

Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership Forum

Detailed responses on the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014

Question	Comment
<p>1. Are these the right priorities for children, young people and families and carers in Herefordshire</p>	<p>a. There needs to be a more emphasis on children who are failing in school and will not take an academic route. Whilst I understand the measurement of qualifications for outcomes it doesn't necessarily sit well with children where a vocational opportunity would be a better option. Services for children with emotional/mental health and behaviour disorders will need a profile unless this is picked up in children with complex needs?</p> <p>b. Yes</p> <p>c. Broadly – yes</p> <p>d. <i>Mainly but would like to see more in terms of whole family approach, supporting the needs/lifestyle of parents to enable them to improve the best outcomes for their children.</i> -Whilst mainly the right priorities but need to be more focussed and smart - As far as we can judge on the information we have available, yes - Need to add 'Continuing E-Safety Raising Awareness' and 'Domestic Abuse' - Shared priorities – adult services can sign up to.</p> <p>e. What about tackling mental health problems and preventing or intervening early.</p> <p>f. <i>I struggled a bit with the priorities - not least because there's a lot of them (10 plus 3) which may spread us quite thin.</i> <i>But I couldn't tell from the narrative what the difference is we want to make by having them as our priorities. There's a lot in there about what the current position is with regard to each priority and a lot of aspirational stuff to make it better but I couldn't really see, tangibly, what it is we actually want to achieve. As a result, I was struggling to know how we would measure what difference we would make.</i> <i>Some of the people priorities are about groups of people and others are about services/issues which could equally affect the groups (so looked after children may well be affected by obesity, substance misuse etc).</i> <i>At the start of the plan, we say that this plan is not about normal business but the value added bit - so I wasn't sure why we have educational standards in there, which is normal business, unless we are specifically talking about targeted services, narrowing the gap in which case I think that needs to be more explicit.</i></p> <p>g. Yes. It's hard to argue with what they themselves have identified, but it looks sensible.</p> <p>h. <i>Important priorities, but more focus needed regarding health promotion/prevention.</i> <i>Early intervention</i></p>

