers and practitioners in their work with children and young people.

To monitor improvement of services the partnership group request that all agencies engaged with this strategy provide statistics showing their present performance and the targets they are expected to achieve. This information will help the group prioritise its work, offer support where needed, and help organisations meet their targets, with the outcome of improving services to children and young people in the Borough of Eastleigh. This document will be monitored at the bi-monthly meetings of the Children and Young People Locality Group and reviewed on an annual basis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Living</th>
<th>How will we do it?</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our aim is that every child and young person is able to live a full and healthy life.</td>
<td>Increase awareness of mental health and well being issue for children and young people. Promote and increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in physical activity and healthy eating. Ensure that there is access to appropriate information and advice, and accessible contraceptive and sexual health services for young people. Increase awareness amongst young people about alcohol and drug misuse including smoking.</td>
<td>Increase levels of physical activities. Reduction in obesity amongst children and young people. More young people contacting Tier 1 and 2 services. Reduction in teenage pregnancy.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Staying safe</th>
<th>How will we do it?</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Our aim is to improve the safety of children and young people in places where they live and grow up.</td>
<td>Support the work of the Domestic Violence Forum. Work with schools identifying resources to help children and young people who are bullied. Advocate for more early prevention work to reduce youth crime. Assist agencies to find ways to provide parenting education and support. Support the development of alcohol awareness education programmes. Support the housing forum in their work to reduce homelessness among young people. Work with children and young people raising their awareness of internet and email safety. Young people having regular and accessible public transport. Providing access to appropriate information and advice.</td>
<td>Reduced incidents of domestic violence. Reduced numbers of children and young people on the child protection register. Reduced incidents of bullying. Reduced numbers of young people involved or victims of crime. Reduced numbers of young people being homeless. Young people able to access services safely in Eastleigh and surrounding area. This would also assist with the other four outcomes of this strategy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enjoy and achieve</td>
<td>How will we do it?</td>
<td>Outcomes</td>
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<td>Our aim is to ensure every child and young person will be offered leisure and learning opportunities that will encourage them to develop to their full potential and realise their aspirations.</td>
<td>Improve information about leisure and learning opportunities and the access to these. Offer support to communities to develop provision for children and young people. Increase support to families where children and young people are not attending school. Identify funding streams to increase provision in consultation with children and young people. Support the extended school agenda. To help develop local targeted youth support teams. To support schools in reducing exclusions and to identify projects for young people not in school. Providing appropriate access to information and advice.</td>
<td>Increase provision and opportunities for children and young people. Increase attainment at Key Stage 1,2 and 3. Increase attainment at GCSE. Reduced numbers of young people not in education, employment or training. Children and young people engaged in positive activities. Increased numbers of children and young people in school and improved support to those not in school.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Make a positive contribution</th>
<th>How will we do it?</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our aim is that every child and young person is valued for their contribution and their views and choices are taken seriously.</td>
<td>Young people to influence the work of the Children and Young People Locality Group and the work of the Eastleigh Local Strategic Partnership. Encourage and support organisations to create opportunities for young people to volunteer. Promote positive images of children and young people. To support the work of local youth forums/theme groups. Receive up to date information from children and young people on issues which effect them.</td>
<td>Increase in youth volunteering. Increase numbers of young people attending youth forums. Increase in the number of 18 year olds on the voting register and casting their vote. Increased facilities for children and young people.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Achieve economic well being</th>
<th>How will we do it?</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our aim is to ensure child and young person has somewhere safe to live and has opportunities to prepare for employment and adult life.</td>
<td>Support agencies in their development of projects for children and young people who are risk or already excluded from school. Ensure agencies have up to date information on training and work opportunities. Provide appropriate access to information and advice. Support housing associations in their work.</td>
<td>Increased numbers of young people in school, college, training or employment. Young people having or developing skills for economic well being. Children and young people feeling safe living in an environment conducive to allow a young person to prosper.</td>
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Given the number of policy developments, the nature of partnership working, with the drive to achieve set targets, has resulted in this complex flow chart.

Steve Willis
March 2007
Children and young people locality group

Terms of reference

The focus of the locality partnership is to bring together partners, many of whom are already involved in local groups, to agree the local priorities and focus where there is potential for local flexibility and to support action to improve outcomes. The approach, where possible, is to bring together and engage existing groups and provide feedback loops rather than create new structures.

The local partnership will work with existing planning groups and partnerships advocating on behalf of children and young people. The work of the locality partnership group will be fully inclusive by active participation of children and young people and their families/carers.

The partnership will actively promote sharing of information and co-operation between all organisations working with children and young people. The partnership aims to ensure that the children and young people’s plan is being fully implemented at the local level.

The functions of locality partnerships would include:

- Identifying opportunities to ensure the full participation of children, young people, their families and carers in the planning of services and in monitoring effectiveness
- To understand and contribute an assessment of local need
- Determine local priorities where flexibility exists
- Support and influence local partners in improving outcomes
- Support the development of local plans and delivery agreements including ensuring resources are focused upon priorities
- Review outcomes and identify issues of concern
- Ensuring the necessary links between local partnerships with specific functions, including the Crime Reduction Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership and NHS implementation groups.

Roles and responsibilities

Representatives from organisations of the partnership accept the following roles and responsibilities.

