

Children and Young People's Transport Plan 2009

The Transport Plan has been developed by young people. Young people feel that the cost and availability of transport is of real concern for them, so have identified their own action plan that they have agreed with the Partnership to address these issues.

As part of this plan we will also monitor progress of the work on the LAA target focussed on how children travel to school (NI 198).

Cambridgeshire County Council will explore possible models for a concessionary bus travel scheme for children and young people aged 6-19, including potential links to the g2g card.	Director of Children's Services
The county council will liase with Stagecoach to explore the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing an automated voice clearing system on buses to assist partially sighted young people • Ensuring that bus services can be used independently by young people with a disability • Printing timetables in larger fonts and in Braille • Improving the scope for young people to make complaints about public transport and to receive feedback about the outcome of their complaint 	Director of Children's Services
The Children and Young People's Participation Strategy Group will seek to involve young people in the training of bus drivers.	Chair of the Participation Strategy Group
District councils will consider constructing new and replacement bus shelters from Perspex instead of brick.	District Councils
The county council will lead on more detailed discussions with members of Travellers Check about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a School Transport Code of Practice, with input from young people and drivers setting out mutual expectations, to be issued to school bus drivers, students and parents • Producing leaflets about safe routes to and from school bus pick-up points and lighting routes that are currently unlit and feature in a young person's journey to and from school, linking to the Safer Routes to School Initiative as appropriate • Creating more cycle paths to enable young people to cycle to school, linking with the Cycling Demonstration Town initiative where appropriate 	Director of Children's Services
The Partnership will report back to members of Travellers Check by May 2009 on progress made against each of these issues.	Lead Member for Children and Young People

Support for parents and carers

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Cambridgeshire's first Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was carried out in 2007-08, as required by the Childcare Act 2006. Local Authorities have to undertake this work every three years, so our next Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be carried out in 2010-11.

The assessment looks at the need for childcare across Cambridgeshire and the extent to which the supply of childcare is meeting this need. It aims to identify where there are gaps in the provision of childcare and helps plan how to support childcare providers to address these gaps. This assessment is a necessary first step towards securing sufficient childcare provision in Cambridgeshire.

The assessment involved significant consultation with all interested parties, including parents, children and young people, childcare providers, employers, nanny agencies, schools and health services.

Key priorities for the next three years resulting from the assessment for Cambridgeshire include:

- Geographical priorities (e.g. ensuring sufficient childcare provision in rural areas and new communities)
- Income and affordability
- Specific needs and access
- Extended opening hours
- Improve information gaps
- Participation

This assessment found that nearly one in every five families in Cambridgeshire currently report having difficulties accessing childcare. Work needs to be done to address this and to provide even more provision in Cambridgeshire for the forecast increase in the number of 0-4 year olds. Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire will require additional nursery places and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City will require additional childcare provision for all age groups. The summary report can be found at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/childcare/sufficiency

Families Information Service

The Childcare Act 2006 required the county council to set up this service to provide comprehensive information to parents which will assist them in supporting their children through to their 20th birthday. The information covers services provided by health, district councils, voluntary and independent sector, government agencies and other providers as well as the county council.

The service can be accessed through:

- the website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fis
- a telephone helpline 0345 045 1360
- a written directory (call 01223 717309 for a copy)
- information kiosks in some Children's Centres
- practitioners who are in everyday contact with parents and carers

The Parent Support Strategy

The Parent Support Strategy for Cambridgeshire was agreed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in September 2008. It summarised the views of 1175 parents and carers in Cambridgeshire who were consulted, and made key recommendations to CYPSP about what needed to happen to improve support.

Priorities for parents where they feel most help is needed:

- Behaviour
- Childcare
- Pregnancy and looking after a new baby
- Learning, school and school transfers
- Health and healthy eating
- Disability and special needs
- Children's mental well being and bullying
- Parent's loneliness, isolation and mental well being

The Action Plan from the strategy is now being developed and delivered by the Parenting Project Board, as a core part of the business of the CYPSP. This includes developing effective performance measures for our joint work on parenting so that we know we are making a difference. Successful delivery of the strategy will help lead to improvements across the spectrum of priorities for children and young people captured in the Big Plan 2.