	<p>i. The draft Plan records that the priorities are drawn largely from local ‘have your say’ events and local data and information. This gives them a sound basis. There is also a specific targeting within the priorities, which will help to ensure that services are directed towards those in greatest need.</p> <p>The FRS’s own priorities in relation to children, young people and families are largely set out in its Community Safety Strategy, and there is similar targeting towards those most at risk including single parent families and households in areas of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>j. <i>I would be looking for a crisper priority for looked after children. I feel the wording is too loose.</i></p>
<p>2. Are there any priorities that are missing?</p>	<p>a. Young Carers are a significant group of vulnerable children across many of the identified outcomes. YCs are often keeping families together through their caring responsibilities, they are vulnerable to obesity particularly if they have the responsibility for preparing meals for the family as they might need to use cheap and quick options, YCs health is at risk, particularly prone to depression and self harming, bullying is an issue which often prevents YCs from identifying themselves and seeking appropriate support services, they are often failing at school due to the problems with juggling home life and school activities, etc. this is particularly the case where YCs are supporting parents with a mental health problem and the physical care is not the issue but the constant emotional support and responsibility that is expected of the young person.</p> <p>We are also concerned that the Hidden Harm work is not mentioned, YCs who are caring for parents who substance misuse are at serious risk of failing to be identified and then falling into the culture as they get older.</p> <p>b. <i>No</i></p> <p>c. The disparities in all outcomes between Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and other children and young people are stark in the extreme. The plan needs explicit intentions that address the lack of access to facilities, activities, services and the need for sufficient, appropriate accommodation. It would be advisable to include performance data and targets for ethnic minority groups, and other educationally vulnerable children, as an annual appendix to the plan.</p> <p>This should be commonly held, and a collective responsibility Traveller is a proper noun and should be capitalised.</p> <p>Roma families are already present in Herefordshire among the migrant workforce and we will need strategies for identifying families and offering appropriate input around community cohesion and educational priorities.</p> <p>d. <i>No but we felt that there should be an extension on children’s mental health and the support available to them</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>None</i> - <i>Gap 5 – 8 year old service, parenting support to be considered, vulnerable adults, parenting capacity and mental health.</i> - <i>Mental health issues.</i> - <i>Poverty and the effects on the family</i> - <i>Adults (parents) drug addiction for example.</i> - <i>Domestic abuse – more prominent.</i> - <i>Rural isolation – transport</i> - <i>Adult mental health</i> - <i>Children as carers</i> - <i>Hidden Harm/ Domestic Abuse</i> - <i>Aspirations for young people</i> - <i>Mentoring</i> - <i>Data; how we capture unmet need to inform the plan/commission services</i> - <i>What about having A children, young people and families plan</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health services for the under-5s e.g. midwives, health visitors, dentists, housing (particularly for young adults) - Child poverty - Mental health services for children - Sport/exercise countywide development programme - Family support for the over-5s above and beyond Triple P <p>e. No clear priority for parenting work. There needs to be a multi-agency approach to dealing with conduct problems – lack of current steering group.</p> <p>f. <i>I think there is an opportunity here to develop on the theme within ‘respecting and valuing each other’ in terms of CYP’s role in developing the communities within which they live. In particular, involvement in local planning of services through engagement with local democracy will be key as local decision-making drives spending priorities. Otherwise it will be well-meaning adults who make decisions that concern them on their behalf without involving them meaningfully in the process. Too little is also made of the value of volunteering – in particular the need for good support for CYP in finding good opportunities to volunteer. Just saying ‘there should be opportunities to volunteer’ isn’t enough. The V project has shown the worth of guidance for young people in this area, finding opportunities which are tailored to individual young people and ensuring they are well supported and well treated whilst volunteering. Creating volunteering opportunities is not enough. The funding for that project ends this financial year.</i></p> <p>g. Opportunities for ill and disabled children to be included across social networks all ages and abilities, after school, weekends, holidays and after leaving school. Social interaction opportunities.</p> <p>Priority 9 – Add illness to this heading.</p> <p>Home education for children too disabled/ill to go to special school.</p> <p>Transition to Adult Services not mentioned.</p> <p>h. <i>Early intervention – health promotion ie breastfeeding, weaning.</i></p> <p>i. Within the ‘protecting children from harm’ priority, it may be useful to comment further in relation to ensuring that children and young people are also protected from harm through education and prevention activities. From the FRS perspective, this would include safety in the home, fire safety and road safety. For example, in 2009-10 the Service made visits to 83 Key Stage 2 classes across Herefordshire reaching over 2,300 pupils with key safety messages.</p> <p>j. <i>People priorities - I would want to see something along the lines of – keeping children emotionally safe where there has been domestic abuse and fear that it may reoccur.</i></p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>a. Commissioning of total pathways and the interface between the providers will need careful consideration as the reorganisation of providers and new potential divides open up eg the mental health provider not being within the new ICO and childrens health services being in the ICO. I think the plan should mention specifically how this will be dealt with.</p> <p>b. N/A</p> <p>c. Focus in locality teams on helping schools with CAF for GRT families with existing multi-agency involvement. Roughly 2/3 Of GRT pupil population.</p> <p>d. <i>People’s individual, service and team plans need to reflect priorities in the children’s plan which link up with other agencies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Better communication is needed with social care and CAHMS</i> - <i>More information regarding the information sharing protocols</i>

- *Social care giving reasons why not allocating or picking up cases, giving worker an understanding why families don't reach threshold*
- *Action plans to put systems into place across services; adult services; children's centres (work with families); third sector groups e.g. Women's Aid, Counselling; GPs; police; housing; probation; schools and adult mental health*

e. Multi-agency steering groups that have adequate representation from Health, Social Services, Education and the voluntary sector, and functional decision making power.

f. *The voluntary and community sector need to be extensively involved and I'm aware they are key partners. The Third Sector Strategic Board should be a key player in this when it has formalised its structure, as it will reach the entire sector above and beyond the membership of the Alliance. As service provision and delivery is increasingly devolved to a local level commissioning services for CYP should be open to funding small organisations in the sector for discreet pieces of work in localities and many of these organisations will not be Alliance members.*

Key actions would be:

