

**MEMBER-LED REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
(CYPS) IN NEW COMMUNITIES**

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **26 October 2010**

From: **Reece Bowman, Scrutiny and Improvement Officer**

Electoral division(s):
All

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To present the report and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Services in New Communities Member-led Review Group.**

Recommendation: **Cabinet is asked to:**

- **Consider the recommendations of the review group for implementation set out on pages 10-27.**
- **Where recommendations are accepted: include the agreed recommendations in the relevant services' Service Plans.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact</i>
Name: Reece Bowman	Name: Councillor Sue Gymer - Review Chairman
Post: Scrutiny and Improvement Officer	Portfolio: N/A
Email: reece.bowman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email: suegymer@ntlworld.com
Tel: 01223 699772	Tel: 07919036246

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2009 the CYPS Scrutiny Committee commissioned a member-led review of children and young people's services in the county's new communities.
- 1.2 Following a period of evidence gathering, the review group reported back to the CYPS Scrutiny Committee in September 2010, with several recommendations that were agreed by the Committee.
- 1.3 The report and its recommendations are therefore presented to Cabinet for discussion. Cabinet is asked to consider each recommendation and agree to their implementation.

2. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

Resources and Performance

- 2.1 Recommendation 1 calls for extra funding for Locality Team services in new communities from the Council's overall budget. This would involve a redistribution of council financial resources through the Integrated Planning Process.

Statutory Requirements and Partnership Working

- 2.2 None

Climate Change

- 2.3 None

Access and Inclusion

- 2.4 None

Engagement and Consultation

- 2.5 None

Source Documents	Location
N/A	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The member-led review group investigated the extent to which children and young people's services are integrated successfully into the County's newer communities. To establish this, the group spoke to a range of people from various organisations serving areas such as Cambourne, Loves Farm and Orchard Park. Speaking to children resident in new communities also formed a major part of the review.

The already well-documented and fairly unique needs of new communities became apparent throughout the review: generally, there are higher levels of mental health issues such as post-natal depression, in addition to other health-related problems. Often, there is a greater prevalence of domestic issues that can impact negatively on children and young people. In sum, the challenges faced by public services in new communities are, very frequently, greater than they are elsewhere.

In such circumstances, high quality universal services for children and young people are strongly valued, although this is not only because of the enjoyment, social and educational opportunities that they can provide. It was found that they can also allow professionals to avert the development of more complicated problems in some of the children and young people that they encounter; an especially important role in a vulnerable new community.

The review group uses its report to highlight the money that can be saved by intervening early in this manner, thus preventing more expensive and damaging problems for a child or young person from emerging. With this in mind, the main purpose of the report is to argue for greater Council-wide financial resources to be apportioned to the Children and Young People's Services Executive Directorate, to allow it to fund universal and other services in future new communities.

The review group has recognised the financial constraints that the council and its partners face, and has also made the innovative proposal that, given the scale of the development, a Social Impact Bond should be used on an area basis to fund such services in Northstowe. The 'Invest to Transform' fund has also been suggested as a funding source, and the group has recommended ways in which the voluntary and community sector can be better supported to provide services, in line with the requirements of the 'Big Society'.

In its report the review group has also championed the work of schools in new communities, making several recommendations in relation to how they can be helped by the council and its partners in the vital work they undertake. Other recommendations cover areas such as accountability, leadership and higher-tier services.

**Children and Young People's Services
Scrutiny Committee**

**Integrating Children and Young People's
Services and Social Infrastructural Provision
into the County's New Communities**

Member-led review

Contents

1.0 Background	6
2.0 Purpose of the review	6
3.0 Scope of the review	7
4.0 Method	8
5.0 Key findings	8
Universal and tier 1 provision	8
Locality Team services	8
Voluntary and community sector provision	14
Schooling	17
Life in a new community: children's opinions:	20
Loves Farm	20
Orchard Park.....	21
Tier 2 and 3 provision.....	21
The future of health services	23
General findings	24
Leadership	24
Accountability.....	26
Annex A	28
Annex B	33
Annex C	36

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire is a high-growth area. Existing settlements in the county can be relied upon to absorb only a proportion of the total net growth in population likely to be encountered in coming years. For this reason, several new developments have been, or are in the process of being, established. Most notable amongst these is the new town of Northstowe which, upon completion, will be the largest new settlement in the UK since Milton Keynes.
- 1.2 All Cambridgeshire residents have been impacted by the growth agenda either directly or indirectly, which has manifested itself most obviously in the new developments appearing on the outskirts of Cambridgeshire towns. In the county at large, it has also had an impact on areas such as infrastructure capacity, accommodation price inflation and public service provision.
- 1.3 Evidence from recently completed settlements has shown that community development is a problematic, yet fundamentally important, stage in the growth of a vibrant and sustainable area which attracts and retains residents. In the first years following the completion of a new development public services have a vital role to play in this regard. Over time, 'community' should develop organically as residents play a greater role in its establishment and maintenance through groups such as Brownies, Neighbourhood Watch and sport teams. However, it is the absence, or underdevelopment, of such community and social infrastructure that has proven difficult in new communities around the world.

2.0 Purpose of the review

- 2.1 The member-led review was commissioned by the Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Scrutiny Committee to focus on services for younger residents of new developments and their families. Committee members were especially concerned that suitable service provision should be in place from the outset. This was particularly so in standalone new communities, such as Northstowe, which were perceived to be more exposed to, and at risk from, a lack of community development.
- 2.2 Review terms of reference were agreed and a review group was formed at the November 2009 meeting of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee. The key objective of the review was to

Ensure that the quantity and quality of social infrastructural provision for children and young people is appropriate and timely in the face of future growth and development.

This was to be achieved by:

- Examining whether existing and proposed service provision is sufficiently aligned and conducive to community and social capital development;
- Learning lessons from community development best practice both nationally and internationally that can be put into place in Cambridgeshire;

- Making an evidence-based contribution to efforts in relation to Big Plan 2 priority 4: 'To meet the needs of children and young people in areas of growth or demographic change'
- Examining how the provision of educational facilities can contribute towards community cohesion and development.

2.3 The review group consisted of the following members:

- Cllr. Sue Gymer (review chairman)
- Cllr. Bridget Smith (South Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Cllr. Richard West
- Cllr. Shona Johnstone
- Yemi Macaulay (CYPS Scrutiny Committee co-opted member)

Support for the review was provided by Reece Bowman, Scrutiny and Improvement Officer.

The review group wishes to acknowledge the contribution of:

- Martin Bacon, Principal at Swavesey Village College, for contributing his expertise at two meetings of the group.
- Francesca Parkin, Cambridgeshire County Council Graduate Trainee, for lending support to the group at a specific stage in the investigation.
- All who contributed evidence to the review, particularly the children involved in discussions with the review group.

