

Initial thoughts on a strategic approach to involving, communicating and engaging with children and young people

Purpose.

- To recognise and value the contribution made by children and young people to the development of Solihull where in 2018 everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous.
- To actively work with children and young people to understand their concerns.
- To involve children and young people in influencing service delivery.
- To keep children and young people updated on how to access the services available within agencies and across the partnership.

Principles underpinning the development of a strategic approach.

- Understanding our population and how to access them in a joined up and targeted way.
- Engaging with disaffected and marginalised children and young people.
- Joining up delivery of 'purpose' with the strategic direction of the Solihull Partnership to ensure optimum and consistent impact and to unleash the evident commitment and energy of practitioners and young people to make an even greater difference.
- Sharing effective practice and learning from others.

An initial plan (using the Solihull Governing Board work on challenging families and the Safer Solihull Partnership to test learning and progress).

Phase One (understanding and learning) - 3 months (to December 2011).

- Continuing to deliver existing work.
- Understanding what already exists and assessing the impact and effectiveness of current work on service delivery in line with the Solihull Governing Board priorities (challenging families, young unemployment and domestic abuse).
- Identifying gaps and creating opportunities in line with the Solihull Governing Board priorities and priorities identified in the Safer Solihull Partnership strategic assessment (currently under development).
- Prioritising opportunities to engage with and involve disaffected young people through the partnership work being developed to tackle challenging families.
- Identifying opportunities to involve young people in delivering the purpose as outlined above through effective and creative use of social media.

Phase Two (building and delivering a sustainable and joined up plan) - 6 months (to March 2012).

- Continuing to deliver existing work.
- Joining up and building on existing experiences of service delivery work in line with the Solihull Governing Board priorities and Safer Solihull Partnership strategic assessment.
- Finalise a delivery plan to fill gaps and maximise opportunities identified in line with the Solihull Governing Board priorities and Safer Solihull Partnership strategic assessment.

- Finalise a delivery plan focussed on involving disaffected young people.
- Finalise a delivery plan focussed on the effective and creative use of social media.

12 months (to September 2012).

- Deliver work in line with plans created at phase two.
- Share and implement learning at phases one and two to inform wider strands of partnership working.

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