



Monmouthshire Children and Young People's Partnership
Partneriaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc Sir Fynwy

Monmouthshire Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011



Summary

Draft version for Consultation: January - April 2008

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This plan is a summary of our draft Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. A full copy is available on our website: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

Please contact the Monmouthshire CYPP support team on 01495 761164 or email suzannemccarthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk for further information or if you have any general queries.

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Welcome to the first Children and Young People's Plan that has been produced for Monmouthshire. We believe publication of this plan marks a significant change in our work with and for children, young people and families and we intend that you will be able to clearly see the effect of these changes by 2011.

The plan describes why and how we are placing increasing priority on services for children and young people. It clearly states what we intend to achieve between 2008 and 2011. It has been written without using jargon with the aim of being easy to understand. If this is not the case we would welcome your comments.

We believe that what we have said in this plan is realistic, appropriate and achievable. We mean what we say in the vision statement. Please hold us to account.



Andy Keep

Lead Director for Children and Young People and Chair of the Children and Young People's Partnership
Monmouthshire County Council

Vision Statement

'Altogether Better'

Monmouthshire is unique and beautiful. Our communities are positive and forward looking. Although dispersed, we use the fact that we are small in number within the County as a strength. We know each other well as communities and as partners and recognise that we have much success to build upon, though much remains to be done.

Our Partnership has an absolute commitment to the safety and well being of our children and young people. We recognise the importance of improving the life chances of children and young people both for the individuals themselves and for our communities.

We believe that making the seven core aims a reality for our children and young people is the way to change their lives for the better. We believe too in the values that are the foundations for all what we do: Respect, Fairness and Social Justice.

We know that individually no partner can hope to make the differences that must be made. Together we can.

We believe that our resources are best used jointly, to help prevent difficulties and problems from occurring rather than dealing with them after they have happened.

We will channel our resources to those who are most vulnerable and in need, and at the times it makes the most difference.

We know we must continue to listen to our children and young people, their families and carers, and work with them to change and shape what we do.



Introduction

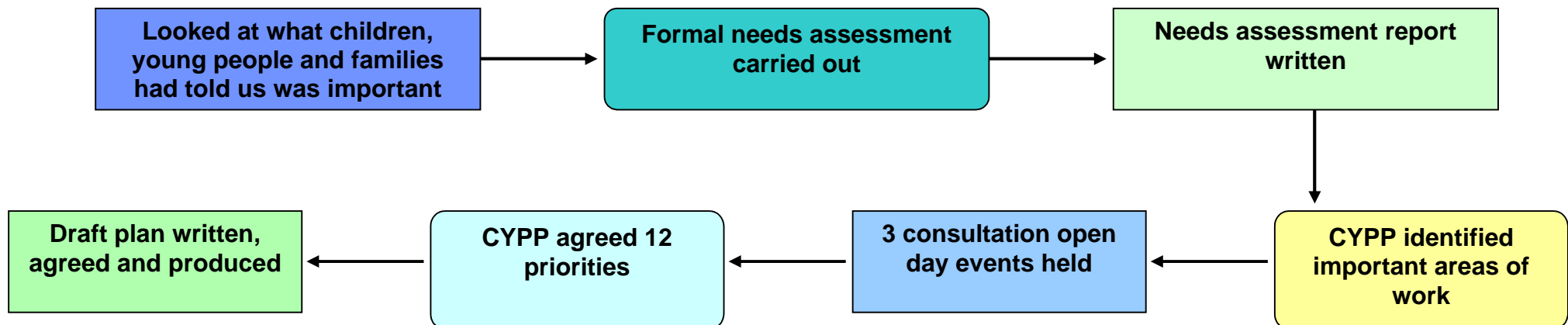
Every local authority area in Wales is required by the Welsh Assembly Government to have a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP). This is to make sure that all agencies, such as health services, the police, social services, schools and voluntary organisations, work together to provide the best possible support and opportunities for children and young people.

Each CYPP is required to produce a plan that will describe what improvements it will make for children, young people and their families between April 2008 and March 2011. This document is a summary version of the plan that the partnership in Monmouthshire has produced for children and young people living in Monmouthshire.

It is important that a plan like this exists as children and young people across the world have rights that have been set out in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**. The Welsh Assembly Government has adopted the UNCRC as the basis for all its work for children and young people and express this in the **seven core aims**. In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government has **10 entitlements for young people aged 11- 25**.

The CYPP in Monmouthshire wants to make sure that all children and young people living in the area have the support and opportunities that the seven core aims and the 10 entitlements describe. Producing this plan is the beginning of the process. All who work with and for children and young people in Monmouthshire must now make sure that what they are doing over the next three years fits in with the seven core aims, the 10 entitlements and the priorities contained in this plan.