Special thanks to Amy, Katie, Emily and Leanne of Monkfield Park Primary School, who contributed the photographs of Cambourne presented within this report. The photographs are intended to be a snapshot of all that is important to a child living in a new community.

3.0 Scope of the review

3.1 The working group used the four-tier Model of Staged Intervention (MOSI - excluding tier four) as a framework for the review. The fourth tier was excluded as it was deemed too complex and specialist an area to evaluate thoroughly in the context of a broader review. Tiers 1-3 therefore provided the boundaries of the review.

In detail, the four tiers comprise:

Universal All children, 0-19 yrs, living in the UK.

Level 1 **Enhanced Support**

Children and families requiring additional advice, support and information; early prevention; universal plus time-limited intervention.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Level 2 | Children with Additional Needs
Vulnerable children; children who are at risk of social exclusion. |
| Level 3 | Children in Need
Children with complex needs that may be chronic and enduring. |
| Level 4 | Children with Complex and/or Acute Needs
Children in need of protection (including Looked After Children); children with critical and/or high risk needs; children with complex and enduring needs. |

4.0 Method

4.1 The following methods were used to gather evidence for the review:

- Discussions with service providers
- Discussions with children living in the county's new communities

5.0 Key findings

5.1 The group used the Model of Staged Intervention (see para. 3.1) broadly as a framework to structure the review. The key findings and recommendations of the review are therefore presented in accordance with that framework, rather than in order of evidence heard. However, several of the group's findings and subsequent recommendations are general and of relevance across the MOSI framework, presenting leadership, partnership working / planning, and accountability as major issues facing the planning and provision of services to children, young people and their families in new communities.

Universal and tier 1 provision

5.2 A range of universal and tier 1 services are provided or supported by the statutory sector, including maintained schools, youth services and Children's Centres, many of which are within the remit of the County Council's Locality Teams. Of particular relevance to the review is the City and South Cambridgeshire Area Team, the geographical area of which will include many of the major new developments in the county. However, Locality Teams covering other new developments in the county fell, necessarily, within the scope of the review.

Locality Team services

5.3 Evidence from the head teacher of The Round House School in the new development of Loves Farm, St. Neots, in particular, suggests that Locality

Team services are 'excellent' and highly valued in light of their high number of children with additional needs. The strong relationship that the school enjoys with the St. Neots Locality Team has proven to be highly beneficial. The three Cambourne primary school head teachers discussed the importance of the single, overstretched, Parent Support Advisor (PSA) at their disposal, and were positive about the role of Locality Services in general in helping them to tackle the unique issues facing children and young people in new communities.

- 5.4 The Cambourne experience of insufficient PSA resource was matched by those of both The Round House School and Orchard Park Community Primary. In the case of the former, a teaching assistant was utilised in a PSA-type role, with a consequent dilution of that individual's contracted role. Orchard Park Community Primary's experience was of a distinct lack of PSA time. As a consequence, there is a perception within the school that there was no realisation that the needs of Orchard Park would be so great, despite the availability of evidence from Cambourne.
- 5.5 The group has concluded that Locality Team services play a critical role in new communities, particularly in terms of the support they provide to schools, with this assumption underpinning several of the group's recommendations. A key concern of the group is that increasingly pressured Locality Team budgets will compromise the quality and availability of support to schools.
- 5.6 The group heard with interest the intention to situate the Cottenham and Swavesey Locality Team in the proposed Northstowe secondary school, which will hopefully encourage highly effective collaboration and support. Evidence received throughout the review suggests that Locality Teams should be closely linked with schools from the outset. Co-locating the two is potentially a good first step, although it may not be appropriate in every circumstance.
- 5.7 Worryingly, the group has heard that the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Area Team will face considerable reductions in available funding; the Integrated Plan 2010 has initiated this process with a small cut of £11,000 for the current financial year. However, the following financial year¹ will see quite significant cuts in the numbers of full time equivalent staff within the Locality Teams. This is of concern, as the Team will be providing services for the Cambridge fringe developments, Orchard Park and Northstowe, all of which will provide pressing challenges and demands on resources.
- 5.8 The forthcoming reduction in full time equivalents is equal across the three Area Teams and does not appear to have taken into account the extra pressures that new developments will place upon the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Area Team. The group is particularly concerned at the implications of this for the Cottenham and Swavesey Locality Team, which will be expected to cater for the needs of the major development of Northstowe from reducing budgets.
- 5.9 The group acknowledges the argument for an equal distribution of services across the county, but believes that such a policy may run counter to the need

¹ 2011-12 (expected - see Integrated Plan 2010)

for effective targeting of increasingly scarce resources. Ultimately, this policy does little to further efforts in relation to Big Plan 2 priority 4: 'To meet the needs of children and young people in areas of growth or demographic change'. It is therefore recommended that:

[1] The pressure placed on Locality Teams by new communities needs to be recognised and mitigated through the Council-wide Integrated Planning Process by allocating sufficient financial resources to the Teams concerned in coming financial years.

Who: Cabinet / Cabinet Member for Children

By when: Appropriate financial year to be determined in conjunction with CCC
Executive Director: CYPS and Service
Director: Enhanced & Preventative Services

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 4 in its entirety

- 5.10 The business case for early intervention of the type delivered by Locality Teams is strong: it has been estimated that for every £1 of public money invested in early intervention, £7 is saved in the future.² Higher tier interventions in the later stages of the child or young person's problems become increasingly costly and possibly less effective: ultimately, a lifetime on benefits costs the state on average a minimum of £430,000.³
- 5.11 The group is of the view that insufficient investment in vital universal and tier 1 services in a large new town such as Northstowe could create significant issues for the county in years to come. This would be as a result of children and young people in the earliest stages of delinquency 'slipping through the net' of universal service provision, particularly youth clubs.⁴ The end result could be a new town which is detrimental to its residents and to the county as a whole, particularly in terms of levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.12 Again, to allow this to happen would run counter to the council and its partners' long term objectives for the county, as articulated in the Cambridgeshire Vision⁵; especially 'Growth', 'Equality and Inclusion' and 'Safer and Stronger Communities'. For this reason, and given the financial burden placed by complicated tier 3 and 4 interventions, the group recommends that:

[2] The Invest to Transform fund should be used as a method for funding comprehensive universal and preventative services in

² *Early Intervention: Good Parents, Great Kids, Better Citizens* (p. 33). Available at: <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/EarlyInterventionpaperFINAL.pdf>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Highlighted as particularly important in this regard by the Locality Manager for Cottenham and Swavesey

⁵ The county's Sustainable Community Strategy

the county's new communities, particularly Northstowe, on an 'invest to save' basis.

