

## **Chorley Council's Action Plan to contribute towards delivering the Every Child Matters Outcomes**

**March 2007**



## Foreword

Every Child Matters is a holistic approach to the well-being of all children and young people from birth to age 19. This anticipates that all organisations providing services to children will work together to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want from life.

Chorley Council has been proactive in developing positive opportunities for children and young people. In a recent Audit Commission review of partnership working around children and young people's services, the Council was highlighted as an example of good practice for placing children and young people at the heart of our strategic thinking.

We are committed to improving the life chances of children and young people and take our responsibilities arising from the Children Act 2004 very seriously. This Action Plan outlines the actions we will take over the next 3 years.



Councillor Peter Goldsworthy  
Council Leader



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## Introduction

Chorley Council has traditionally provided services for children and young people and their families. Every Child Matters, along with other initiatives such as the development of Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements, take our involvement in this area beyond our traditional role. This is a part of the Council's important community leadership role. As with any developing area of work, it is important that what is expected of the Council is understood both by the Council and its partners. The production of the Action Plan will assist us in prioritising requests for further investment in this area.

## **Every Child Matters and Every Youth Matters in Chorley**

The Children Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on District Councils to co-operate with the principal children's services authority, in our case Lancashire County Council. It would be fair to say that there is no precise understanding between ourselves and Lancashire County Council as to which areas we need to be co-operating in. Chorley Local Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Thematic Group has identified three key work areas to be tackled over the next few years. These three work areas centre around:

- Developing opportunities for young people through the Chorley Youth offer
- Consulting and engaging with young people
- Reducing teenage pregnancies.

The Act also places a statutory duty on the Council to engage with the local Safeguarding Children's Board. Arrangements for engagement have been agreed but more work needs to be done to embed the systems.

Every Child Matters is all about improving the life chances of all children and young people, reducing inequalities and helping them achieve what they want out of life. Five outcomes from the basis of the Every Child Matters programme:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being.

### **Where are we now and how do we move forward?**

As mentioned above, the Council, through the Local Strategic Partnership has agreed three priority work areas. The Council has been pro-active in responding to various consultations around Every Child Matters 'footprints', Lancashire's Children and Young People's Plan and Children's Trust Arrangements. We have also been active within the Local Area Agreement process – championing projects to address the problems of the young and old in society who are at greater risk – and, more recently, in developing improved Two Tier Working in the County. That said, we are at the beginning of a journey with Every Child Matters, there is a lot to do.

Positive activities for children and young people has been a key area of work for us in recent years. We have been successful in involving partners in this work. Parish Councils and neighbourhood groups are working with us to expand opportunities; we have projects to improve the well-being of young people with mental health problems in our leisure centres; and we work closely with the police to make sure the activities provided help reduce juvenile nuisance, for example. This will continue to be a flagship project for the Council.

The following pages outline the actions the Council will undertake to fulfil its statutory duties.

## Action Plan

Action	Who is responsible for delivery	Who else is involved in delivery?	Start and end date	Key milestones and targets/success measures	What the outcome will be as a result of delivering the action
<p>Appoint an Every Child Matters Member and officer 'Champion'</p>	<p>The Council, at the Annual meeting will appoint the Member Champion and the Chief Executive will appoint the officer Champion</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Appointments reviewed and made in May, each year.</p>	<p>Appointment of Member and officer Champions for Every Child Matters. Currently the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.</p>	<p>A Member and officer overseeing and driving the Every Child Matters Agenda.</p>
<p>Children and young people to be consulted and engaged in strategy, policy and service development.</p>	<p>Director of Policy and Performance to ensure this action features in the consultation strategy. Individual Directors to ensure this is actioned.</p>	<p>All Directorates and partners we work with on specific projects.</p>	<p>Ongoing, reviewed in Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.</p>	<p>Evidence of engagement with children and young people in the development of strategy, policy and the delivery of services.</p>	<p>Strategies, policies and services that are tailored to meet the needs of children and young people.</p>
<p>Develop children and young people's services through the Local Strategic Partnership.</p>	<p>Director of Leisure and Cultural Services</p>	<p>A range of partners principally Lancashire County Council and Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>Ongoing, reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.</p>	<p>Based on the three priority projects there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in activity levels</li> <li>• Reduction in teenage conceptions</li> <li>• Increased involvement/engagement with children and young people.</li> </ul>	<p>Based on the three priority projects there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased activity levels with resulting improvements in health and community safety.</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies.</li> <li>• Services that are focused on the needs of children and young people.</li> </ul>

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Contribute to the improvement of two tier working in Lancashire to improve the outcomes for children and young people in Chorley.	Chief Executive	Other Directors particularly Director of Policy and Performance	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet and specific reports on the budget.	Clarity on the way forward, action points, timescale and to take improved two tier working forward by 30 September 2007.	Improved partnership working with Lancashire County Council that results in enhanced access and services for local people.
Contribute to the delivery of Lancashire's Local Area Agreement and, specifically, targets relating to children and young people.	Co-ordinated by Director of Policy and Performance.	Directors involved in the delivery of individual targets.	Current Local Area Agreement finishes on 31 March 2009.	Targets are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The agreement is refreshed on an annual basis.	The delivery of the Local Area Agreement will result in improved outcomes for children and young people in Chorley. The delivery of the stretch targets will determine the financial reward received by Chorley Council.
Finalise and embed management arrangements for work regarding the Safeguarding Children Board	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Director of Human Resources to prepare our Child Protection Policy. All Directorates and Lancashire Safeguard Children Board for implementation.	Ongoing to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Child Protection Policy approved by 30 September 2007. Arrangements around Safeguarding Children to be reviewed on an annual basis and reported to Executive Cabinet.	Chorley's children and young people will be safer as a result of the Council's involvement in the Safeguarding Children Board.

