



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health
Report by: Director of Customer and Community Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services 17/2/11
Wards affected: All

**Review of the Children and Young People’s Participation Service
Scoping Report
KeyDecision**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council gives a high priority to the needs of children, young people and their families. Since 2005 the Children and Young People’s Participation Service (CHYPPS) has provided a dedicated service addressing the social and recreational needs of children and young people and has promoted their participation in community life. Legislation, primarily the Children Act, with its emphasis on “joined up services and provision,” growing economic pressures on public expenditure and changes to Government priorities are providing the need and impetus for the review of the purpose and organisation of services for children and young people.
- 1.2 This report sets out the scope, methodology and timescale for a proposed review of the CHYPPS the outcome of which would be implemented from April 2012.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the scope, methodology and timescale for the review of the Children and Young People’s Participation Service.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City Council has provided activities and facilities for children and young people for many years through its Community Development, Sports and Arts Services. The needs of children, young people and their families are also given a high priority in the Council’s Planning

and Housing functions. The priority for the proposed review will be to establish the future direction of the Children and Young People's Participation Service, including links with other services.

- 3.2 In 2005 the Children and Young People's Participation Service (CHYPPS) was created bringing together youth development, youth participation and play services within Community Development. This new service and the CHYPPS Strategy, which underpins its work, was the outcome of a major review involving many stakeholders, members as well as children and young people.
- 3.3 The focus for CHYPPS work has been on:
- The needs of 9 – 14 year olds
 - Play and youth provision in neighbourhoods where children and young people live, particularly areas lacking opportunities.
 - City-wide projects bringing children and young people together from different parts of the city.
 - Creating opportunities for children and young people to be actively involved in and consulted on issues that affect them, their families and neighbourhoods.
- 3.4 Recent initiatives include developing the Urban Play Project focusing on ways to create play opportunities from the whole environment; consultation on the provision of play equipment in growth areas and working with developers on play and youth strategies; events based in each of the four Areas and leading local contributions on national initiatives e.g. on anti-bullying work.
- 3.5 Since the introduction of the Children Act in 2004 a growing emphasis has been placed on working in partnership with other providers from both the public and voluntary sectors. Council officers now routinely work in partnership with colleagues from other sectors and also schools. These partnerships have jointly commissioned original research and projects on, for example work with Travellers, mental health services, family support and on improving access to social and recreational opportunities.
- 3.6 However, the recession, pressure on public expenditure and changes in Government policies in education and health, along with the potential for enhanced roles in the delivery of public services for the voluntary sector and social enterprises, are providing new challenges as well as opportunities to reconsider how the needs of children, young people and their families can be met in future.

4. Scope of the Review

- 4.1 This review will take place during a period of significant social and economic changes. It will therefore be important to understand the needs of children and young people and the trends, developments and innovations in services that are being developed locally and elsewhere to respond to these pressures. Fundamentally, the review should aim to establish the roles, priorities and outcomes for CHYPPS for the period 2012 – 2015 and its position, as a District Council service within a spectrum of providers. Proposed review objectives are:
- a) To define the purpose, priorities and outcomes of the CHYPPS.
 - b) To define the characteristics of the service's primary clients.
 - c) To consider the relative merits of universal, targeted and preventative activities and their relevance to CHYPPS.
 - d) To appraise different service delivery options.
 - e) To explore the most appropriate governance arrangements and how these arrangements can enhance the coordination and accountability of partnership and collaborative work.
 - f) To make clear how the CHYPPS contributes to the City Council's Vision

5. Management of Review

- 5.1 The review will be undertaken by a Panel of Members, the composition of which will be determined in accordance with the Council's Constitution. It will be chaired by a member of the majority party and the outcome of its work will be reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health will attend meetings of the Panel. The Head of Community Development will be the lead officer and the costs of the review will be found from the Community Development budget.
- 5.2 Services for children and young people are complex and involve a wide range of stakeholders. The Panel will need to give careful consideration to how and when these stakeholders should be able to contribute to the work of the Panel and its conclusions. This will be particularly important in respect of the involvement of children, young people, parents and guardians. The review will also need to take account of existing relevant research into the needs and aspirations of children, young people and parents, who use city based services.

6. Methodology and Timetable

6.1

Review Activity	Target Date(s)
1. Appoint Panel	May 2011
2. Commission and consider quantitative and qualitative research/evidence – consult stakeholders.	May – July 2011
3. Review Panel considers evidence and appraises options.	Sept – Oct 2011
4. Production and scrutiny of draft Outcome Report	Nov 2011
5. Final Report	January 2012
6. Implementation	April 2012 Onwards

7. Implications

- 7.1 **Financial** – The outcome of the review will inform future funding for this service. The review will need to take account of reductions in resources for Children’s Services made by Cambridgeshire County Council, the availability of funding, generally, for independent providers and the City Council’s Medium Term Strategy.
- 7.2 **Environmental** – The review will be required to address how the CHYPPS contributes to the Council’s vision and objectives on sustainability.
- 7.3 **Equal Opportunities** – The service has consistently promoted equality of opportunity, inclusivity and fair access and treatment.
- 7.4 **Community Safety** – CHYPPS has worked closely with the Safer City Team and others in delivering services designed to divert young people at risk from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime, and preventative work with children who are at risk through pressures at home, in school and/or in the wider community.
- 7.5 **Staffing** – The outcome of the review could have implications for the way services are delivered and the role(s) of staff. Implications for staff would be explored in line with the Council’s Organisational Change Policy.

8. Background papers

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

9. Appendices

10. Inspection of papers

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

Author's Name:	Liz Bisset
Author's Phone Number:	01223 457801
Author's Email:	Liz.bisset@cambridge.gov.uk