Who: Cabinet / Cabinet Member for Children

By when: Appropriate financial year to be determined in conjunction with CCC
Executive Director: CYPS and Service
Director: Enhanced & Preventative Services

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 4 in its entirety

- 5.13 'Invest to save' proposals are defined in the Integrated Plan as 'an investment to achieve a cash releasing saving in future years in line with Council and service priorities as determined during the Integrated Plan Process' (para. 4, p. 11). The group is of the view that sufficient cash releasing savings to justify a bid can be achieved by avoiding the need for unnecessary and costly higher tier interventions, especially if a wider, pan-agency view of such interventions is taken. This view would factor in the cost to the wider public purse (not just those incurred by the council) and would be entirely in keeping with the Making Cambridgeshire Count ethos and other imperatives to work more collaboratively in coming years.
- 5.14 Invest to Transform monies released, or any other extra revenue allocated via the Integrated Plan should be distributed to those Locality Teams under, or due to be under, the greatest pressure from new developments. The group believes that the facts underpinning this recommendation speak for themselves. In the case of the Cottenham and Swavesey Locality Team, significant extra burdens are predicted by the Locality Manager, especially by the third year of Northstowe's inception, at which point children will begin to move into the new town's schools. A further prediction was an eventual trebling of the Locality Team workload should Northstowe reach its proposed capacity.
- 5.15 It is stated in the recently released consultation on an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) that a 'funding formula is being developed which will recommend how resources should be allocated to localities in the future to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met fairly and equitably in Cambridgeshire'.⁶ Based on the evidence heard in relation to the often very specific needs of new communities, the value accorded to services provided in new communities by Locality Teams, and the requirements of Big Plan 2 priority 4, the group recommends that

[3] The locality funding formula developed as part of the IYSS development process should recognise the extra pressures faced by Locality Teams servicing new communities and fund them accordingly.

⁶ *Developing Integrated Youth Support in Cambridgeshire*, CYPS, CCC (June 2010), p. 2

Who: Executive Director: CYPS, CCC

By when: Upon final agreement of the funding formula [date required]

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 4 in its entirety

- 5.16 The group's desire to prevent greater numbers of higher tariff interventions in new communities has led to its view that in these areas prevention is imperative. It is recognised that the council's desire is to focus County Council provision on MOSI tiers 1-4,⁷ but the group is of the view that to apply this approach wholesale across the county, including in new communities, is to ignore the valuable preventative role that universal services such as youth clubs can play: a role that frontline professionals interviewed by the group have attested to.
- 5.17 The IYSS consultation does state that universal service provision will not be precluded 'where this will lead to effective targeting'.⁸ However, this does little to provide assurance that the specific needs of new communities will be catered for in this regard. External funding should be sought, but universal service provision in Northstowe should not be contingent upon external funding being secured.
- 5.18 To this end, the group has already recommended that mainstream council funds be allocated to provide universal services in new communities by the Integrated Planning Process (recommendation 1) and the Invest to Transform fund (recommendation 2), and has set out the case for this. However, more innovative methods such as Social Impact Bonds may also provide a means to fund universal services in new communities that would, in the mid to long term, reduce the financial burden on the council.
- 5.19 Social Impact Bonds are a means by which funding for projects can be secured sooner and in time to meet immediate need, and could potentially address a theme clearly evident throughout the review: community facilities are often not in place soon enough. The creation of many essential amenities such as playgrounds often depends upon the reaching of 'trigger points', but clearly this does a disservice to residents moving into a new community before trigger points are met. Loves Farm children's discussions with the group have shown that that they are currently directly affected by this issue, as manifested by a lack of play facilities.
- 5.20 Social Impact Bonds could be a solution in new communities, providing the upfront capital to build facilities and provide services that are highly desirable, which could easily lead to better long term outcomes. The Bonds are a preventative measure that attracts private investment, aiming to make a return from a proportion of the public money saved on more expensive interventions

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 4

⁸ *Ibid.*

that have been avoided, due to the initial investment. For example, a Social Impact Bond is currently being used to reduce re-offending rates in Peterborough, where organisations such as the St. Giles Trust are funded to provide intensive support to 3000 short term prisoners over six years. If the initiative reduces re-offending rates by 7.5% or more, investors receive an increasing proportion of the savings made as a result (up to a maximum of 13%).⁹

5.21 Universal and other services in Northstowe could be a beneficiary of a Social Impact Bond. This would allow vulnerable children, young people and families – present in large numbers early on in new communities - to be served by properly funded universal services that may not be as important in established communities elsewhere in the county. To provide these services in Northstowe's early years would be far more desirable than to fund the more expensive later interventions that would otherwise inevitably be required. The measures of success for the payment of Bond investors are varied, and could include, for example:

- NI 110 – Young people's participation in positive activities

And in the longer term:

- NI 111 – First time entrants to the youth justice system
- NI 112 – Under 18 conception rate

5.22 Bond investors themselves would include businesses with an interest in the success of Northstowe as a community, particularly those with a strong sense of corporate social responsibility. The Children's Trust could play a key role in negotiating the terms of the Bond and the expected outcomes. In sum, the group believes that the use of Social Impact Bonds should be explored as a means to provide quality universal services in Northstowe, in the first instance, and elsewhere as knowledge of the mechanism emerges and good practices are identified.

[4] The use of Social Impact Bonds as a means to secure comprehensive universal services in Northstowe – fit for the needs of a large new community – should be thoroughly examined by the Children's Trust Executive Group.

Who: Executive Director: CYPS, CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October)

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 4 in its entirety

⁹ See: http://www.socialfinance.org.uk/services/index.php?page_ID=15

Voluntary and community sector provision

- 5.23 A proposed greater role for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in universal service provision has been discussed with the group, but there are issues to be addressed:
- Varying capacity across the sector
 - Lack of existing community networks and social capital in new communities
 - Delayed development of community facilities in new communities
 - Bureaucratic burdens present in the small grant application process for voluntary organisations
- 5.24 A VCS representation to the group stated that voluntary organisations were able to provide universal youth services of a quality comparable to statutory sector provision, if the right support and funding is provided. Getting the provision in place at the correct time is one of the key challenges, and reference was made to the release of tranches of social housing.¹⁰ Where this takes place, the voluntary sector finds itself in a reactive role because the social housing provider has not notified potentially interested voluntary sector organisations that may be able to provide much-needed support from the outset.
- 5.25 To embed voluntary sector support from the outset would require potential tenants, during the consultation period before the release of the social housing, to be asked which services are / would be required in their community. The findings of this exercise would then give the social housing provider ample time to consult with Cambridgeshire CVSIC on potentially interested voluntary sector providers elsewhere in the county that would then have time to put measures in place to provide for those needs. In furtherance of this, the group recommends that

[5] Social housing providers should inform all partners, including the relevant voluntary sector organisations (possibly via CVSIC) of the release of tranches of social housing in order that the relevant grants and contracts can be secured by them to allow services to be in place upon first occupation of the housing.