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<p>Consider the implications of the introduction of Children's Trust Arrangements, pending the outcome of Lancashire County Council's deliberations, and to introduce them.</p>	<p>Direct or Leisure and Cultural Services</p>	<p>Various external partners, principally Lancashire County Council and Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>Children's Trust Arrangements are to become operational on 1 April 2008</p>	<p>Finalise Chorley's input to Children's Trust Arrangements by 30 October 2007.</p>	<p>More effective and efficient use of resources spent by partner organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people.</p>
<p>Continue to develop positive activities for children and young people.</p>	<p>Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.</p>	<p>Various external partners, principally Lancashire County Council's Youth and Community Services and voluntary, community and faith sector groups.</p>	<p>Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.</p>	<p>Increase in number of children and young people taking part in Get Up and Go activities. Agree with Lancashire County Council, how to implement the Chorley Youth Offer by 31 December 2007. Increase in number of Parish Councils, Cultural Champions and Neighbourhood Groups who are developing positive activities.</p>	<p>More active children and young people with a resulting increase in health, well-being and community safety benefits for the individuals and the wider community.</p>

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Continue to safeguard children and young people through effective licensing.	Director of Customer, Legal and Democratic Services.	Directors with responsibility for licensed premises and events.	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	The welfare of children and young people to be considered as part of all applications considered.	Licensed premises and events will safeguard children and young people.
Develop play opportunities by delivering the Borough's Play Strategy.	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment and Chorley Play Partnership.	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Outcome of £185,000 Big Lottery play bid known by 30 June 2007. Play Ranger, Development Officer and Coronation Rec lighting project to start by 31 March 2008, if Big Lottery bid is successful.	Children and young people will feel safer when playing in Chorley.
Contribute to the implementation of the LSP/LAA Teenage Pregnancy Project.	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Chorley Local Strategic Partnership Children and Young People's Thematic Group.	Start 1 April 2007, if funding approved. Project complete by 31 March 2009.	Reduction in the number of teenage conceptions. Chorley's Local Area Agreement stretch target achieved.	Young people given better sexual health and contraceptive advice with a resulting reduction in teenage pregnancies in Chorley.
With partners, explore the potential to deliver a project that addresses the multi-dimensional problems that impact on vulnerable families facing the greatest risk of exclusion.	Deputy Chief Executive	Chorley Local Strategic Partnership's Public Sector Partnership Board.	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Agreement on the way forward with this project.	Provide a multi-agency intervention to vulnerable families with a resulting positive impact, in terms of community safety, in the areas they live.

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With partners, implement the multi-agency project to reduce the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption.	Deputy Chief Executive	Chorley Local Strategic Partnership's Public Sector Partnership Board, Individual directorates, as required.	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	To be determined.	A reduction in the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption.
Further develop joint working with Lancashire County Council, in advance of improved two tier working and Children's Trust arrangements being agreed.	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Lancashire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People's Plan refresh by 30 June 2007.</li> <li>• Joint Area Review, 31 May 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input to the refresh of the County's Children and Young People's Plan.</li> <li>• Input to Lancashire's Joint Area Review of partnership working around the Every Child Matters agenda.</li> </ul>	Improved joint working between the Council, Lancashire County Council and a range of partners, to improve outcomes for children and young people
Support the roll out and development of Children's Centres and extended schools/services	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Lancashire County Council and the Local Strategic Partnership.	Ongoing, to be reviewed in the Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Full delivery of 4 new Children Centres by 30 September 2007. Remaining areas not covered by existing centres to be catered for by 2010. Number of schools providing extended services	Improved outcomes for children, young people and their families.



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Increase opportunities for children and young people to volunteer.	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Lancashire County Council, schools, voluntary, community and faith sector groups.	Ongoing, reviewed in Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Increase in the number of young people volunteering. Delivery of On the Ladder project. Increased membership of Chorley Youth Council.	Children and Young People will be more actively involved in community life.
Be an active participant in the County Every Child Matters Lead Officers Group.	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.	Lancashire County Council and all other districts in Lancashire.	Ongoing, reviewed in Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Attendance at meetings of the Group.	More efficient use of officer time as joint areas of work are agreed, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
Effective scrutiny of work around the Every Child Matters agenda.	Director of Customer, Legal and Democratic Services, supporting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Ongoing, reviewed in Annual Report to Executive Cabinet.	Evidence of consideration of whether to look at this work area in the Overview and Scrutiny programme of work.	Effective overview and scrutiny of this work area.

## Monitoring and Review

As mentioned earlier, the Action Plan is principally an internal Chorley Council document to document the scale of our involvement in the Every Child Matters agenda and to track the progress of actions we are committed to delivering. Some of the specific actions will be monitored and reviewed in other places, for example, through the Local Strategic Partnership and its thematic groups, and the Local Area Agreement. The Plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being and Director of Leisure and Cultural Services. An annual monitoring and review report will be presented to Executive Cabinet.

The Action Plan, as it stands, is a list of actions at a point in time. Due to the development of these work areas they will change with time and it is the intention to update it regularly through the year. Clearly, there has been some involvement of external partners in the production of the Action Plan. Once approved, the Action Plan will allow us to consult with our partners to ensure that the actions we are contributing to have the greatest impact for the resources we are allocating to this area.

In addition, performance indicators will be included in the 2007/08 Business Improvement Planning process to track progress in this area. The indicators have been selected to reflect Corporate, Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreement priorities. The performance indicators will cover:

- Teenage pregnancies
- Physical activity amongst children and young people
- Schools achieving 'Healthy Schools' accreditation.

## Contacts

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