

**Subject: Children and Young People
Strategy**

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 19th September 2006

Report of: Head of Human Resources

Portfolio Holder: Member Champion for Children and Young People

Key Decision:

NO/YES (Please delete)

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

"X" In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to agree the Councils Strategy in relation to Children and Young People

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:
Embedding our Customers Promise (Customers)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is a failure to improve the lives of children and young people within the Borough.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The strategy has been developed in response to the Government's vision for children's services "Every Child Matters". The Strategy details the Council's contribution to improving the lives of children and young people and how it will deliver on some of the key outcomes which are identified as improving the lives of children and young people:

- Stay Safe
- Be Healthy
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve Economic well-being

4.2 Lancashire County Council as the statutory Children's Services Authority is responsible for co-ordinating the production of the overarching Children and Young People's Plan for Lancashire as per the Children Act 2004. The Plan is a strategic, overarching plan for all services for children and young people in Lancashire identifying the improvements that the County Council and its partners will make in relation to the Every Child Matters outcomes. However, Section 10 of the Children's Act identified "relevant partners" who have a valuable contribution to make to improve the well-being of children and young people. Rossendale Borough Council is one of those important and relevant partners.

4.3 The Strategy cannot be considered in isolation, it is linked to other plans and strategies including the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement priority outcomes. The Strategies delivery mechanisms are service focused Business Plans which focus on the activities the Council will deliver on over the next three years.

4.4 The key outcomes associated with the delivery of the strategy are that :

- Children and Young People are protected from harm
- Children and Young People will be engaged in the decision making processes
- Children and Young People will have appropriate and safe opportunities for play and meeting friends
- Children and Young People feel safe within their communities and have the opportunity to do well and make a meaningful contribution

4.5 The drivers required to deliver the aforementioned outcomes have been identified as follows:

- Clear and well communicated safeguarding measures
- Available opportunities for play and diversionary activities
- Decent housing
- A Planning Framework which considers the needs of children and young people
- Education and promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Effective community safety initiatives
- Effective community leadership and partnership working
- Consultation mechanisms with young people
- Regeneration and development of the Borough to improve the life chances of young people.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 The activities identified within the strategy are already provided for within existing budgets.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 There are no direct legal implications.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications.
- 7.2 As part of the impact assessment process. The possible impact of decisions and policies on children and young people should be considered.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The strategy will be monitored through the Council's Performance Management Framework. Each Head of Service is responsible for producing a Business Plan which shows how the service will overall contribute to the values of the Council in relation to Children and Young People. Monitoring will also take place via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 The Strategy for Children and Young People be agreed pending further consultation with community groups and children and young people.
- 9.2 Further amendments to the strategy in light of consultation be delegated to the Leader, Member Champion for Children and Young People and the Chief Executive

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Leader
- 10.2 Management Team
- 10.3 Member Champion for Children and Young people
- 10.4 Young People and Children's Issues Network
- 10.5 Steve Roman, LCC, Community and Partnerships

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Background papers

- Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan
- The Role of District Councils in Improving Outcomes for Children – Dept for Education and Skills
- Children and Young Persons Plan – LCC
- The Role of District Councils in implementing the Children's Act