Who: District councils, particularly South Cambridgeshire DC [named contacts required]

By when: Immediately

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers objective 3: 'Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community'

¹⁰ This was also found to have major impact on local schools: see para. 5.22.1

5.26 Voluntary sector organisations are themselves facing considerable funding pressures. These are due to financial constraints across funding sources including, amongst others, the County Council, Big Lottery, trusts and foundations. This issue is not easily mitigated, but ways were identified to allow the voluntary sector to do more with less, as is currently expected of it. These include the provision by the County Council and its partners of free training and other benefits in kind, such as free use of statutory sector buildings and facilities. This latter point is within the scope of the Making Assets Count (MAC) project of the Making Cambridgeshire Count initiative.

5.27 The MAC 'Partnership Working' objective¹¹ aims to 'promote and support partnership working through effective sharing of facilities including with the voluntary sector'. In support of this, the group would champion the need to provide approved voluntary sector organisations with the full use of publicly owned buildings wherever possible, ideally for free. Underpinning this is the group's belief that appropriate voluntary organisations developing in new communities (and more widely) should have the maximum support of public service providers and, through them, publicly owned assets and finances. This is entirely in accordance with the requirements of the Big Society agenda. The group therefore recommends that

[6] Cambridgeshire Together partners should commit to allowing free use by approved voluntary and community sector groups of appropriate buildings owned by partners' respective organisations.

Who: Local Area Agreement Reference Group (LAARG) chairman

By when: Immediately

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4:

Further objective 4: 'Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities' and objective 5: 'Plan and secure provision which is focussed on social capital and promoting social cohesion, as well physical infrastructure'

5.28 If voluntary groups are to take a greater role in universal service provision issues around accessing small grants (of £3000 or less) must be addressed. Currently Young Lives, in conjunction with the County Council, administers a fund upon which small grants can be drawn. The group has heard of the overly bureaucratic process involved in the decision to release funding to the small voluntary organisations that choose to apply. In brief, this includes:

- The completion of a four page (previously nine page) form (17th September 2010 deadline)

¹¹ See MAC project initiation document (27/5/10 v. 1.5), p. 7

- Submission to a panel of stakeholders that makes recommendations
- Submission to a panel of County Council representatives that makes further recommendations
- Submission to a panel of elected members that makes the final decision
- Funds released in April 2011, assuming the application is successful

5.29 For a maximum grant of £3000 the group believes that this process is excessive and overly burdensome to small, often poorly resourced organisations. It is quite possibly uneconomic for Young Lives to administer, and almost certainly acts as a disincentive to community-spirited individuals who wish to make a difference. Also, in a new community the time that elapses from grant application to eventual payment could prove significant as unchecked social issues can escalate rapidly. With regard to this, the group recommends that

[7] The small grant allocation process should be streamlined by implementing either of the suggested actions:

- Forego elected member involvement entirely by delegating the final decision entirely to the relevant council officer or, ideally**
- Delegate the final decision entirely to Young Lives**

Who: Service Director: Strategy & Commissioning, CYPS, CCC

By when: [TBD]

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers objective 3: 'Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community'

5.30 As voluntary sector provision for children and young people is commissioned to an ever-increasing extent, the group recommends that

[8] Details of the ongoing support to be offered to non-statutory service providers should be produced in consultation with them alongside details of how the work of non-statutory providers will be quality-assured on an ongoing basis.

Who: Service Director: Strategy & Commissioning, CYPS, CCC

By when: [TBD]

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Relevant to objective 2: 'Develop a framework by which to assess the potential needs of children and young people and map the types of services and levels of provision that will be

required'

Schooling

5.31 Evidence on the needs of Cambourne heard throughout the review suggests that new communities are especially prone to social issues brought about by familial displacement, isolation, underdeveloped social infrastructure and lack of accountability amongst service providers. These pose particular challenges for residents, voluntary groups and statutory agencies. In the case of the latter, the group discussed with head teachers the issues faced by schools in new communities. The head teachers were also well placed to be able to inform the group of the broader issues facing the developing communities. Principally, in terms of schooling, these issues can be described as:

5.31.1 Socio-demographic pressures placed on schools, associated with the uptake and release *en masse* of housing of various tenures (social, private rented, owner-occupied, etc.): The key issue highlighted was the release of tranches of social housing, which often resulted in relatively significant numbers of new children – often with quite specific needs - joining local schools, frequently unexpectedly. This sudden increase in pupil numbers compounds an already-high turnover of pupils (approximately 25 children a year leave The Vine, Cambourne), existing socio-demographic cleavages and high numbers of pupils with English as a second language. This confirmed the findings of earlier discussions with senior stakeholders, which had stated the need for schools to be warned in advance of the occupation of large numbers of social homes in their vicinities. The group therefore recommends that:

- [9] A procedure for informing local schools and other partners of residential property developments likely to attract higher need families with children and young people, and their predicted date of occupation, should be:**
- i. Agreed between the County Council and the relevant district council; and**
 - ii. Piloted for sufficient time to assess the process and fully adopted and extended throughout the county if found to be useful**

Who: Service Director: Learning, CYPS,
CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October)

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers objective 3: 'Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community'

5.31.2 Difficulty in accessing model policies, guidance and procedures: Newly established schools need access to templates and models that help to alleviate the demands of the documentary requirements placed upon them.

Various strategies and policies must be produced on topics such as health and safety, equality and diversity, and community cohesion.

Producing such documents is a time consuming process that detracts from time spent teaching and supporting children and young people in their new school. The group believes that head teacher time spent on such activity should be minimised and that the County Council has a key role in facilitating this.



Graffiti on a tree, by Amy, Katie, Emily and Leanne

However, the experience of Jeavons Wood School in Cambourne was that County Council support was insufficient in this regard. Similar comments were made in relation to the array of information provided by the then Department of Children, Schools and Families, which would be better arranged into a single 'new schools pack'. These issues prompt the group to recommend the following:

[10] Cambridgeshire County Council should better prepare for the documentary requirements of new schools by establishing a suite of model policies and strategies available to be accessed when required.

Who: Service Director: Learning, CYPS

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October)

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers objective 4: 'Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities'

[11] The Department for Education should note the Jeavons Wood example and consider whether the various sources of information for new schools should be collated into a single resource.

Who: DfE [named contact to be established]

By when: [TBD]

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers objective 4: 'Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities'

5.31.3 The built environment and school design: The group heard strong arguments in favour of greater teacher involvement in the design of schools and their associated infrastructure (such as safe pathways to school). This is based on evidence from head teachers suggesting that in some cases school buildings are not as well designed as they should be, examples being the inappropriate situation of a cloakroom and a playground that is too small.



