

Joint Area North Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

## **8. Somerset County Council Children and Young Peoples Directorate – a service overview**

*Head of Service: David Taylor, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Directorate*

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### **Purpose of the Report**

Tim Stafford, South Somerset Area Manager for Children's Social Care, will attend the Committee to provide a service presentation on the work of the Children and Young People's Directorate.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to NOTE and comment on the presentation.

### **Children and Young People's Directorate**

The Children and Young People's Directorate was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 and brought together Children's Social Care (previously Social Services) and Education (previously Lifelong Learning). This was in response to the Children Act 2004 which expects Local Authorities to work much more closely across different disciplines in order to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people.

The aim of the Children and Young People's Directorate is to provide multi-agency services through teams based within local communities. These services will provide the first point of contact and support for children, young people and their families in their community, and will be linked to school groupings (e.g. secondary and those primary schools that feed into it) and Children's Centres.

### **Who we are**

The Children and Young People's Directorate is a large directorate with many staff working in many different disciplines. The Directorate is led by our key County Councillors or 'Portfolio Holders', who have specific responsibilities relating to services for children and young people and by our Senior Management Team. Our Portfolio Holders are Councillor Pauline Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Services for Children and Young People, and, Councillor Gloria Cawood, Portfolio Holder for Education.

### **What we do**

The work of the Children and Young People's Directorate is organisationally structured in to four work areas:-

- Education and Individual Services
- Schools and Achievement
- Children's Social Care

- Service Partnerships

Though organised in this way, staff throughout the Directorate work closely together across organisational areas and disciplines, and in partnership with other agencies, to deliver efficient, cohesive services for children and young people. Working together, we aim to ensure the well-being of the county's children by helping them:-

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

### **Children's Trust**

The Somerset Children's Trust is a local area partnership, which will become a statutory body when the Apprenticeships, Skills Children and Learning Bill is enacted. It is led by Somerset County Council and brings together the key local agencies responsible for commissioning and delivery of services to children, young people and their families in Somerset. All partners in the Trust work together to ensure that children are healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being.

A key responsibility is the production of a Children & Young People's (C&YP) Plan and there is a legal requirement for all partners who have a "duty to co-operate" (this includes District Councils) to work together against the priorities laid out in the Somerset C&YP Plan, which is owned by all members of the partnership.

#### **This service contributes towards Somerset County Council Priorities:-**

Priority 6: Raise achievement by removing barriers to learning and improving access to cultural activities.

Priority 7: Personalise care services in ways that enable Somerset residents to exercise greater choice and control.

Priority 8: Reduce anti-social behaviour, youth offending, domestic abuse and acquisitive crime.

Priority 10: Safeguard all vulnerable people.

Priority 11: Improve healthy life expectancy and reduce inequalities between Somerset residents.

Priority 12: Reduce teenage pregnancy and improve the sexual health of people in Somerset.

Priority 14: Transform Somerset County Council to deliver more efficient and effective services.