

item:	4
report:	CYP19/09

FOR HIGHLAND'S CHILDREN 3 - UPDATE **by Innis Mitchell**

Summary

This report provides an update on the preparation of the new integrated children's services plan.

1. Update on Progress of *For Highland's Children 3*

- 1.1. Progress continues to be made in completing *For Highland's Children 3*, the Integrated Children's Plan for 2009 – 2012.
- 1.2. It was hoped that a final draft would be presented to this June meeting of the Joint Committee, but this will not be possible. Instead, the draft document will be tabled, and there will be a presentation about it. This will allow discussion of the format and structure and the developing content.
- 1.3. The initial first draft of the Plan was prepared for Lead Officers, who met on 30th April 2009, and subsequently for Chief Officers. There was support for the format and structure of the document, and recognition that the Plan appeared more accessible, thereby addressing one of the few but main criticisms of *For Highland's Children 2*.
- 1.4. Consensus was also reached on how some of the outstanding issues should be presented and these are presently being progressed as a priority, including that:
 - within Highland Council, the current round of new service plans requires revision to better reflect the five themes of "Strengthening the Highlands - Programme of the Highland Council 2009 – 11".
 - The Education Culture & Sport Service has undertaken a major revision of their service plan to fully incorporate the principles and language of "Getting It Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC) and "Curriculum For Excellence".
 - there was detailed consideration on the Improvement Objectives submitted by the respective multi-agency Strategic Groups – it was noted that a number of groups are in the process of major reviews of policy and future service commitments;
 - revisions are required of Health Improvement Objectives in part to reflect the recent Framework for Early Years but also planned developments by NHS Highland including adolescent mental health - these revisions will also impact on the selection of Key Outcome targets for FHC3.
- 1.5. The programme of consultation on each of the strategic themes has required

careful scheduling. Consultation on the disability strategy is underway and will be completed for presentation at the meeting of the JCCYP on 14th August 2009. It is proposed that the strategic plan for sensory needs is also presented at an early stage. Proposals for further timetabling will be presented at the committee.

- 1.6 Discussion has also now taken place with the website developer that is being contracted to publish the Highland Community Care Plan. It appears that it would be viable to use that opportunity to also modernise the For Highland's Children website, including the means to manage the Plan on an ongoing basis. This shall also be updated as part of the presentation to committee.

Recommendation

The Joint Committee is asked to consider the format and structure and to agree the timescale for consultation on the strategic themes of the plan

Innis Mitchell
Children's Planning Officer