A copy of the Parent Support Strategy can be accessed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childreynongpeople/cypsp/plansandstrategies/parentingstrategy.htm.

Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare

Partners are committed to safeguarding children and work with the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to do this.

The LSCB is responsible for providing the strategic direction and operating framework that is needed to ensure that all those agencies, partnerships and organisations working with, supporting and providing services to children, young people, their families and their communities in Cambridgeshire focus on their responsibilities with regard to the safeguarding of children and young people.

The LSCB provides both support and challenge to the Partnership and the LSCB development plans, the Big Plan 2 and the Children's Workforce Strategy all compliment each other in addressing shared priorities.

Following Lord Laming's recent review of safeguarding and in response to government requirements, the LSCB undertook a stock-take of the safeguarding arrangements in Cambridgeshire and a strategic development plan has been developed and is now out for consultation. The draft vision, values and priorities for the LSCB are outlined on this page and the final LSCB Strategic Development Plan 2009 – 2012 will be available on www.cambslscb.org.uk

Draft Vision:

Creating a safer Cambridgeshire for children through collaboration, co-ordination and challenge.

Draft Values:

We are:

- child and family focussed
- calm in our approach
- authoritative about our knowledge
- clear about our purpose
- transparent in what we do
- collaborative in the way we work
- constructive in our approach
- rigorous about our practice

Draft Strategic Priorities:

An LSCB that:

- is passionate about safeguarding and can deliver the vision and purpose
- is fit for purpose and cares about doing the job well
- takes responsibility and is business like
- can tell the story, by developing comprehensive management information, performance management and quality assurance systems
- recognises that the work force are the solution to safeguarding children

Participation; Information sharing; Partnership arrangements.

The Participation Strategy

Involvement of children and young people, parents and carers in developing and monitoring all aspects of our service is one of our underpinning principles and the Participation Strategy sets out how we do this. We will be reviewing our existing participation strategy during 2009-10 to ensure it meets needs most effectively.

A copy of the current strategy can be accessed at: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenyoungpeople/cypsp/plansandstrategies/cypscypspaspart.htm

Information sharing and early identification of need

Information sharing continues to develop and be recognised across the Partnership as a vital conduit for improving the effectiveness of service provision by focusing more on the reinforcement of proportionality, judgment and transparency in the decision-making process.

Development of and embedding processes such as Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional and targeted intervention through Children's Centres will all help to ensure that a child's needs can be identified at an early stage and will promote more effective multi-agency delivery of appropriate intervention.

Partnership arrangements

During the work on the first Big Plan, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership operated as the Children's Trust for Cambridgeshire. In 2009, new arrangements will come into place and a Trust Board (the Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Board) will be formally introduced. This will be chaired by the Lead Member of the county council for children and young people; an officer group chaired by the Director of Children's Services will support this work.

The Lead Member will represent the Trust on the Cambridgeshire Together Board: Cambridgeshire Together is responsible for delivery of the countywide Sustainable Community Strategy and local area agreement targets. The Trust will be responsible for representing the views and needs of children and young people to Cambridgeshire Together and for delivery of the targets relating to children and young people within the local area agreement.

There are five geographic Local Strategic Partnerships each with a Sustainable Community Strategy within Cambridgeshire: the three Children and Young People's Area Partnerships will operate as the children and young people's theme groups for these, and deliver on the area actions identified in Big Plan 2 and any other additional activity from the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Terms of reference and membership of the CYPSP can be accessed from: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenyoungpeople/cypsp/

Children's Trust development plan

In November 2008, the Department of Children, Schools and Families provided new guidance on the role of Children's Trusts seeking to ensure faster improvements in outcomes for children and young people. This is in advance of legislation and sets new challenges and responsibilities for Trusts.

During 2009, the Partnership will develop into a formal Children's Trust, with a Board led by members, trustees and non executive directors of the partner organisations, providing strategic direction and accountability. An executive group with the senior officers from the Partnership will support the Board and ensure that work is carried out.

