

Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership Forum

Report on the consultation on the *Yes We Can Plan 2011-2014*

Background and details

The new Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership Forum is a partnership of local agencies across Herefordshire that commission and deliver services to children, young people and their families. This covers children and young people from 0-19 years of age and up to 25 for those young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The partner agencies include:

- Herefordshire Council
- School and colleges
- NHS Herefordshire
- GP Commissioning Consortia
- West Mercia Police Service
- Wye Valley NHS Trust
- 2Gether
- Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service
- West Mercia Probation Trust
- Third sector
- Shadow Board

The forum replaces the previous Children's Trust Board which was a statutory body under the previous administration.

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was also a statutory requirement but this too has been removed under the new coalition government policies. However, in Herefordshire partners agreed the need for a new plan, to provide focus and direction as to what the most important factors are to improve services for children, young people and their families.

The new plan; *Yes We Can – a plan to support children, young people and families* is a partnership plan and includes priorities that can only be achieved by partners working together across the partnership forum alongside families and their children.

The new plan was drafted based on a wide variety of data and information including:

- The 'CYPP Partnership Event' held in June 2010
- "Have your say" campaign in September and October 2010
- Partnership events with professionals who deliver and manage services for children, young people and their families

- Data and information from surveys and performance indicators
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Inspections and audits from national agencies like Ofsted.

This draft plan was then circulated widely over a 12 week consultation period between December 2010 and February 2011 to inform the final plan.

Consultation feedback

Twenty responses were received over the 12 week consultation period from a range of individuals, teams and agencies. These were mainly from the third sector, NHS and Herefordshire Council. In addition there was further consultation with the Children's Trust groups in place at the time.

The main points coming out from the consultation included:

- The priorities were generally the right ones
- The number of priorities needed to be reduced and be more focused
- The plan needed to address whole family approaches, support for parents and early intervention
- Certain vulnerable groups needed support e.g. young carers and Gypsy Roma Traveller although the Shadow Board said children and young people shouldn't be labelled and that all deserved to have the same aspirations and opportunities. Individual actions should consider how vulnerable groups of children could be supported better.

The following give an indication of the views given against each of the four questions posed. The full comments are attached at appendix 1 – consultation responses.

1. Are these the right priorities for children, young people and families and carers in Herefordshire?

- Generally 'yes'
- There should be more emphasis on pupils failing at school and opportunities through vocational training
- Needs a whole family approach
- Priorities need to be more focussed and smart
- Mental health needs to be included
- There are far too many people priorities.
- Priorities should be simple and lend themselves to more specific actions to be undertaken by partners. Actions need to be SMART and not priorities necessarily
- Co-ordinated systems to support all needs

2. Are there any priorities that are missing?

- Young carers and their associated needs
- Ethnic minorities (particularly Gypsy Roma & Travellers)
- Children with mental health problems
- 5-8 year olds
- Poverty & family
- Rural isolation/transport
- Parenting work

3. What are the key actions that will be needed to ensure the plan's aims are delivered and what organisations need to be involved?

- Developing commissioning/provider pathways

- Focus on locality teams
- Individual, team and service plans linked to CYPP
- Better communication/information sharing
- Explanation of actions or lack of action by social care
- Action plans across services
- Multi-agency steering groups with functional decision making power
- Real partnership working with real commitment to working together at all levels

4. Please add any other comments you would like to make

- Can the feed back to the consultation be made available
- There needs to be a stronger tie in with adult services/health services and whole family agenda
- Mental health should be addressed specifically
- Keep it simple

‘Yes We Can’ Plan

This new plan has now been written to show what we will do to improve the lives of families and their children and young people in Herefordshire. It is a county-wide, partnership plan; it is not a plan that lists what each of the partners do on an every day basis. It does include the collective aims of what our partnership wants to achieve by working closely together. Each partner has pledged what their individual contribution will be to help achieve our partnership aims.

The plan covers the period April 2011 to March 2014; as it is a strategic plan it does not contain every detail of what must happen. A lot of the comments and feedback from the consultation were quite detailed and therefore could not be directly included. However partners, through their pledges, will take specific responses into account.

The plan is very different in appearance from the draft version as the format is no longer stipulated by legislation guidance. The new plan is simple, understandable, and is written in plain English. A children’s workbook and poster versions will also be produced in conjunction with the Shadow Board.

To view the plan visit:

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/community_and_living/young_people/26247.asp

Next steps

Many individuals and agencies have taken the time to look at the plan and for all the comments received, the partnership forum is very grateful.

The plan will be widely distributed and everyone is encouraged to use it and to pledge their own support to its achievement.

The partnership forum will be monitoring the achievement of the plan and will publish an annual review assessing progress and highlighting any new priorities or issues that need addressing.

For any further information please visit the website on the link above or email yeswecan@herefordshire.gov.uk