- a. *Work with and support volunteer centres in their work to help young people find meaningful volunteering opportunities (this includes seeing this as an opportunity to learn new skills whatever the young persons ability or disability which may lead to employment opportunities.*
- b. *Work closely and in partnership with local councils to activate CYP participation in local democracy and decision-making*
- c. *Focus on continued high quality, specialist consultation with CYP and their families – protecting them from consultation fatigue whilst ensuring their voices are heard*
- d. *Extend the idea of 'No Wrong Door' so that every worker involved with CYP is able to signpost them and their families to services such as information directly.*
- e. *Work with young people to help them be actively involved in the development of local services through community led planning and support those who wish to deliver those services themselves with advice and guidance from relevant agencies in the county.*
- f. *A focus on CYP belonging to Traveller families needs to be further developed and joint ownership taken across Herefordshire Partnership. Despite committed championing from a dedicated officer, this should be a priority for all as standards remain low and need collaborative attention.*
- g. *Support and guidance for voluntary and community organisations in the county working with CYP 0-19 to ensure the financial sustainability of vital local services.*

g. Developing Localities and Communities

Second paragraph:

And we have a role to ensure we protect etc etc – who/what is this role???

- h.** *Multi agency working*
 Locality Teams
 Understanding of service/organisation roles and responsibilities
 Appropriate commissioning
 Understanding needs of public
 Development of service provision
 Continued funding

i. This is a good opportunity to provide the Trust with an overview of the range of activities that the FRS delivers in relation to children, young people and families. The FRS work is driven by an overall vision “to make Herefordshire and Worcestershire safer from fire and other hazards and to improve community well-being.” This strongly echoes the Children's Trust vision.

Our Community Safety Strategy takes a targeted approach to addressing the key risks within the community, and identifies those most at risk. Amongst those identified as

	<p>most at risk are single parent families, households and areas with high levels of multiple deprivation, high population density and high crime rates, vulnerable groups including those with mental health issues or those with mental and physical disabilities, migrant/seasonal workers, students living away from the family home and young drivers. Like the Vision, these target groups closely echo the people priorities set out in the draft Plan.</p> <p>It may be useful for the Trust to consider the potential contribution of complementary activities undertaken by the FRS as part of the ongoing development and implementation of the plan. This may present further opportunities for sharing local information, for identifying any areas of overlap or duplication, and for exploring the potential for delivering joint activities.</p> <p>j.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>The effective working of the locality teams will be key to making sure there is good enough communication between all the agencies. Without a significantly more effective communication channel demand, need and services won't marry up.</i> ii) <i>Workforce strategy must be driven through to make sure knowledge/skills are best matched with child need.</i>
<p>4. Please add any other comments you would like to make.</p>	<p>a. Would it be possible to see all the feedback that you receive so it could be seen how much has been incorporated into the final plans.</p> <p>b. N/A</p> <p>c. It is exasperating that as a professional with seven years direct experience of working with agencies and the most marginalised of vulnerable groups that there has not been more specific consultation with me as to how we might address longstanding inequalities in outcomes.</p> <p>ECM should raise our game more explicitly with GRT families in this LA as they are our longest standing BME group.</p> <p>d. <i>What are the outcomes from each of the priorities, and how does it fit in with the commissioning.</i> <i>-We would really like to see a stronger tie in with adult services, health services and the whole family agenda and to see a real children young people and families plan.</i></p> <p>e. I would like to see mental health mentioned in the plan rather than relying on the broader term 'health'.</p> <p>f. <i>Volunteering, a keystone of the Coalition's plans regarding localism and the Big Society, is best handled by the Volunteer Centres as experts in this field. If the partnership is serious about supporting youth volunteering then it must look at commissioning this specialist work which has proven positive impact on outcomes for young people and the communities within which they live. The positive impact of volunteering on combating worklessness will be key in the years to come and Herefordshire risks having less in place to support this area from the next financial year.</i></p> <p><i>Herefordshire Association of Local Councils should also be more keenly involved and further supported to encourage parish, town and city councils to work in a way that is more inclusive to CYP and makes young people feel more welcomed to the business of local democracy and planning. Engagement with the community led planning process in their own communities will help CYP gain new skills and confidence, as well as ensuring their voices are heard and their ideas actively considered and followed through. Continued support for projects out of HCVYS are crucial in this respect, including partnership in the REACH project and Community Led Planning Involving Children and Young People both of which are funded through European funding.</i></p>

Meaningful, tailored and specialist consultation also needs to continue and the temptation to overload CYP with consultations should be avoided as they are expected to be involved in more and more areas of public life. I think this is an area we do extremely well in Herefordshire and need to develop even further.

