



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health  
Report by: Trevor Woollams (Head of Community Development)  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services October 11<sup>th</sup> 2012  
Wards affected: All

## **Children and Young People's Participation Service (ChYpPS) ChYpPS Plan for 2013 – 2016 (Draft)**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 This report asks the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health to agree the ChYpPS Plan for 2013-2016 following the member review of the service which reported to this committee in January 2012.
- 1.2 The report highlights the approach used in developing the Plan to allow for change to a more entrepreneurial and business culture within the service and to provide the flexibility and capacity required to deliver the mission and generate income that will reduce the net cost to the Council whilst sustaining the service into the future..

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To agree the draft ChYpPS Plan 2013 – 2016
- 2.2 To agree that officers arrange a formal review meeting with the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health, Scrutiny Chair and Spokes in October 2013 to review progress with the Plan.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In January 2012 this committee considered a report from the member panel that carried out a review of ChYpPS during 2011. The member

report was very supportive of the service and the work carried out by staff. The panel recommended that ChYpPS' mission should be summed up as follows:

*To enrich the growth and development of the city's children and young people through play and to give children and young people a voice in the development of their city.*

- 3.2 The panel felt that whilst the service should continue to deliver some effective targeted work, the primary focus for ChYpPS should remain their unique, open access and free at the point of delivery service for 9-13 year old children and young people across the city. However, they agreed that younger and older children should not be excluded from ChYpPS activities.
- 3.3 The panel felt that ChYpPS are well placed to develop an entrepreneurial approach by offering services such as training and the delivery of specialist play programmes to other providers. They also considered that there was potential for ChYpPS to work more closely with volunteers, whilst recognising that care would need to be taken to accommodate any safeguarding concerns.
- 3.4 The panel concluded that by developing an entrepreneurial approach to specialist service delivery to generate income, and by engaging and training volunteers, ChYpPS could maintain and hopefully increase its capacity into the future whilst reducing the net cost, in real terms and over time, to the City Council's budget.
- 3.5 The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health agreed the panel's recommendations which included cash limiting the service in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Officers were asked to bring a draft Business Plan to this committee in October 2012 setting out how the service will deliver additional income and maintain capacity during 2013/14, 2014/15 and beyond. The draft 'ChYpPS Plan 2013-2016' is attached at Appendix A.

#### **4. Approach of the Plan**

- 4.1 The draft Plan reinforces the future direction for the service as set by the member review recommendations and as informed by recent experience of partnership work with organisations from both the public and educational sectors.
- 4.2 The Plan is intentionally strategic. It does not set out in detail the work that ChYpPS will do to generate income but gives examples, based upon recent pilot work and opportunities and skills highlighted during

the review, as to the work the service will pursue. This approach will enable the service to be flexible, to react to opportunities or to develop bespoke projects, activities and training to meet the needs of potential clients.

- 4.3 The incremental approach to the Plan recognises that embedding an entrepreneurial culture within a service like ChYpPS is a significant change for many staff. The change will take time and needs to be managed carefully to ensure we both protect the mainly 'open access' nature of the service and the ChYpPS brand (which is well known and highly regarded by young people across the City).
- 4.4 The incremental approach also recognises that the service will need to free up some staff capacity in order to generate income. Examples of how we will do this are given in the Plan. Officers believe that this gives them potential to raise more income than required to cover cash limiting and are recommending that the net income targets are increased to £30,000 for 2013/14 and £60,000 for 2014/15. Officers are recommending that the net income target for 2015/16 is maintained at £60,000 to enable ChYpPS to consolidate and use any additional income to re-invest in the service.
- 4.5 These income targets are challenging and so progress will need to be carefully monitored. Monitoring will be carried out through monthly management team meetings. It is also recommended that managers arrange a formal review meeting in October 2013 with the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health, Scrutiny Chair and Spokes.

## **5. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

Set out in the report. The net income targets would produce effective savings of £30,000 (on-going) from 2013/14 and a further £30,000 (on-going) from 2014/15.

### **(b) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications.

### **(c) Equal Opportunities Implications**

An EQIA has been carried out to consider the impact that the service changes might have on children and young people. This shows no or very little negative impact compared to the current

service delivery and potential opportunities to improve engagement across some or all equalities strands.

The EQIA can be found at this link:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/eqia-ChYpPS-Business-Plan-Sept-2012.pdf>

(d) **Environmental Implications**

None

(e) **Consultation and Communication**

The review of ChYpPS included consultation with staff, members, partners and children and young people. The draft Plan has been developed with input from staff within ChYpPS and has been informed by piloting work.

(f) **Procurement**

None

(g) **Community Safety**

The safety of young people will be given the highest priority as the Plan is taken forward. ChYpPS may be commissioned to carry out targeted work with young people involved (for example) in anti-social behaviour (as they have been in the past).

## **6. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Review of the Children and Young People's Participation Service (ChYpPS)  
- Community Services Scrutiny Committee, January 2012.

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A: ChYpPS Plan 2013 – 2016 (Draft)

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Trevor Woollams  
Author's Phone Number: 01223 457861  
Author's Email: [Trevor.woollams@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Trevor.woollams@cambridge.gov.uk)