A fence helping children to cross, by Amy, Katie, Emily and Leanne

Teacher involvement in the design of Netherhall School in Cambridge is welcomed, and the group believes that this approach could be utilised in the development of some new schools in the county. In new communities there is often the opportunity to influence entire built environments around the needs of educational establishments, in the placement

of community buildings, cycle paths and playgrounds, for example. An additional issue for

schools in new communities was found to be a lack of signposting which, in the case of The Round House School, led to delivery drivers getting lost with resultant delay in the delivery of important items to the then brand new school. A lack of signposting obviously has broader implications for the entire development

The physical placement of schools is equally important. The avoidance of busy roads and a site as near to the centre of a development as possible were highlighted as critical factors. Where schools are newly built, or are under construction, adequate consideration of teacher safety needs to be undertaken. This is especially important when they are expected to secure premises at the end of a school day.

Taking these factors into consideration, the group recommends that:

[12] Experienced teachers – ideally those with experience of teaching in a new community - should be involved, from the earliest stages, in the development of schools in new communities. The broadest possible professional influence on the process should

be encouraged, from master-planning to school layout and classroom design.

Who: [TBD]

By when: [TBD]

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4:

Further objective 1: 'Ensure that children and young people are part of the vision for new communities', objective 4: 'Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities' and objective 5: 'Plan and secure provision which is focussed on social capital and promoting social cohesion, as well physical infrastructure'

Life in a new community: children's opinions:

- 5.32 The review group has benefitted from the input of pupils from two schools in new communities: The Round House School in Loves Farm, St. Neots, and Orchard Park Community Primary, Orchard Park. The group wishes to extend thanks to the children and head teachers involved in the two sessions.
- 5.33 The findings of these discussions are presented separately, below, as case studies. All issues highlighted by the children, in both cases, have been presented in letters from the group chairman to the authorities concerned (see Annexes D and E). The following are a selection of the views most frequently expressed, with the full range of views presented at Annex B.

Loves Farm

- 5.34 Group members' discussion with around twenty of The Round House School pupils¹² (see Annex B) revealed several issues of immediate concern to children living on the new Loves Farm housing development. These concerns can be organised, broadly, into two themes:
- 5.34.1 Cleanliness and safety of the new development:** The children described various encounters with discarded building materials - 'wood and nails' in the words of one child - whilst playing or travelling around the development. One such encounter resulted in injury to a child following a fall. The group is particularly concerned that the health and safety of children and young people at Loves Farm is being jeopardised by an apparent failure to tidy up and have regard to the needs of younger residents.
- 5.34.2 Adequate provision of dedicated play areas and facilities:** In this regard, at this stage in the community's development, the children of Loves Farm feel poorly catered for. As a fairly recent new development, sufficient play facilities are not yet in place, although the importance accorded to such facilities by the

¹² This took place 1st July 2010 at The Round House School, Loves Farm, St. Neots

children was particularly informative and added to the argument for having such provision in place from the earliest occupation of a new development.

Orchard Park

5.35 Group members met with several Orchard Park Community Primary pupils¹³ to discuss their views of life in their new community. The full range of comments provided by the children is presented at Annex B.

5.35.1 Play areas and facilities: In contrast to children from the newer community of Loves Farm, children from Orchard Park Community Primary feel that they are well served and were particularly vocal about the need in new communities for play areas that are well supplied and accessible.

5.35.2 Although the children thought that Orchard Park was well equipped, there were some issues raised, particularly around a lack of provision for older children. The children reported that older children have a tendency to use facilities intended for younger children. This in turn makes it difficult for younger users to play – one specific comment, amongst many others, was: ‘big children take over the park’, perhaps indicating that there is insufficient provision for children in the 9-12 year age range.



Helping keep the play area safe, by Amy, Katie, Emily and Leanne

5.35.3 Police / Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) visibility: Although the local PCSO was praised, several of the children stated that PCSOs/police officers could be more visible more often around the community. A specific example given by a child related to the theft of a bicycle; the child wished to speak with a PCSO but was unable to locate one for some time (‘weeks’, in the child’s words). The prevalence of bicycle theft on the development was an issue mentioned by several of the children.

Tier 2 and 3 provision

5.36 A clear theme throughout the review has been the increased pressure that is placed upon higher tier services where universal and lower tier services are under invested. Under investment can result from a lack of financial resources, or – particularly in the case of new communities - from a lack of social infrastructure and an under developed sense of community. As higher-tier services are increasingly stretched, effective allocation of resources will become paramount.

5.37 In new communities the problems caused by financial under investment are further compounded by low levels of social capital and the greater prevalence

¹³ This took place on 13th September 2010 at Orchard Park Community Primary, Orchard Park. The children consisted of seven Year 6 and ten Year 5 pupils.

of families with health and domestic problems. Evidence heard from frontline practitioners operating in Cambourne and Orchard Park suggests that mental health problems and domestic violence are prevalent in those communities.

- 5.38 In these circumstances, mechanisms such as the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), if properly implemented, could be important in ensuring that, where necessary, the appropriate services are put in place for vulnerable children and young people in new communities. A correctly implemented CAF would target limited resources, support and involve families, and ultimately protect children.
- 5.39 However, the group has been informed of several issues with CAF, including:
- Social workers not using it
 - Examples of the circumvention of CAF – for example, homeless 16-18 year olds being advised to self refer under the Southwark Judgement, to prevent the need for CAF usage

An initial report to the CYP Scrutiny Committee on the subject also indicated that there were difficulties in getting certain other professional groups to engage with the CAF process. Other difficulties highlighted included the enormous task of training a significant proportion of the CYPS workforce in the usage of the CAF, and current issues with Integrated Children's System (ICS) compatibility.

- 5.40 Problems faced in the implementation of CAF should not be allowed to compromise service provision anywhere in the county; but this is particularly so in new communities, which present a special set of circumstances. The group is aware that the CYP Scrutiny Committee is monitoring the implementation of CAF, with the aforementioned initial report on the topic received at its 15th July 2010 meeting. Group members will ensure that the vital issue of partner buy-into CAF and attempted CAF circumvention (e.g. second bullet point, para. 5.39, above) are pursued in future monitoring of CAF implementation.
- 5.41 A general move towards closer, more joined-up working across the public sector provides much of the rationale for CAF, but the same rationale and discussions with practitioners have also led the group to consider whether the current split between the multi-disciplinary Locality Teams and Social Care Area Teams is desirable or sustainable, especially where those teams serve large, stand-alone new communities such as Northstowe.
- 5.42 'Enhanced Localities' could bring together professionals currently separated into Locality and Social Care Area Teams, to better serve large areas likely to present disproportionately high levels of acute need. This would be immediately applicable to Northstowe, with the implementation of this type of team creating potential for even greater collaboration between mainstream Children and Young People's Services, the voluntary and community sector, and other public services. There is also great scope for the integration of further public services into a Northstowe area-based team. Existing staff from Locality Teams and Social Care Area Teams could be seconded to the new

service, with management arrangements to be determined. Ultimately, the large new town of Northstowe - and the county at large - would be best served by a dedicated team to cater to its unique needs.