Information, advice and guidance as per 'Helping families to help themselves' needs to be thoroughly considered and involvement is needed in the county's upcoming Advice Strategy so this can be better co-ordinated with other areas of advice needs. The move to solely website information should be resisted as this gives access targeted at those who are IT literate and have access to Broadband. The 'hard to reach' families in the county who may have issues with mobility, literacy and access to internet need a more responsive information and advice route and will often need face-to-face support and guidance. If this cannot be delivered in ways it historically has, methods of working collaboratively across sectors to ensure the service meets the needs of families in a cost effective way should be found.

Closer appreciation of the voluntary and community sector as active on-the-ground organisations who have a direct impact on the lives of CYP and their families. Collaboration needs to be at a delivery level, not just a strategic level. Closer collaborative working across HPS directorates in providing and directing services for CYP is also essential, especially in terms of community development and planning as well as issues such as obesity and substance abuse.

g. Commissioning:

Where resources are not available – what then???

Complex needs/disabilities ?? Palliation essence of care

Duplication prevented by good communication

3. Developing Localities and Communities

Paragraph 2 – two issues described in one sentence.

Self reliant communities with support }

Protection of adults and children } separate issue

Where will funding come from if additional provision needs to be developed and delivered?

Directorate of Locality Teams and who is in each teams.

Liaison post/provision for children in hospital to community

h. NDCS welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Herefordshire's CYPP. Whilst we feel that the priorities listed in the Children and Young People's Plan are correct the following submission highlights the need to more thoroughly consider the implications of this reform for children and young people. The following sections provide a response to the consultation questions listed in the Consultation Feedback form.

i. As a member of both the Herefordshire Partnership and Safer Herefordshire and several of their sub-groups, the Service is already closely involved in working with partners in addressing key priorities across the county. A wide range of prevention work is carried out by members of our Community Safety Team in Hereford and across the county. There may be further opportunities if greater links with the locality teams can be developed.

Among the range of preventative and community safety activities of particular interest to the Children's Trust will be:

- Signposting – a referral service which helps vulnerable people to remain in their

own homes supported by a range of community services

- Home Fire Safety Checks – targeted at identified at risk groups
- safety education – fire safety lessons in schools, fire safety packs for nurseries, road safety guidance including the highly effective ‘Dying To Drive’ initiative
- addressing anti-social behaviour – working with partners in Safer Herefordshire to address arson, hoax calls and other anti-social behaviour
- local safety campaigns – targeted at key occasions (bonfire night, school half-term, etc.)
- work with young people – including the Young Firefighters Association, Juvenile Firesetters Scheme

The Service also has its own policy and procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People, and provides training for all firefighters, members of the community safety team and others who come into contact with children and young people. There is a designated child protection team within the Service, which is available to address any issues that may arise. We also provide representation on the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Safeguarding Children steering groups.

j. Any work with the Third sector must take timescales into account. i.e. the duration of any partnership project must consider commissioning sufficiently in advance of service starts and sustainability of services can only be achieved with timely commissioning, then publicity, then take-up, then service delivery and then review and planned continuity when desirable.

h. I would like to add that transition points are important for handover of care and information and continuity of support eg nursery to primary school, primary to secondary and into adulthood hood, not just from an educational stand but from a multidisciplinary focus for families and individuals. I think this needs more work especially at the secondary school transfer as I think we do it well at a pre-school level.

Comments on priorities

A. The priorities are very good but 8,9 and 10 aren't smart and don't actually explain what they are in the title.

People:

1. Need to work with voluntary sector and community groups as well as statutory services
2. Need to work with school meal providers, supermarkets, shops and fast food outlets to provide healthier options. Need to enable cheaper access to healthy food. Need to do more to bring sports into 21st century eg more use of wii fit.
3. Need more people for young people to talk to about their problems. Need more positive role models and more ways to raise aspirations of teenagers. Need more ways of involving them in ‘owning’ their communities. The youth service are great at this as are 2XL but they don't reach everyone. Schools need to be more proactive in developing fully-rounded, healthy (emotionally and physically) teenagers, rather than focusing on academic attainment.
4. –
5. Remove the barriers between social care and the general population. Create more pathways for children, young people, parents, carers, neighbours, friends, members of the community and professionals to be able to raise concerns about the welfare of a child. At the moment, pathways are becoming much broader for professionals through NWD but for the general member of the public, many of them feel their only option is to ring social care, which many of them are scared to do. We need to better develop and publicise the ways in which people can report concerns.
6. Create more opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in supporting their children's learning from an early age and throughout their

school life.

