

# Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee 14 December 2011

## Education of Vulnerable Children – a joint strategy Early Intervention

### Recommendations

- (1) To agree any areas for scrutiny, as appropriate
- (2) To consider and comment on the approach to early intervention and prevention, set out in this report, as part of a strategy for supporting the education of vulnerable children

### 1.0 Context

- 1.1 The strategy for supporting the education of vulnerable children is being developed in the context of the vision for the People Group:  
*“To support people, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, to access throughout their lives every opportunity to enjoy, achieve and live independently.”*

and of the Children’s Trust:

*“Our vision is that every child and young person, including those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged, has the greatest opportunity to be the best that they can be.”*

The Children’s Trust brings together all of the agencies and organisations in Warwickshire who provide services to children and young people including the County Council, health, police, the district/borough councils and the voluntary sector. This partnership recognises that the needs of children and young people require a coordinated multi-agency approach.

- 1.2 The term ‘vulnerable children’ encompasses a very wide range of children and young people with a diverse range of needs. These include:
- Looked After Children and children ‘on the edge of care’
  - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
  - New Arrivals children with English as an Additional Language
  - Children with special educational needs and disabilities
  - Children excluded from school and at risk of exclusion
  - Children out of school
  - Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET
  - Teenage parents
  - Young offenders and young people at risk of offending

- 1.3 To meet the diverse educational needs of these children and young people, the Council, with other agencies, has developed and is developing a number of different services. Many of these are the subject of major reviews, for example, services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, in response to new legislation or to changes in funding arrangements.
- 1.4 An underpinning principle of our approach to the education of vulnerable children is that the prime responsibility for their education lies with the school or early years settings, and a significant role of the Council is to provide support to enable schools and other providers to develop the capacity and capability to meet effectively a wider range of need. However, for many children – such as those with a statement of special educational needs – the Council has a joint statutory responsibility with schools. For many others, the Council and other agencies provide a range of support services, some on a traded basis, to support schools and other providers to meet the particular needs of young people. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has already recently considered the SEN Green Paper and services trading with schools.
- 1.5 As part of his review of the Council’s relationship with schools, Paul Galland identified, from his discussions with schools, some confusion about the Council’s approach to the education of vulnerable children and, therefore, recommended that the Council develop an overall strategy. With services being restructured and the respective role of schools and the Council not yet clearly defined, this will be a complex process. Consequently, the strategy is still in development and a further report will be brought to the Committee.
- 1.6 However, a key element of the strategy will be a policy of early intervention and prevention, by which we mean:  
*“...intervening early and as soon as possible to tackle problems emerging for children, young people and their families or with a population most at risk of developing problems. Early intervention may occur at any point in a child or young person’s life.”*
- 1.7 The attached paper (Appendix A) sets out the Council’s approach to Early Intervention and prevention. It is proposed to make a short presentation to the Committee on this approach as part of developing the strategy for vulnerable children.

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that an overarching strategy for the education of vulnerable children – incorporating the Council’s approach to special educational needs, children out of school and early intervention – will be taken to Cabinet incorporating the comments made by this Committee.

## Background Papers

CYP O&S 8 June 2011 – 04 SEN Green paper

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/1755/Committee/417/Default.aspxReport>

Cabinet 14 July 2011 – 07 Future Relationship with Schools

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/1745/Committee/395/Default.aspx>

Cabinet 13 October 2011 – 05 Future Relationship with Schools

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/1747/Committee/395/Default.aspx>

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