

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2008

REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

10. EAST HERTS DISTRICT CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP  
ACTION PLAN 2008/09

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WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that the East Herts District Children's Trust Partnership action plan for 2008/09, as attached at Appendix 'A10' be endorsed.

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1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the 2008/09 Children's Trust Partnership action plan, for endorsement.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.

3.0 Background

3.1 As a result of the infamous Victoria Climbié case, the government introduced a statutory duty on local authorities with responsibility for delivering social services (e.g Hertfordshire County Council), to establish new Children and Young People's Partnerships. The legislation, now enshrined in the Children Act 2004, was built around the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters green paper 2003 and further established a duty on other local authorities and relevant agencies to cooperate. In Hertfordshire, an agreement was reached that each district/borough should establish its own multi-agency partnership to better develop and deliver priorities established by the statutory county-wide partnership.

3.2 The Executive Member for Community Development, Leisure and Culture, Councillor Linda Haysey is a member of the local

partnership. The local East Herts District Partnership is chaired by the Council's Head of Community and Cultural Services. The action plan as attached at Appendix 'A10' (pages 10.5 – 10.15), has been developed and endorsed by the partnership and has been submitted to the county-wide executive group. Community Scrutiny Committee is requested to note that the action plan is not an East Herts Council action plan, but rather an action plan that belongs equally to the other members of the partnership. In addition to individual schools and colleges, the principal members of the partnership and indeed those that form the executive steering group of the partnership are, as follows:

Hertfordshire County Council  
The East Herts Community Voluntary Service  
The Integrated Youth Services – now known as Youth Connexions  
Hertfordshire  
The East and North Herts Primary Care Trust  
Hertfordshire Constabulary

#### 4.0 Report

- 4.1 The action plan is presented in a standard format agreed by the county-wide Children's Trust Partnership Executive Group. The themes are county-wide themes with key county outcomes identified under each theme. For East Herts local evidence is identified within that theme together with an assessment of whether the issue is ranked high, medium or low (H,M, L) for the East Herts area. On occasions within the plan when the issue is of low priority there is no local action identified and the section is therefore left as blank, e.g. under key theme 2.
- 4.2 The Committee's attention is drawn to a number of highlights within the plan:
- 4.2.1 Local capacity has been substantially increased in the last year by the development of extended schools and the recruitment of extended schools co-ordinators (ESCOs). The extended school co-ordinators are a very positive and important new local resource for the partnership. Similarly the new Youth Connexions Hertfordshire service and the Hertfordshire Children, Schools and Families partnership service have re-organised with designated managers for the East Herts Council area.
- 4.2.2 Key priority 6: vulnerable children and young people achieve as well as others. There are now lead agencies identified for nine new

children centres in the district adding considerable new capacity to services for the under fives; the full complement is ten centres in the district. Much of the evidence data base informing the plan is co-ordinated in accordance with the areas demarked for children centres.

- 4.2.3 The development of the district's Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) chaired by the assistant head teacher of Bishop's Stortford Boy's High School is a major new development in East Herts that has a critical role in the partnership and the delivery of the plan. The MAST is the agency that has local responsibility for ensuring that the new process of Common Assessment Frameworks is successful. The MAST in East Herts has a particularly good reputation across the county.
- 4.2.4 East Herts Council has lead agency responsibility for a number of actions including those under countywide key outcomes: 7 (advice to migrant workers), 8 (criteria and barriers to young people accessing sporting opportunities), 10 (Youth Council engagement) and under the further local priorities section at the end on the play strategy (co-ordinating the delivery of the Big Lottery Play initiative). In relation to Youth Council engagement, this year the annual Youth Conference will be held at the Wodson Park Sport Centre on 24 September 2008 and will be designed to incorporate engagement on this action plan and more generally around the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda.

## 5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 The action plan is the product of the multi-agency Children's Trust Partnership.

## 6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no new legal implications.

## 7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

## 8.0 Human Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no new human resource implications.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 There are no new risk management implications.

Background Papers

None

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