How we produced this plan



The priority outcomes on the following pages describe what the CYPP will focus on. However, there were some key things that came up, either from what children and young people told us, from what families told us, or from what partners told us. These are important and we will include them in all that we do in order to make this plan a reality. They are:-

- **We all need to work together better, recognising and valuing each other's contribution**
- **We need to share our resources with each other, putting them together where they will benefit children and young people in the most effective way**
- **We need to share information with each other**
- **We need to plan better, using up to date and accurate information to help us decide what our priorities should be.**

How this plan links with others

As well as a Children and Young People's Plan, local authorities in partnership with other organisations have to produce a number of different plans as shown in the diagram.

Whilst the plans should not repeat each other but should complement each other to provide the foundation and direction for the work of all organisations, the Children and Young People's Plan should be the lead planning mechanism for services for children and young people.


The plan also contains priorities from the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. The aim of this is that "all children and young people achieve optimum health and well-being and are supported in fulfilling their potential".



Our Priorities

Core Aim 1: The Early Years - Every child has a flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development.

This means: A good start in life – provided with things you need to survive and grow, safe water to drink and good food



**Priority 1A:
Children with additional
needs and their families are
not disadvantaged as
services work together to
provide the right support at
the earliest possible stage**

We will also:

- Improve children's health at birth
- Improve children's health and development during their first few years
- Ensure children with special needs get the help they need
- Ensure there is enough childcare
- Continue to develop Sure Start and Flying Start
- Introduce the new education Foundation Phase
- Support The Acorns Integrated Children's Centre

Core Aim 2: Education and Learning Opportunities - Every child and young person has access to a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities, including the acquisition of essential personal and social skills.

This means: To have a good education and to learn in many different ways

Priority 2A:
Children and young people who need it receive extra help with transition through key points in their life

Priority 2B:
Children and young people have better opportunity to learn in informal ways outside normal school hours

We will also:

- Improve children and young people's achievements in school
- Improve children and young people's attendance at school
- Increase the number of young people in education, training or employment
- Ensure support for pupils with special needs
- Invest money in school buildings
- Support School Councils
- Continue to provide a high quality Youth Service

"We need more opportunity for work experience".



Core Aim 3: Health, Freedom from Abuse and Exploitation – Every child and young person enjoys the best possible physical and mental, social and emotional health, including freedom from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

This means: To enjoy a healthy life, without being treated badly. This includes being bullied, singled out, being harmed or feeling unsafe with someone or something

**Priority 3A:
Children and young people have
healthier lifestyles**

**Priority 3B:
Children and young people with an
Autistic Spectrum Disorder and
their families can access a range of
support services to help them reach
their full potential**

**Priority 3C:
Children and young people who
have or share a caring
responsibility for another person
are identified as such at the earliest
possible stage and have access to a
range of support services**

We will also:

- Reduce teenage pregnancies
- Continue to provide high quality Social Services to protect children
- Promote healthy eating and physical exercise
- Reduce the number of children and young people drinking alcohol and taking drugs
- Improve services to support children and young people's mental health

Core Aim 4: Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture - All children and young people have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

This means: To be able to meet friends and play safely with good access to the places you want to go to



We will also:

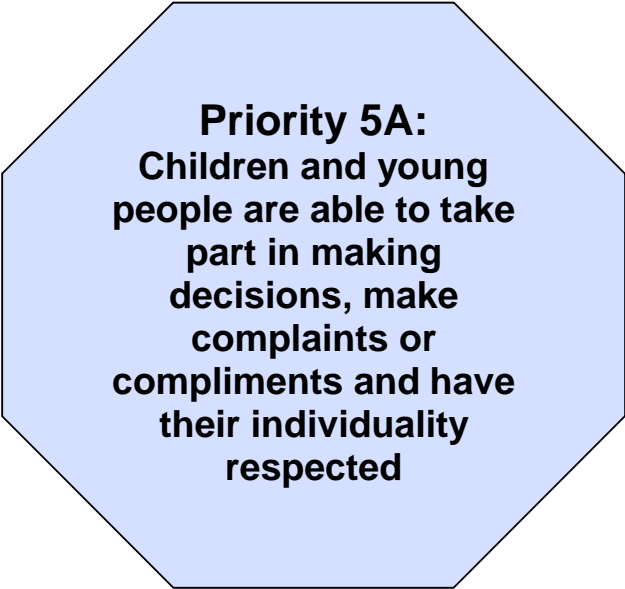
- Improve access to sport, leisure and cultural activities
- Encourage children and young people to get involved in sports clubs and other activity clubs
- Provide childcare and holiday play schemes
- Provide a library and information service
- Create safe walking and cycling routes to schools and play areas

"There are not enough safe and accessible places for recreational and social opportunities".