[13] An 'Enhanced Locality Team', comprising professionals currently working separately within Locality and Social Care Area Teams, should be created for Northstowe.

Who: Executive Director: CYPS, CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October)

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4:

Further objective 3: 'Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community' and objective 4: Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities'

The future of health services

- 5.43 The NHS is to go undergo fundamental change both before and during the establishment of Northstowe. These changes pose a key risk to the future health and wellbeing of the community, and need to be thoroughly assessed.
- 5.44 The White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* states that proposed health and wellbeing boards will 'allow local authorities to take a strategic approach and promote integration across health and adult social care, children's services, including safeguarding, and the wider local authority agenda'.¹⁴ This could be valuable when the Boards are fully operational, but the establishment of the Cambridgeshire Board would probably coincide with key milestones in the Northstowe development, meaning that decisions around health and well being in the community, at a critical and formative stage of its development, would be taken by a new and untested arrangement.
- 5.45 Accompanying proposals in the White Paper including a move to GP commissioning clusters and the abolition of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), are all steps with potentially profound implications for new communities, particularly around service planning and coordination. In sum, this is not fortuitous timing for Northstowe residents.
- 5.46 The local authority's envisaged role in assisting the planning of health services through the facilitation and coordination of GP commissioning is perhaps a mitigating factor, which may compensate for a compromised ability to plan strategically, resulting from the abolition of existing NHS agencies. The

¹⁴ Para. 4.17, p. 34

group would expect to see the County Council use its role in delivering health and well being – in whatever form eventually taken – to champion the specific needs of new communities.

- 5.45 The group would also expect to see evidence of early communication and collaborative working between CYPS Area Managers and GP clusters as the latter develop. Monitoring of these issues will take place in formal meetings of the CYP Scrutiny Committee.

General findings

Leadership

- 5.2 Developing a sustainable new community requires the coordination of numerous organisations and effective sustained communication. This point was made early on in the course of the review by senior councillors and managers from the County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizons. Of great importance in this regard is the need for strong partnership working with well defined lead organisations, although a key finding of the review has been that an organisational lead is not always apparent. This situation could lead to duplication and inefficiency if allowed to persist.
- 5.3 The group is of the view that the identification of an organisational lead on specific work streams around the establishment of new communities is a managerial issue, but would suggest that the themes in The Cambridgeshire Vision¹⁵ may provide a useful starting point. For example, County Council Children and Young People's Services and NHS Cambridgeshire could provide the 'Equality and Inclusion' lead, exploiting already close working relationships between the two organisations. The specifics of the issue are beyond the scope of the review, although the current period of developer inactivity provides an ideal opportunity to address these issues of leadership and governance. The group recommends that

[14] Organisational lead over specific aspects of service provision in new communities should be explored as a concept, with a view to identifying the appropriate themes / work / services to which a lead should be established, and the appropriate organisation/s to provide such lead as required.

Who: Executive Director: Environment
Services, CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet
agreement of recommendation on 26th
October)

¹⁵ The county's Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2021. The strategy commits the organisations within the area's formal partnership framework to the following goals: Growth; Economic Prosperity; Environmental Sustainability; Equality and Inclusion; Safer and Stronger Communities.

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4:

Further objective 3: 'Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community' and objective 4: Ensure that there is a joined-up approach to planning and securing provision for children, young people and families in new communities'

- 5.4 A notable disparity between the two local government bodies responsible for much of the provision in many of the county's new communities is in the field of political leadership. The group has noted that South Cambridgeshire District Council has portfolio holders for both New Communities and Northstowe. The County Council near-equivalent remits are held by the Cabinet Member for Growth, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning and the Cabinet Member for Communities. The group views the South Cambridgeshire District Council arrangement as a model of good practice in its emphasis on clear and accountable leadership for the delivery of successful new communities.

Partnership working / service planning

- 5.5 The two-tier structure of the county means that in organisational terms responsibility for spatial planning, for example, is distinct from the responsibility for children and young people's services. Clearly the success of the two services – as with all other public services - is interlinked, with the organisational separation creating a powerful imperative for genuine partnership working.
- 5.6 The group received information relating to a number of partnership groups and sub-groups that were created to plan for the needs of Northstowe, but have since languished or ceased to operate. Groups of relevance to this review include:
- Health and Social Care Topic Group
 - Education and Lifelong Learning Topic Group
 - Community Topic Group, and its
 - Civic Hub and Youth Sub-Groups
- 5.7 Several stakeholders interviewed by the group shared the opinion that these meetings were an invaluable means to plan and bring partners together around a shared agenda. The opinion was also expressed that these meetings could usefully be reinstated - perhaps on a less frequent basis - which would allow the current lull in development to be utilised for service planning purposes. The group concurs and suggests that all available opportunities to plan and develop linkages should be utilised to the fullest possible extent.
- 5.8 This view was reinforced by an example presented to the group by the Corporate Manager for New Communities of South Cambridgeshire District Council, whereby a staff member with highly specialised knowledge of service delivery in Cambourne had retired, the council and its partners losing that individual's expertise. Knowledge retention is of vital importance and the group believes that reinstated Northstowe planning groups could provide a means to

share and retain such knowledge beyond a single organisational boundary. The group recommends that

[15] Northstowe service planning groups should be reinstated and meet at least biannually as a means to share and retain knowledge, develop linkages, and service plan collaboratively.

Who: Executive Director: Environment Services, CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October)

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 4 in its entirety

Accountability

From the earliest stages of the review it became apparent that residents in new communities such as Cambourne were ill-informed as to what to expect from their area in terms of facilities and services. The fact that several agencies all have a key role to play in the development of new communities, coupled with the lack of a clearly defined lead organisation, has in the past led to frustration when attempting to get issues addressed. It has also indicated a lack of accountability to residents. This issue is worsened by the lack of representative bodies such as town councils and community groups.