A working group with representatives from the current Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Children and Young People Steering Group is engaged in developing the future Trust model and governance arrangements. An outline of the timescales the group is working to is shown in the table.

Roles and responsibilities drafted for the children's trust	April – June 2009
Cambridgeshire's structure, model, Governance arrangements drafted and agreed	July – September 2009
Implementation of model, ensuring existing groups can now take on any additional Trust responsibilities and reporting arrangements	October – December 2009
Cambridgeshire's Children's Trust arrangements fully implemented	January – April 2010

Risks and mitigation

<p>Lack of engagement from Partners: our vision for the children’s workforce and delivery of Big Plan 2 in Cambridgeshire can only be realised if all Partners work together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constantly demonstrate the potential advantages of working together to the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership • Partner engagement in the Big Plan 2 will require key actions and monitoring progress to take place • Workforce development leads to focus on areas where joint working can bring significant, demonstrable benefits • A communications strategy to celebrate success
<p>Partner agencies lack funding to support required developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus activity on Government funded initiatives • Consider ‘invest to save’ possibilities, e.g. offering Cambridgeshire programmes to other Children’s Trusts on a chargeable basis • Actively seek external grants
<p>Partner agencies lack the capacity to support required actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that capacity building is costed in to all Government funded initiatives • Consider joint funded posts between some (not all) Partners, in addition to the partnership-wide coordinator role • Adjust activity to manageable levels
<p>The Government bring forward new initiatives, which they prioritise over current initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend outcomes and annual action plans
<p>Proposal to create a partnership-wide, joint funded post of workforce development coordinator is not accepted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of joint activity to manageable levels • Allocate lead roles to Partner agencies
<p>Developments in the national economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in funding • Increased demand for public sector jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust activity accordingly • Re-allocate money for recruitment initiatives to other priorities

Glossary

CAF - Common Assessment Framework. A new standardised approach to assessing children's needs for services, designed for practitioners in all agencies. See www.dfes.gov.uk/ISA/.

CAFCASS - Child and Family Court Advice and Support Service.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust provides services to the 755,000 residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who suffer from mental health problems.

CRB - Criminal Records Bureau. An organisation that conducts investigations of criminal records on individuals, to enable an employer to assess eligibility for appointment prior to any formal offer being made. Standard and enhanced checks may be made depending on the level of unsupervised access the individual may have to children, young people or vulnerable families.

CWDC - Children's Workforce Development Council (established July 2005). One of the five Sector Skills Councils contributing to UK Skills for Care and Development to coordinate delivery of the government's National Children's Workforce Strategy (April 2005). Covers range of sectors including early years and childcare, education welfare, learning mentors, Connexions, foster care and social care and CAFCASS

CWN - Children's Workforce Network. The full range of Sector Skills Councils working with the children's workforce, coordinated by CWDC to enable greater coherence in Government policy and planning and local delivery. Sector Skills Council membership involves, Skills for Care, Skills for Justice, Skills for Health, SkillsActive,

Lifelong Learning UK, Training and Development Agency, General Social Care Council, General Teaching Council, Employers Organisation

CWS - Children's Workforce Strategy – national and local programmes to improve, recruitment, retention, reward, raise skills, performance levels and qualifications of the workforce supporting children, young people and families in order to improve services.

CYPSP - Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

DCSF - Department for Children, Schools and Families

DDA - Disability Discrimination Act 1995

DoH - Department of Health

DWP - Department for Work and Pensions. Formerly The Department of Social Security, is the central government department with overall responsibility for the administration of financial benefits website <http://www.dwp.gov.uk>.

Early years. The period of time pre-birth to compulsory school age (i.e. the term after the child's fifth birthday).

Early Years Foundation Stage. The stage within the National Curriculum that comprises pre-birth up to age six (Childcare Act 2006).

Early Years Professional Status. Required qualification level (comparable with Qualified Teacher Status) for practitioners leading the Early Years Foundation Stage programmes of learning within an organisation.

