

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

18<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Update on the development of strategies for Positive Activities and the Participation of Children and Young People**

**1.0 Key Points**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the Board on the progress being made to develop two key strategies and invites comments on the proposals.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members of the Board are requested to comment on the developing strategies on behalf of their organisations as presented in this report. A comments form is appended for this purpose to be returned to [ian.marr@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ian.marr@northyorks.gov.uk) by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Both the positive activities and active engagement agendas have received increasing attention in recent years. We have seen this in the form of national legislation and guidance, growing awareness of the benefits to children and young people and from mounting pressure from children and young people themselves.
- 3.2 The strategic approach to the active engagement agenda or Voice, Influence and Participation (VIP) is more developed than that surrounding positive activities. For a number of years now, the focus of participation work has been led by the VIP Group. Although this has led to some significant strategic developments and clarity in direction, this has been done without the benefit of a structured and integrated strategy owned by all partners of the Children's Trust
- 3.3 The development of positive activities by individual providers has also moved forward with some pace over recent years. Indeed there are significant examples of partnership working across North Yorkshire. However, there is increasing pressure and indeed benefit to developing a more integrated approach to the commissioning, delivery and monitoring of positive activities.

**4.0 General**

- 4.1 It is intended for both strategies to take a similar two part structure. The first part will be a concise written strategy covering the vision and core aspects of the commitment. The detail of the strategy will be included in the second part, the implementation plan. This will be mapped against the Children and Young People's Plan and form the basis for performance managing progress.
- 4.2 Due to the developed nature of the participation agenda, the Participation Strategy will cover the period up until April 2015 and be reviewed annually by the VIP Group.
- 4.3 The Positive Activities Strategy will cover the period up until April 2013 and will be reviewed annually by the proposed North Yorkshire Positive Activities Partnership. It is expected the first annual review will need to be somewhat more comprehensive than future years to accommodate potential changes drawn from experiences in year one of the proposed integrated approach.
- 4.4 Both strategies will be further developed and put out for consultation in February 2010 with a view to bringing draft strategies for approval to the March meeting of the Children's Trust.
- 4.5 Following adoption of the strategies, it is proposed to develop and publish the written element into documents along a similar line to the Children & Young People's Arts Strategy.

**5.0 Integrated Participation Strategy**

- 5.1 The Participation Strategy whilst still draft has been developed by the VIP Group within the Children's Trust, and aligns to the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Community Engagement Framework. The current version is appended to this paper for information and comment by Board Members on behalf of their respective organisations.
- 5.2 The strategy outlines an ambitious Vision for the next 5 years. This ambition is achievable, but will require further and progressive commitment from partners across the Children's Trust.
- 5.3 The Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 includes a specific Improvement Priority "*Increase children and young people's participation in shaping services*". The Strategy draws upon the commitments within the Children and Young People's Plan and sets out how we plan to achieve them.

- 5.4 The strategy lays out our core 'Principles of Participation', which are:  
Children & young people;
- Have an explicit right to be heard
  - Must be at the centre of all our work
  - Know their lives better than we do
  - Have opinions we truly value
  - Must gain an increasing involvement
- 5.5 The strategy describes the key areas of focus, which include:
- Cultural change
  - Regular reviewing
  - Sharing good practice
  - Workforce development
  - Including everyone
  - Democracy
  - Getting better at feedback
  - Building capacity
  - To pay or not to pay
  - Safeguarding issues
  - Equality and diversity
- 5.6 So we can tell if we are improving, the strategy outlines the monitoring processes to be used and the links required to the Performance and Commissioning sub-group.
- 5.7 The detail of 'who, how and when' forms the Implementation Plan. This is still in development, but the core actions are detailed.