B. 1- Support for parents and families to help themselves – kindle centre and GP's providing good support.

2- Obesity needs to be tackled, alarming statistics.

3 – Does teenagers include Yr. 7 &8 (11 + 12yrs olds), because alcohol and sexual health and relationships is relevant for these ages too.

4- Very important.

5- Extremely important.

6- Very Important and the educational establishments should be making the learning experience 'REAL'. E.g. real professionals visiting, more introductions into working world.

7- Very Important.

8, 9 & 10 should be linked together so that all Children's and Young people are classified under one title (even if they have differing needs) with sub headings.

Shadow Board were really adamant about this point.

C. 1. *Helping parents and families to help themselves*

- To develop a continuum of support at different levels universal – targeted – high level/specialist

- To ensure families are aware of support available

- Locality teams and partners to be involved. People that 'do the noticing' need to bring it to the MAGS and do or help to do the assessments.

- We need to help partners to understand the different ways of working, to meet this priority

2. *Reducing obesity*

- School sports partnership, health, leisure, culture and children & young people services all need to work together a lot more closely.

- Obesity is not just about sports, it is about diet, self esteem etc.

- Need to make healthy foods more affordable and attainable.

- Educate parents in healthy cooking and eating for the whole family.

- Positive marketing – 'healthy is cool'

- Campaign about body image (sporty not skinny)

3. *Better health for teenagers*

- Confidence building for teenagers

- People they can talk to – better access to early intervention mental health support.

- Reducing peer pressure.

- Better education earlier in schools e.g. sex, drugs and alcohol.

- Better access to sexual health services and condoms.

4. *Respecting and valuing each other*

- Better publicity and swift and easy access to advice and support if concerned about anything.

- An entitlement – making people know what they are entitled to.

D.

1. NDCS recommends that:

A regular review of services for deaf children is undertaken across health, education and social care to ensure that clear pathways are developed for deaf children covering referral, identification and assessment and support at the appropriate tier. A combination of community and clinical services need to be fully accessible to deaf children and young people. This should form part of the Aiming High Core Offer

5&8.

NDCS recommends that:

- the practice guidance for LSCBs states that at least one member of the LSCB has expertise in safeguarding disabled children. Attention must be given to the needs of children who experience language and/or communication difficulties (including deafness), as they are particularly vulnerable to abuse. Expert members should have a specific role in championing the needs of disabled and deaf children and must be sufficiently senior, or have sufficient independence, to do this. They

should be in a position to challenge the extent to which the LSCB, and its membership statutory organisations, are discharging their Disability Equality Duties with regard to safeguarding disabled children.

6,4&3. (plus Partnership 3)

NDCS recommendations:

- that Herefordshire Council adopt the 4 recommendations set out in the NDCS 'Hands Up For Help' report to give deaf children a fairer chance to be independent adults

http://www.ndcs.org.uk/about_us/campaign_with_us/england/hands_up_for_help/index.html#contentblock2

- that Herefordshire Children's Services commit to placing a high priority on the quality of acoustics in schools through for example, ensuring that
 - High quality acoustics and adherence to Building Bulletin 93 is named as an essential outcome in the design briefs of any newly built schools. This will require a strong focus and leadership on this throughout the design process and the early involvement of acousticians.
 - Pre-completion testing of any newly built school takes place
 - The NDCS acoustics toolkit is adopted as a good practice guide for all schools in Herefordshire.
- Herefordshire continues to work with NDCS and Hereford Deaf Children's Society to ensure that deaf children and young people are given opportunities to have their say in shaping services that affect them and ensure they are able to participate fully in their local communities. We encourage every Children's Service to sign up to Me2 to increase their capacity to offer opportunities for deaf young people to make a positive contribution. More information at:
http://www.ndcs.org.uk/whats_on/me2/
- Herefordshire Children's Trust should ensure that deaf children appear in all relevant policies and strategies including the Youth Strategy. Deaf children and young people are a vulnerable group often isolated, at risk of low self esteem, identity issues and more at risk of mental health difficulties. Their contribution to the development of appropriate strategies to ensure their needs are met and that opportunities to contribute locally are provided is essential and achievable by every Local Authority through a proactive commitment to do so.