HEFCE - Higher Education Funding Council for England

HEI - Higher Education Institutions

HMCI - Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

HMI - Her Majesty's Inspectorate

IAG - Information Advice and Guidance

Independent Sector. Non-statutory agencies in both the private and voluntary sectors. Also includes 'not for profit' organisations such as Housing Associations (also referred to as 'Private Sector').

INSET - In-Service Education & Training

liP - Investors In People. This is an award that organisations can achieve (on application) if they train and induct staff to specified standards of excellence.

ISA - Independent Safeguarding Authority. The ISA assesses every person who wants to work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults. It does this by working closely with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The CRB receives applications to the ISA and gathers and monitors information. It also uses the information previously found in:

- The Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) list
- The Protection of Children Act (PoCA) list
- List 99 (a list of people considered unsuitable for work with children, held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families)

Glossary

LAC - Looked After Children. 'Looked After' is phrase used in law to describe a child being cared for by the Local Authority. A child is 'Looked After' if either they have been provided with 'accommodation' at the request of their parents or they are in the care of the authority. The responsibility of the local authority is the same for a child, whether they have been voluntarily accommodated or the subject of an Order.

Looked After Children procedures and material were introduced by the Department of Health to ensure that the planning and decision-making for each child 'Looked After' meets a high standard. The aim is to improve the quality of care provided for each child and the outcomes for them.

List 99. A list comprising names of individuals that are deemed unsuitable to be employed in any school-based capacity having unsupervised access to children, young people, especially those who may be vulnerable or at risk (see ISA).

LSCB - Local Safeguarding Children Board. The statutory mechanism (Children Act 2004) for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

LSP - Local Strategic Partnership. Partnership in local area – typically includes Health, Social Care Staff in Local Authorities, district councils and other local stakeholders.

NCSL - National College for School Leadership

NPQH - National Professional Qualification for Headship

NPQICL - National professional Qualification for Integrated Centre Leadership

NQT - Newly Qualified Teacher. A person in his or her first year of teaching after successfully completing a training course.

NVQ - National Vocational Qualification. A system of qualification developed in order to validate the competence of experienced, skilled members of staff. The scheme is a voluntary one but any qualification gained has a national recognition. Assessed competence is measured in 5 levels.

OFSTED - Office for Standards in Education

PGCE - Post Graduate Certificate of Education

PLA - Pre-School Learning Alliance

PQ - Post Qualification

Practitioner. A member of staff from any agency involved in the assessment and/or delivery of care, e.g., Early Years educator/carer, Social Workers, District Nurse, Home Care Assistant, Occupational Therapist, General Practitioner.

Private Sector Collective. Label for the range and variety of agencies which are not public, statutory or voluntary and are profit making organisations within the independent sector. Agencies which are not included within this grouping are sole traders, partnerships and companies.

PoCA - Protection of Children Act list (see ISA)

PoVA - Protection of Vulnerable Adults (see ISA)

PVI - Private, Voluntary and Independent

QCA - Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Safeguarding. 'The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care which is undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood effectively' (Working Together 2006).

TDA - Training and Development Agency. For schools (formerly Teacher Training Agency).

TF - Transformation Fund. A targeted resource provided to Local Authorities to implement local workforce strategies in support of the strategic priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan. It is a two-year initiative, 2006-2008, committed to transforming the quality of childcare without compromising affordability for parents. It aims to move toward parity between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI) by boosting the qualification of early years staff in PVI settings to create a high quality and diverse workforce.

Warner interview technique. Also known as personal or preliminary interviews. Personal Interviews precede the formal interview process and are used to explore the suitability of candidates, in relation to their attitudes and values, to work with children.

Workforce. The group of people, paid and voluntary, within occupational groups that offer services to individuals or groups in a community.

YOS/T - Youth Offending Service/Team

YP - Youth Parliament

Acknowledgements and useful contacts

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- The support from practitioners and managers from councils, health providers, voluntary and community sector, police, schools and colleges in designing the Big Plan 2 action plans
- The individuals and organisations, focus groups of children and young people, who gave feedback on the plans before they were finalised as the Big Plan 2

The Big Plan 2 is available to download at www.thebigplan2.co.uk

If you would like copies of these publications, a copy in large print format, or an alternative language to English, please contact:

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