To address this, the group thought it appropriate to recommend that a statement of core service entitlement, or similar, be produced and publicised. However, the IYSS consultation published subsequently does include a 'Youth Offer' comprising four strands:¹⁶

- i. Information, advice and guidance
- ii. Volunteering and positive contribution
- iii. Positive activities
- iv. Targeted support

As the Youth Offer is work in progress, the group has erred away from recommending extra work that would be duplicative of that currently underway. However, the group do wish to apply the principles of accountability and transparency to the Youth Offer and therefore recommend that

[16] The County Council Youth Offer should be publicised widely, particularly in new communities where there is likely to be less clarity as to what can be expected from service providers. In doing this the Youth Offer should be elaborated in terms of what services can be reasonably expected. This would be to:

¹⁶ Full details of the Youth Offer are included at annex C

- i. **Enable service providers to be held to account by residents for entitled service delivery; and**
- ii. **Clarify for new and potential residents the 'end product', i.e. the proposed configuration of services to be provided by statutory bodies in the community after a given duration**

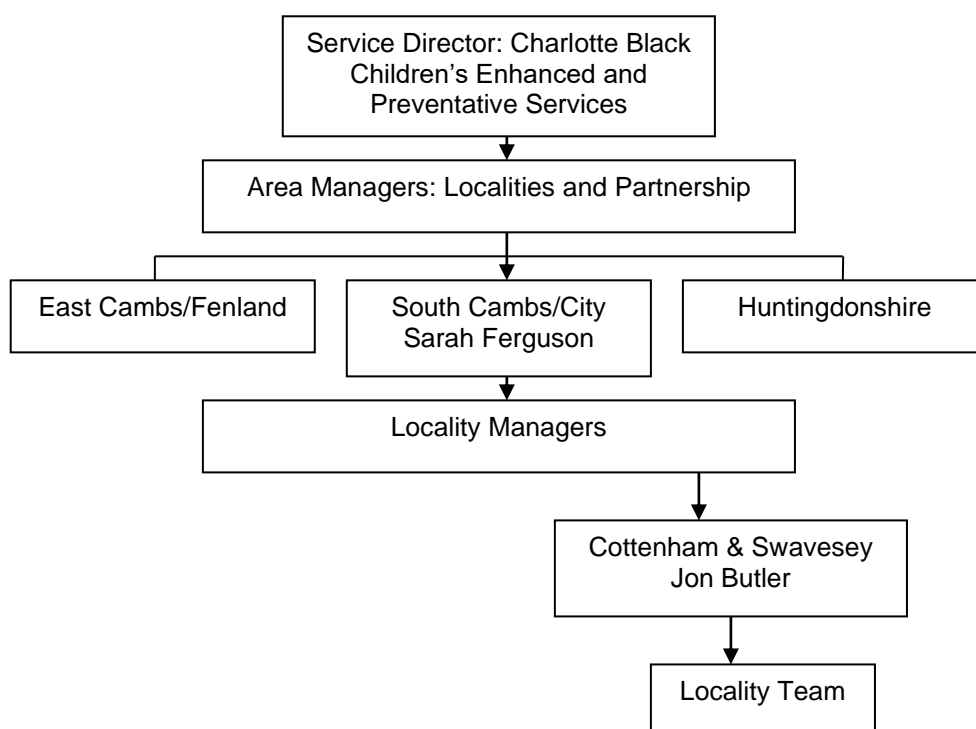
Who: Executive Director: CYPS, CCC

By when: April 2011 (6 months following cabinet agreement of recommendation on 26th October) for roll-out in existing new communities

Link to Big Plan 2, priority 4: Furthers priority 1: 'Ensure that children and young people are part of the vision for new communities' and objective 3: Work to seek services are in place in the early days of a new community'

Briefing Note for 07/04/2010**Meeting with the Locality Manager for Cottenham and Swavesey.**

There are 14 Locality Teams across the County. The planned community of Northstowe will fall in the area covered by the Cottenham and Swavesey Locality Team:



The Locality Team currently provides the following 6 services:

Connexions

Supporting 13-19 year olds (and those with additional needs up to 25) in the transition to adulthood. Focusing on jobs/education/training reducing the number of NEET (Not in Education Employment and Training) young people and increasing those in EET (Employment Education and Training), career planning, benefits/grants, housing, relationships, health and free time. Connexions Personal Advisors work through the schools and in the community

Youth Service

Supporting Young People aged 11-19yrs (and those with additional needs up to 25); only 25% of the budget should be spent on young people aged 11-13yrs). Focusing on universal and targeted youth support through generic youth clubs, drop-ins, fundays and trips. Targeted work in schools such as

groupwork, 1-1's and PSHE programmes such as sexual health, drug and alcohol work and the ASB 'Streets programme'.

Including:

- Generic Youth Clubs – evening clubs at Papworth, Bar Hill, Willingham, Over, Cottenham and Waterbeach. Youth bus service out to Fen Drayton.
- Targeted youth support via youth workers
- Outreach
- Project-based work (i.e. sexual health)
- Work in schools

OUTLOOK:

Indicated figures from the budget:

- The budget highlights a spending pressure in the form of a £325k reduction in the Connexions grant for 2010/11.
- For the Youth Service, it is noted that demographic pressures will be met from the existing service base and that services will be spread more thinly.
- Over 2011/12 and 2012/13, Connexions Advisors and Youth Work will save £1m by creating a more targeted service, merging some functions and reducing the universal youth work provision and open access clubs in low-need areas.
- The Central Youth Work and Connexions teams are expected to save an additional £200k by creating one central team, withdrawing grants from some uniformed organisations and ceasing the Youth Parliament.

The service is looking at removing the generic Youth Club provision and is consulting on this. It is expected that the Parish Councils and voluntary sector will in the future be responsible for this area of work. Services will have to become more targeted and Connexions Advisors may become a moveable Countywide resource, being allocated to areas where there is an identified need.

1. Where there is a specific need (often identified by the school), the generic youth service is often used to create a safe environment and to build and maintain relationships with young people prior to starting targeted work.
2. New communities do not have established local Councils with precepts or an established voluntary/community sector. It may take years for these to be in a position to provide services to young people.
3. Community/Voluntary sector funding often comes from the County Council. If we are going to rely on the third sector to provide services, will their funding from the Council be protected?
4. The Connexions/Youth Services are expected to be more targeted based on need. Will this be individual need or geographic need? There may be a case for providing a generic, open access service where there is a high level of need in the area (due to the lack of a community/voluntary sector) rather than a high incidence of individual need.

Parent Support Advisors (PSA's)

There is currently one PSA allocated for Cottenham and Swavesey locality (plus half a PSA funded by the Swavesey cluster of schools as they felt they needed this extra resource). In this Locality, the PSA's are operating well above the South Cambs and City averages for the number of contacts with parents.

Based on last year's safeguarding review, it is expected that, in the future, the Localities will pick up 'Child in Need' referrals (where appropriate) to take the pressure off Social Care. However this will mean that professionals within Localities will end up moving further away from the Preventative role which they currently have.

Schools often rely on PSAs to complete CAF forms for referrals.

- PSAs are currently overstretched within Cottenham and Swavesey Locality, they were the only new resource added to Localities, their funding runs out in March 2011 and they will be expected to act on 'Child in Need' referrals as well as complete CAFs despite an increase in the number of schools they serve.

