

# Children and Young People's Plan Review

for Redcar and Cleveland 2006-2009:

## A Summary



# Reviewing the Plan



## Children and Young People's Plan

In 2006, the first Children and Young People's Plan was produced for Redcar and Cleveland, setting out how all organisations will work together to improve outcomes for children and young people across the borough. The plan informs the strategic direction of all organisations which provide services to children and young people including the council, Primary Care and NHS Trusts, the police and a range of groups within the community and voluntary sector. Working within the Government's five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes, the plan identifies key priorities and actions based on an analysis of children and young people's needs, obtained from consultation and performance data. The plan applies to services for children and young people aged from 0-19, over 19s who have left care and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25. A copy of the original plan can be found on the Redcar and Cleveland Council website at [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

## Role of the Children and Young People's Trust

Redcar and Cleveland Children and Young People's Trust brings together representatives from a range of organisations which provide services for children and young people across the borough. The Trust is one of the Priority Groups which underpin the Local Strategic Partnership. It aims to ensure organisations work together, and with children and young people, to both identify and address how the lives of children and young people can be made happy, healthy, safe and fulfilled. This work is developed, resourced, implemented and monitored by the Trust, and documented in the Children and Young People's Plan. The Trust ensured a more coherent and joined up approach to the recent review of the plan and will eventually become the main strategic commissioning body for Children and Young People's Services across the borough.

*"Use words and language children and young people understand"*  
Jesska, aged 14

## Review process

The purpose of the review was to:

- ★ Evaluate our progress so far against the priorities within the plan
  - ★ Identify what difference we have made to children, young people and their families, particularly the most vulnerable
  - ★ Identify areas where we need to do better
- We asked if the priorities in the 2006-2009 plan were the right ones, what progress people felt we had made and where we needed to continue to improve.

## What the review told us

The review highlighted the following themes:

- ★ We are making a positive difference to children and young people's lives across all five of the Every Child Matters outcome areas, including for some of our most vulnerable youngsters
- ★ Our priorities in the plan are still the right ones - they address an existing need and reflect what children and young people tell us they need
- ★ The priorities need to be revised to reflect progress made
- ★ Strong progress has been made to develop inter-agency governance arrangements, strategies and processes and we have some good examples of integrated frontline delivery on which we need to build
- ★ We have successfully engaged children, young people and parents and must build on this in the development of a new Children and Young People's Plan for 2008
- ★ Priorities within the plan need to be more focussed on the difference our activities will make to children and young people



# Where we have made a difference

Examples of where we have made a difference to children and young people in the last year include:

## Be Healthy

- ★ More children eating healthy school meals
- ★ Increase in immunisation rates
- ★ Less teenage pregnancies
- ★ More young people getting sexual health advice
- ★ Better chances for children and young people to exercise
- ★ Higher rates of breastfeeding
- ★ More young people getting help with drug problems
- ★ Improved health of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

## Stay Safe

- ★ Children and young people more informed about how to stay safe
- ★ Less road accidents involving under 15s
- ★ Wider awareness of e-safety
- ★ Safer places to learn and play through more risk assessments
- ★ More work to prevent children from becoming Looked After Children
- ★ Better access and support to protect children from harm and neglect

## Enjoy and Achieve

- ★ More support for parents to help them to help their children to enjoy and achieve
- ★ Above average care and learning in local childcare settings
- ★ Best ever exam results across all key stages
- ★ Improved school attendance rates, including among traveller children
- ★ More home and school support for children with complex needs
- ★ More and a better range of recreational activities available
- ★ Designated teacher for Looked After Children in all schools
- ★ More Special Education Needs funding going directly into schools

## Make a Positive Contribution

- ★ More care leavers living independently
- ★ Improved school attendance among young carers
- ★ Improved social and emotional development thanks to a range of behaviour support programmes
- ★ More young people actively involved in shaping services to meet their needs
- ★ Less anti-social behaviour and offending thanks to several multi-agency initiatives
- ★ Creation of young people's panel to award funding to young people's projects

## Achieve Economic Well-being

- ★ More young people in education, employment or training
- ★ Better advice to families to maximise income and entitlements, resulting in 40 new families with children with learning difficulties/disabilities accessing welfare benefits
- ★ Greater support for young people, including care leavers, to help prepare for working life
- ★ Personalised learning/training opportunities thanks to more vocational and work-based learning schemes
- ★ More young people accessing appropriate housing

*"I wish for every child to have a good education to enable them to follow their dreams"*  
Matthew aged 11



## Areas where we need to continue to improve include:

- ★ Further reduce teenage conception rates
- ★ Strengthen the transition between, or exit from, services
- ★ Protect children from accidental injury
- ★ Safeguard children from harm, including hidden harm
- ★ Give children and young people more opportunities to play
- ★ Support the educational achievement of looked after children
- ★ Reduce rates of re-offending
- ★ Develop skills of young people to enable them to contribute to decision-making
- ★ Develop young people's access to information, advice and guidance to enhance curriculum choice
- ★ Support homeless young people in living independently
- ★ Continue development of services to support children and young people with complex needs

## What we need to do to achieve these improvements:

- ★ Become more outcome focussed with clear measures, targets and ways to evidence the impact of our work on children, young people and families
- ★ Co-ordinate data collection and sharing to support commissioning processes
- ★ Better allocate resources to identified priorities through alignment of budgets
- ★ Develop a more co-ordinated approach to workforce development across the sectors
- ★ Improve needs assessment processes to inform commissioning decisions
- ★ Use a common language that children and young people also understand

## Next steps

The next six months will be devoted to developing a new Children and Young People's Plan for the borough for 2008-2011. Following organisational changes in the Primary Care Trust and the Local Authority as well as the continuing development of the Children and Young People's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board the time is right to do so, building on the findings from the review.

The process for developing the new plan will be led by Redcar and Cleveland Children and Young People's Trust. It will involve children, young people, their parents and carers and professionals from a range of local organisations involved in the planning, management and delivery of children and young people's services.

The new plan will provide a shared understanding of what needs to be done across organisations to continue to improve the lives of children, young people and families and identify how organisations will work collaboratively for the benefit of children and young people towards achieving shared targets and objectives. It will be produced in time to ensure financial and service planning arrangements are able to deliver the plan's objectives.

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|----------------|---|
| July-Sept 07   | Involve children, young people, families and professionals in development of new plan |
| Oct 07         | Develop draft plan  |
| Oct- Nov 07    | Consult on draft plan   |
| Dec 07- Jan 08 | Agree and publish plan  |

Copies of this document are available, together with the full review document and a children and young people's version, at [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

For more information or to make a comment about the review email [communications\\_manager@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:communications_manager@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) or tel. (01642) 444209



Redcar & Cleveland Children & Young People's Trust