## **6.0 Integrated Positive Activities Strategy**

- 6.1 Positive Activities covers all activities undertaken by children and young people, both educational and leisure based, which are not part of the school curriculum. This includes provision from local authorities, health services, police and fire services, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector. It covers ages 0 to 19 (25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities) and includes, for example, leisure, recreation, out-of-school, play, youth work, holiday, cultural, volunteering and sport activities.
- 6.2 The positive activities agenda in North Yorkshire (and else where in the country) is not as well developed as the participation agenda. To enable this to move forward a North Yorkshire Positive Activities Partnership is being established with membership to reflect that of the Children's Trust.
- 6.3 The formation of a positive activities strategy is progressing. Initially this is being drafted by the Senior Officer (Active Engagement & Positive Activities) and will be further developed by the Positive Activities Partnership prior to submission for adoption by the Children's Trust at the March 2010 meeting. To ensure the strategy keeps pace with the developing agenda it will require a detailed review after year one.
- 6.4 The proposed Vision for Positive Activities across the Trust is to develop provision which is:
- Coordinated in an integrated way
  - Has structured quality assurance
  - Adds measurable value
  - Is targeted in line with CYPP priorities
  - Reflects children and young people's wishes
  - Promoted effectively to children, young people and families
- 6.5 The strategy will outline the developing range of government drivers around positive activities, which include:
- Every Child Matters
  - Youth Matters
  - Aiming High for Young People
  - Aiming High for Disabled Children (Short Breaks)
  - National Play Strategy
  - Sports and Arts entitlements
  - Extended Schools core offer
  - Early Years provision

- Publicising Positive Activities
  - Friday and Saturday Night Briefing Paper
  - Youth Opportunity Youth Capital Funds
  - myplace
  - Targeted Activities Programme
  - Supporting Access to Positive Activities (transport guidance)
  - Quality Standards for Positive Activities (due out Spring 2010)
  - National Indicators, eg NI 110 (young people's participation in positive activities)
- 6.6 The positive activities agenda is not solely ages 13-19, but there is significant focus and funding directed towards this age group and the strategy will reflect this.
- 6.7 The strategy will recognise capturing baseline and subsequent data on the full range of positive activities is not possible. To enable efficient and challenging target setting and monitoring, performance indicators are being developed from existing data collection sources to enable trends to be understood and inform future commissioning. Examples of the data sources include:
- TellUs survey (basis for NI 110)
  - Destination survey
  - Youthbase
  - Gimi & Families Information Service
  - District Council data on use of leisure facilities
  - Place survey
  - Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire
  - Short Breaks returns
  - School Sports survey
  - Outdoor Education
- 6.8 Currently in North Yorkshire, positive activities are delivered by a range of providers with a varying degree of individual and partnership working. To ensure a more coordinated and integrated approach to the planning, commissioning and monitoring of positive activity delivery we will need to consider pooling significant resources and undertaking joint commissioning.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members of the Board are requested to comment on the developing strategies on behalf of their organisations as presented in this report. A comments form is appended for this purpose to be returned to [ian.marr@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:ian.marr@northyorks.gov.uk) by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

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## North Yorkshire Children's Trust

## Positive Activities and Participation Strategies - Comments Form

Name			
Organisation for which these views are representative			
Email address		Telephone	

<b>Question 1</b>	<b>Please provide comments on whether the vision and time scale are realistic.</b>
<i>Participation -</i>	
<i>Positive Activities -</i>	
<b>Question 2</b>	<b>Please identify specific aspects you would like to see addressed by each strategy</b>
<i>Participation -</i>	
<i>Positive Activities -</i>	
<b>Question 3</b>	<b>Are the current national and local indicators sufficient to be able to judge our performance and drive future developments?</b>
<i>Participation - Yes / No</i>	
<i>Reasons/Suggestions -</i>	
<i>Positive Activities - Yes / No</i>	
<i>Reasons/Suggestions -</i>	
<b>Question 4</b>	<b>Should we establish a dedicated central Voice, Influence and Participation team from existing staff?</b>
<i>Yes / No</i>	
<i>Reasons -</i>	
<b>Question 5</b>	<b>Should we have a participation strategy for children, young people <u>and</u> parents or just children and young people?</b>
<i>Children, young people <u>and</u> parents or just children and young people - delete as appropriate</i>	
<i>Reasons -</i>	

