

Feedback from Thematic Partnerships: Annual Update December 2009

Thematic Partnership

Fareham Childrens Partnership (formerly the CYP)

Main Aims of the Partnership

1. To provide strategic leadership for the delivery of services to children in Fareham. ('Children' are defined as all younger members of the community, up to the age of 19 years old.)
2. To utilise local resources to improve the lives of children in Fareham.
3. To improve the co-ordination of services to have greater impact on the lives and opportunities of all children in Fareham.
4. To monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Children and Young Peoples Plan locally (CYP).
5. To report into networkfareham, the overarching local Strategic Partnership for Fareham (LSP).
6. To secure the provision of local data applicable to the Local Area Agreements (LAA), Hampshire CYP, LSP and other relevant data to inform the strategic direction of the Children's Partnership.

Emerging Priorities

Fareham Children's Partnership, originally known as the Children and Young People's Partnership, was developed as one of the thematic partnerships of the LSP, specifically leading on issues in relation to all local children and young people. However, over the last year the CYP has struggled with membership and experienced gaps in representation from key organisations which has hampered the groups' ability to be effective and as productive as originally hoped.

Following Hampshire's move to develop a Hampshire Children's Trust in order to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004 – specifically Section 10, the 'duty to co-operate'. This has assisted with development of our local partnership, with the creation of a statutory duty for the following bodies to co-operate in order to improve the well-being of children and young people in an area. Those covered by the duty include:

- local authorities;
- district and borough councils;
- police;
- local probation boards;
- youth offending services;
- strategic health authorities;
- primary care trusts;
- local Learning and Skills Council.

The Government has now announced plans to strengthen Children's Trusts, extending the duty to co-operate to maintained schools and academies; and sixth form and further education colleges. These changes form part of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Children Bill 2009, which also places the Children's Trust Board on a statutory footing, with responsibility for developing, publishing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan.

Links to Hampshire Local Area Agreement Priority Outcomes

LAA Priority:

1

Improve the life chances of children and young people.

Progress since December 2009

These developments have provided a timely opportunity for Fareham's CYP to reconfigure into Fareham Children's Partnership and is tasked with improving the well-being of all Fareham's children and young people, with a focus on addressing inequalities for those facing the greatest risks and barriers and strengthening support for individual children, young people, their families and communities, where needed.

Most significantly, the local reconfiguration has seen the partnership in Fareham strengthened by support from Education and representation from local school networks; whereas previously, difficulties have been experienced in engaging with this sector. Following an exploratory meeting with all potential partners in November, there is considerable willingness and support to reconfigure into a local Children Partnership. Work is now underway (between FBC & HCC) to identify and establish appropriate level representation from key agencies with the view of hosting the inaugural partnership in January 2010.

However, in principle, it has been agreed that members of the Strategic Board should to have the capacity to:

- Dedicate local resources,
- Effect strategic change in their organisation or cluster of services,
- Contribute to local data collection, and
- Secure the accurate identification of local need.

Additionally discussions are also underway to establish how other forums locally can arrange themselves to maximise communication to and from the main partnership, enabling effective distribution of key messages and priorities for Fareham.

It is recognised that some organisations may contribute to improving the lives and opportunities for children through other local or operational fora concerned with children and families. Whether at a neighbourhood level or in relation to a specific need or target group, it is acknowledged that these fora may have separate arrangements for reporting how their contribution links to the direction of Hampshire CYP

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networkfareham Board: Deputy

Name:			
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Address:			