9. NDCS recommendations:

- Herefordshire Children's Services recognise deaf children as a vulnerable group and ensure their needs are reflected in the Children's Centre core offer. The local authority should
 - Ensure that parents are enabled to work directly with their deaf child, rather than receive direct work by the professional with their deaf child.
 - Liaise with audiology services, speech and language services, social care and specialist education services on developing the provision;
 - Ensure staff have the training to meet the needs; and
 - Monitor the impact of provision on the child's development.
- Herefordshire Children's Services commit to supporting parents and their deaf child with their communication needs through a programme that will provide parents with tailored support to develop their signing/communication skills at all ages in a child's development. This will give parents confidence to increase their involvement in their children's learning.
- Herefordshire Children's Services should take advantage of the specialist deaf child and family CAMHS service and formalise arrangements for the specialist care of deaf children and young people in the area.

7 (and Partnership 2)

NDCS recommendations:

- Herefordshire Children's Services audits its transition services and consults with deaf children and young people to ensure those services adequately meet their needs and to produce a transitions policy
- Herefordshire Children's Services considers whether its secondary age curriculum for deaf children adequately meets their personal and social development needs, at appropriate ages, to prepare them for further education, training or employment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herefordshire Children’s Services ensure that Advice and Guidance is given to deaf young people by appropriately qualified professionals with experience of working with deaf children and young people. To meet their Disability Equality Duties Local Authorities need to make plans to ensure deaf students are not disadvantaged in accessing apprenticeships Ensure that there are clear funding arrangements to support work to ensure the reduction of deaf children who are not in education, employment or training. <p>Partnership:</p> <p>A.1 Ensure that everyone knows the process for commissioning and that they are able to contribute to commissioning priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Need to identify everyone who comprises the workforce and ensure that they are included in any skills mapping or training plans Need to create a culture where people live and breathe the new locality way of working and that they all understand their part to play, the communities they work within and the processes they need to follow, Need to have clear mechanisms whereby people can feed comments or suggestions back up to managers, should they feel that things may need tweaking.
<p>Other comments</p>	<p>a. To build on the capacity of mainstream schools to deliver universal provision that accommodates the widest range of needs possible (S5 and P2).</p> <p>To review all specialist provision for CYP with Additional Needs (special school, resource bases and specialist outreach services) to ensure that we provide a sustainable and best value model that offers improved outcomes for CYP (S5 and P1).</p> <p>To develop greater partnership working to support Children with Disabilities including seeking parental and family input for service re-design (S1)</p> <p>To improve outcomes for CYP with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties by delivering a more co-ordinated system to support these needs (S4).</p> <p>To roll out the revised anti-bullying strategy to gain the engagement of all schools and settings (S4).</p> <p>To develop a greater range of in-county responses to those CYP with the most complex needs (S1).</p> <p>You might want to make my language more friendly and each of these can be broken down into smaller actions as required.</p> <p>b. It is in this chapter that the future role of local authorities is described, in the context of a more autonomous school system. It will centre around acting as champions of children and parents, ensuring that the school system works for every family and ‘using their democratic mandate to challenge every school to do the best for their population’. LAs’ strategic role includes ‘bringing together all services for children in a local area so that every child is ready and able to benefit from high quality teaching in excellent schools’, and they will be given progressively greater freedom as targets, regulations and ring-fencing of funds are removed LAs’ key roles will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting a good supply of strong schools, encouraging the development of Academies and Free Schools which reflect the local community ensuring fair access to all schools for every child supporting vulnerable pupils, including looked after children, those with Special Educational Needs and those outside mainstream provision supporting maintained schools performing below the floor standards to improve quickly or convert to Academy status with a strong sponsor develop their own school improvement strategies, marketing their services to all schools, including beyond their geographical area. <p>LAs will be expected to encourage good schools to expand and encourage Academies or Free Schools to meet demand, focusing on supplying enough good places rather than removing surplus places. Where a new school is needed the preference will be an Academy or Free School; the competition process for new schools will be simplified, and if LAs are unable to</p>

identify a suitable sponsor the Secretary of State will work with them to find one.