- Promote the guiding principles and agreed vision for services and provide leadership of action
- Provide leadership in promoting equality of opportunity, inclusion and child centred services
- Promote the participation of children and young people in planning services and monitoring outcomes
- Reflect and interpret needs and contribute towards identifying strategy and direction
- Address inequalities and ensure the needs of children and young people at risk of poor outcomes are addressed
• Acting within governance arrangements commit, align and focus resources to agreed priorities
• Promote agreed priorities and ensure performance targets are met
• Assess outcomes and reflect progress and concerns
• Ensure that staff and systems for which they are responsible maintain and share information within agreed protocols
• Provide leadership in promoting evidenced based best practice
• Ensure communication within their organisation and provide leadership in joint working between partners at all levels
• Reflect issues from their own agency point of view and support others within the broad partnership
• Manage media contacts in a corporate way to promote the work of the partnership and a positive image of children and young people.

The intention is that all of the above will lead us to deliver the five outcomes of Every Child Matters. The partnership will work in a manner which is inclusive and transparent enabling all organisations working with children and young people to participate. Information about the work of the group will be circulated as widely as possible ensuring all groups can contribute in a manner which is appropriate to that group.

The level of participation and the success of the partnership will be reviewed on a six monthly basis, with the aim of reporting to local youth forums, the LSP and the Children’s Services board.
Eastleigh Borough Youth Conference 2006

Report by Eastleigh Borough Youth Council for the Eastleigh Strategic Partnership.

13\textsuperscript{th} March 2007

What do young people want in Eastleigh?

1. A Cinema Complex

The conference highlighted that young people want to see a cinema complex built in the Town centre.

It was felt that with this facility would encourage more young people to stay in Eastleigh, or to visit Eastleigh Town Centre rather than go to Southampton. Young people felt that because more people would come to Eastleigh the bus companies may provide a service which ran more frequently in the evenings. In addition it was felt that more jobs would be provided for young people who attend schools and colleges in the Eastleigh and surrounding areas.

Young people were excited that the cinema complex would also have a bowling alley because currently there has only go-carting in Eastleigh Town, which is very expensive.

2. Affordable Transport

The Conference also highlighted the problems with transport that young people experience.

The young people felt that bus and train fares were too high for young people. A high percentage of the young people who attended the conference wanted to see a scheme introduced for people in full time education to have reduced fares. It was noted that for some young people it can cost over £10.00 per week to get to and from college. It was also noted that if these young people were only receiving EMA then a third of their income was being spend on travel. This does not allow for books and other essentials that they may require when in full time education.
3. Improved Perceptions of Young People

The other issue of concern at the conference was the way young people are portrayed in the media and are generally perceived in the community. The young people who attended felt that they were viewed in a negative way by society as a whole. It was felt that the media should be encouraged to portray young people in a more positive light.

Actions Resulting from the Youth Conference.

1. The Youth Council will support the plans for the cinema complex.

2. The Youth Council will focus on transport issues.

The Youth Council is aware that this is an issue that has been raised by young people on a number of occasions, including previous conferences. The Youth Council feels that is reasonable for young people to receive help with transport. It is felt unfair that young people who are working hard at their studies should have to find a job to be able to fund their travel to and from College. The Youth Council feels that a scheme similar to the EMA but for transport could be introduced. The Youth Council would also like to look into the possibility of extending the junior ticket to people 18 years old, if in education. This would address the needs of those in college.

The Youth Council is planning to compile a questionnaire for students at schools and colleges about transport. This will then be followed up by working group to discuss options with the train and bus companies.

The youth council would like to organise an event for young people who responded to the questionnaire. This would be an opportunity to discuss the transport issues with the relevant organisations including the executives of the bus and train companies. It is hoped that this approach would move discussions forward.

3. The Youth Council would like to tackle the negative way young people are portrayed in the media.

The Youth Council intends to develop links with the local media to try and ensure young people have some positive media coverage.
4. The Youth Council would like to increase the opportunities for young people to get their voices heard and be involved in decision-making. Although the youth conference was a success the Youth Council does not feel it is the best way to get young peoples opinions. Youth conferences attract a certain group of young people who tend to be articulate and involved in other activities such as school councils. The Youth Council feels that this can exclude a lot of young people.

It was suggested at the conference that the Youth Council visit projects all around Eastleigh and to find out the opinions of young people within each of the five local areas. This would include visiting detached youth work projects, as well as youth clubs run by the youth service and community groups.

The Youth Council therefore proposes to set up a Young People’s Consultation Mobile Unit project. The Youth Council will be seeking funding for the mobile consultation vehicle and then approaching youth projects within the district to support the running costs.

To promote the project the Youth Council will be writing a play about what the youth councils do. It is planned that the play would be performed to young people across the Eastleigh District around local democracy week in October.

Eastleigh Borough Youth Council
13th March 2007
Children and Young People Locality Group

Members in Alphabetical Order

Barton Peveril College

Connexions

Eastleigh Borough Council

Eastleigh College

Hampshire Children and Families Forum

Hampshire Constabulary

Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Service

Hampshire County Council, Children's Services, Social Care

Hampshire County Council, Children’s Services, The Early Education and Childcare Unit

Hampshire County Council, Children's Services, Youth Service

Hampshire Pre School Learning Alliance

National Health Service

Parent Line Plus

Primary Care Trust/Public Health

Solent Youth Action