Core Aim 5: Respect - All children and young people are listened to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

This means: To be listened to seriously and to be able to practice your own religion and use your own language



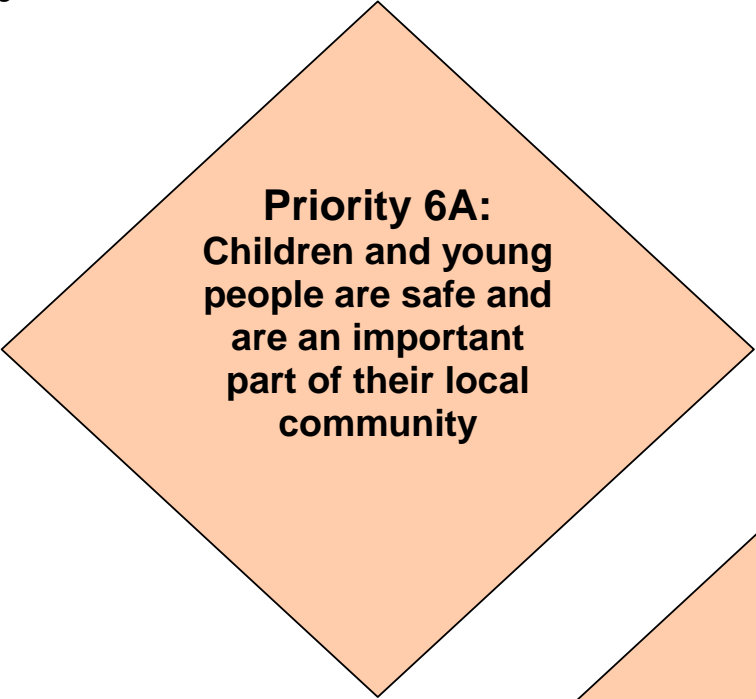
**Priority 5A:
Children and young
people are able to take
part in making
decisions, make
complaints or
compliments and have
their individuality
respected**

We will also:

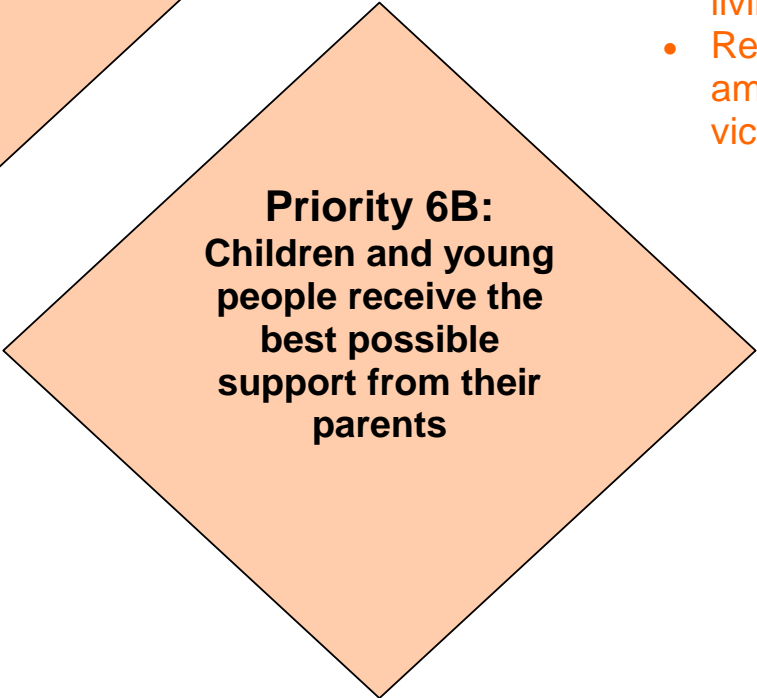
- Ensure independent advocacy is freely available to all
- Ensure children and young people know about their rights and how to receive them
- Ensure children and young people are involved in reviews about services they receive

Core Aim 6: A Safe Home and Community - All children and young people should have a safe home and community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing.

This means: To live in a safe home and to be able to take part in things that are happening in your area



Priority 6A:
Children and young people are safe and are an important part of their local community



Priority 6B:
Children and young people receive the best possible support from their parents

We will also:

- Reduce child pedestrian injuries
- Make sure that children who used to be looked after find suitable accommodation when they become adults
- Reduce the amount of families living in temporary accommodation
- Reduce youth crime and the amount of young people being victims of crime

Core Aim 7: Freedom from Poverty - No child or young person is disadvantaged by poverty.

This means: To have a fair standard of living including a place to live, food and clothing

**Priority 7A:
Children and
young people do
not experience
homelessness**

**Priority 7B:
Children and
young people do
not experience
problems of debt**

We will also:

- Reduce the amount of children living in workless households
- Increase the amount of lone parents in employment
- Support projects that tackle poverty

"We need to be taught a wider range of life skills in school such as how to buy a house and budgeting".



What Happens Next?

The public consultation period runs from 28th January to 2nd May 2008.

You can give us your views by completing the feedback form and posting or emailing it back to us, or alternatively you can fill in the feedback e-form on our website www.monmouthshire.gov.uk and submit it to us.

During this period, the plan will also be discussed at a number of events, including community open events across Monmouthshire. For details of all events, please telephone Monmouthshire CYPP's support team on 01495 761164 or email suzannemccarthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

We will review all of the comments received and take these into account when producing the final version of the plan.

The final plan will be published by the end of September 2008, and will be circulated widely and made available through the website. Progress made against the plan will be reviewed annually and a new 3-year plan will be published in 2011.

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