Children's Centres

Current Locations: Papworth
Bar Hill (still under construction)¹⁷
Waterbeach (still under construction)

Work on the Children's Centres started 12-18 months ago. Bar Hill staff have already been appointed, as a team needs to be in place prior to opening. The team have been building up their local networks and providing outreach services in preparation for the opening of the facility. In all three locations, the teams are building up to operating at full capacity.

OUTLOOK:

PSAs and Children's Centres are funded by Sure Start and Extended Schools funding, which ends in March 2011 funding after this point in time is unclear.

Indicated figures from the budget:

- Children's Centres will be under pressure to generate income (£35k in 2010/11 and an additional £40k in 2011/12) from renting out their facilities to the community.
- The budget shows a saving of £194k for PSAs over three years from reducing management costs and diverting PSAs from secondary schools to Early Years work.

Children's centre staff and PSAs are aware of the funding situation and we may lose our best employees from October onwards if their future with the Council is uncertain.

¹⁷ Now open

Education Welfare Officers (EWOs)

The County Council has a statutory requirement to monitor school attendance. There is no legal guidance in terms of the school/child to EWO ratio. EWO's are also responsible for monitoring Children in Employment, finding children missing.

There is one EWO for the Cottenham/Swavesey locality. They cover 13 schools in 2.5 days. They then have 1 day for Ascham Road Pupil Referral unit and 1.5 days as the lead professional, helping less experienced EWOs (i.e. in preparing for court).

In-School Support

Supporting pupils at risk of exclusion and assisting re-integration into mainstream education. There is a commitment to review this service County-wide in relation to EOTAS provision.

OUTLOOK:

There has been a small saving identified in relation to the EWOs, which would come from ceasing to perform the lead professional role.

In the locality, the current EWO would become responsible for the new schools in Northstowe.

General Information

- The Locality Manager for Cottenham/Swavesey (Jon Butler) was involved in several groups created to plan various aspects of the new community at Northstowe. However, meetings of these groups ceased approximately 6 months ago.
- The Cottenham Swavesey team will be based in Swavesey Village College from September. The long term view was to move the team into Northstowe eventually.
- Four community centres were planned for Northstowe. In one of these, there would be a dedicated youth wing where the locality team could be based. If this centre were given priority in terms of phasing, the locality team could be in place to serve the earliest residents.
- In Cambourne, it has been found there are a large number of young families (due to the amount of affordable housing) and a high level of teenage mental health issues. There was no increase in Children's Service (including Social Care) to serve this community.
- New communities experience higher levels of isolation due to the lack of an existing community and social networks, with all residents being newcomers to the area. This can lead to mental health problems.

- The existing locality team have been promised tier 2 mental health workers for 18+ months but there are none in post as yet. They have children they would like to refer, as they are unable to offer enough at the locality level, but the referral threshold is too high for these children.
- Young people need informal space in which to gather in the town centre as well as in residential areas.
- Section 106 money may provide for physical infrastructure and may even provide for initial staffing costs but it takes years for a community and voluntary sector to develop, so a longer-term view is needed.

Children's views of life in a new community

On July 1st 2010, group members met with around twenty pupils from The Round House School in the new community of Loves Farm, St. Neots. The following captures the key points made by the children, which fell within two overarching themes.

Theme 1: Cleanliness and safety of the new development

- Several of the children reported that they had injured themselves on discarded building materials and other items left around the development
- Others stated that they had tripped in the street on such items
- Many reported issues with rubbish around the site in general
- The noisiness of the building work was highlighted as an issue when trying to do school work
- Dust from the building work was also reported to be a problem
- As a group, the children were quite evenly split between those that would prefer building work to start early in the day and finish early (8) and those that preferred a later start to the building work with a later finish (12)
- There are no litter bins or bins for dog waste

Theme 2: Adequate provision of dedicated play areas and facilities

- Dedicated play areas and play facilities are not present in the development as Section 106 'trigger points' that would release funding have not been reached
- The children all agreed that dedicated play areas and facilities should be in place from the outset. One child stated that his garden was 'just mud and a shed'
- Rubbish is a problem in the non-dedicated areas (such as nearby fields, etc.) where children are playing
- This could in part be attributable to the fact that there are no bins in the development

Group members also met with year 5 and 6 pupils at Orchard Park Community Primary. This meeting took place on September 13th 2010, and provided a further useful insight into the lives of children in a new community. Key points included:

- The need for a greater police / PCSO presence
- Bicycle theft – two of the children mentioned their own experience of falling victim to bicycle theft. In one instance there was a lack of PCSO presence to respond to the theft for a prolonged period of time
- A need for more waste bins around the development
- Houses and gardens are too small
- There are insufficient play facilities in Orchard Park for older children: younger children appear well catered for in terms of play facilities,

although older children – described as 9-11 year olds – are less well served and occasionally use facilities intended for younger children. This prevents younger children using the facilities – a key concern highlighted by several Orchard Park children met by the group.

Written comments provided by the children are reproduced below:

What we like about where we live:

- The parks are everywhere and very cool with lots of things on them
- Parks nearby
- I can cycle and walk to town and places from Orchard Park
- Good school
- The houses (large)
- Peace
- Trees
- There's a hotel on site so you can just have a meal
- The bus to town
- Safe
- Quiet
- Clean
- Good clubs
- Large playing facilities
- New friends
- New equipment
- Friends next door
- Skate park
- New houses
- Bus stops are like 20 yards away
- I love it that I live close by to my friends

What could make this a better place to live?

- More police
- More bins
- Warmer pools
- Gardens should be bigger
- Bedrooms should be bigger
- More shops because the ones [servicing the development] are too far away
- Older children using park
- Big children take over the park
- Older people taking up space in the skate park
- Bike sheds
- Bigger / better libraries
- Doctors
- Hang out areas
- CCTV

- Cafe to meet up with my friends when I'm a bit older
- No more hotels
- Bigger football pitch

What should there be in other new communities for children?

- Play facilities
- Police
- Bigger gardens
- More open space to play on

Cambridgeshire County Council's Youth Offer

Taken from the *Developing Integrated Youth Support in Cambridgeshire* consultation document (June 2010), p. 3.

1. Information, Advice and Guidance

All young people should have access to high quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) and be able to influence service provision. 'Quality, Choice and Aspiration: a Strategy for young people's IAG' and National Standards for IAG have recently been published setting out delivery requirements. This includes young people with additional needs

2. Volunteering & Positive Contribution

All young people should be encouraged to volunteer and contribute to their communities and there should be a flexible range of opportunities to enable them to do so with appropriate recognition for achievements.

3. Positive Activities

All young people should be able to access a range of activities within their locality and have the opportunity to influence the availability and provision of activities.

4. Targeted Support

Young people at risk should be able to access well planned and appropriate services that meet their need in a holistic way.