LAs will continue to lead the coordination of admission arrangements for all schools. The requirements to establish an admissions forum and to submit an annual report to the Schools Adjudicator will be ended, with responsibility for making the process as fair and simple as possible for parents and pupils resting with LAs. The Adjudicator will review specific complaints about admission arrangements for all schools, including Academies and Free Schools. The Admissions Code will be simplified, with consultation in the new year, so that the new Code can be in place by July 2011; it will retain the principles and priorities of the current Code, including provisions for looked after children and pupils with a statement of SEN, and consultation will include the possibility of allowing Academies and Free Schools to give priority to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. LAs will also retain responsibility for school transport arrangements which promote fair access.

Alongside the key roles of the Lead Member for Children and the Director of Children's Services, the White Paper draws attention to the role of other councillors engaged in the scrutiny function in focusing on issues of local concern. LAs will be expected to take action over concerns about the performance of any local school, through different channels in the case of Academies and Free Schools, and will, over time, play a role in commissioning new provision and the transition of failing schools to new management; the DfE will consult LAs and Academy sponsors on the role of LAs as strategic commissioners when all schools in an area have become Academies.

LAs will continue to ensure that disabled children and those with Special Educational Needs can access high quality provision that meets their needs, and will continue to be responsible for funding provision for pupils with statements of SEN; they will be given more freedom to develop new and innovative approaches to providing services for vulnerable children. LAs' role in relation to broader children's services will continue, including acting as corporate parent for looked after children, with a key role in improving their educational outcomes (but the duty to publish a Children and Young People's Plan will be scrapped, as will the duty on schools to cooperate with partnership arrangements). They will also continue to secure the provision of education for young people in custody. And their broad responsibilities for safeguarding will continue – and will develop in light of the Munro review.

Whilst the majority of schools remain as LA maintained schools their funding will be routed through LAs, but it is envisaged that authorities' role will increasingly move towards strategic commissioning and oversight as Academy status becomes the norm. The requirement to appoint a school improvement partner for every maintained school will be removed, along with LA-level targets, and authorities will have increasing freedom to define their own role in school improvement. The Government will welcome a more diverse approach to the provision of school improvement services, and anticipates that school-to-school support will play an increasing part in LA strategies, making more use of National Leaders of Education and encouraging federations.

c. Could there be a specific reference to Protecting children from abuse - this is stronger than safeguarding and more specific but it would be good to acknowledge that some children are abused in this county and although there are small numbers it is very significant.

I would not ask for a specific priority but a sub heading under safeguarding would be helpful - something that acknowledged that along with early intervention, there has been an significant increase in the recognition of children at risk and the need for formal child protection intervention

- Nationally there has been a 13% rise in the numbers of investigations and a 33% increase in the number of Care Proceedings A combination of high media hostility to failures and improved early identification is unlikely to see this trend reduce.
- Locally the Number of children subject to CP plans has gone from 46 - to just under 200 or a 300% increase in 3 years
- There has also been a locally large increase in the number of care proceedings issued
- According to National OFSTED Figures 18% of Young People suffer some form of sexual assault before the age of 18 (based on adult victim survey) - rates of sexual abuse detection and also awareness of sexual exploitation in Herefordshire are low
- High rates of referral for Domestic Violence which place children at risk of emotional and physical abuse (research indicates a correlation with Sexual

Abuse which adds to the point made above)

- The resource implications are significant given the social work time required and the cost of care proceedings, and accommodation

d. Can we liaise over leaflets and web site material as we have same action in the Youth Homelessness Action Plan?

Vulnerable Groups – We would like to see an action added for Children in Need i.e. Section 20.

The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan has action HOS 18 'To develop information sharing procedures and a proforma care package for service users with Substance Misuse issues', maybe we can link this in with your information and advice.

Opportunities after leaving school – link into independent living skills and the work SHYPP currently do with the schools project.

Build strong links with the locality teams and receive invites where appropriate.