

Summary statement update:

Same as currently in spar.net report up to:

Some children with complex needs will require access to specialist support or additionally resourced provision that is out of county but Stepping Stones will minimise this. Stepping Stones promotes early targeted intervention and will explore at every opportunity early targeted interventions to prevent escalation of need over a child or young person's lifetime.

Action plans, as previously discussed, are in place for both the whole of CYPP and for the specific areas with target indicators. An area of concern is around NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), Devon is doing well to hold its own here but there are two concerns:

- The full effect is not yet seen in terms of reducing opportunities
- The long term effect on the whole lives of young people who are affected by this is well documented and is appropriate territory for the Devon Strategic Partnership thinking decades ahead

Another, and related area, is the newly agreed priority area for the CYPP which is reducing child poverty and how this fits into our joined up working.

The CYPP action plans have been revised and updated for 2009-2011. The Children's Trust aligns its planning, but is also challenged by the DSCB.

Key Risks and Opportunities:

Key risks (identified in the CYPP):

Resources - resource issues are becoming more acute in a variety of ways and opportunities to work differently need to be seized and developed. Stepping Stones and the integrated working projects are examples of this. The risk of protecting frontline services is that preventative work is cut and long term benefits are lost.

Governance/accountability – The Children's Trust has developed tighter governance arrangements in its memorandum of understanding. Draft statutory guidance on the operations of Children's Trusts is out for consultation. Aligned to that is the core inter-agency guidance - 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. Both present challenges/opportunities.

Economic climate - Turbulence remains as organisations struggle in the current economic climate and as reduced resources require local agencies to change their focus.

Silo working - the other major risk is that work with children and young peoples is seen in isolation. The transition to adult services - the effect of family or community affairs on children and other 'handovers' such as 'Thinking' young people in terms of education, employment and training as opposed to 'stopping' 19.

Opportunity:

Child poverty - The work required to address child poverty is a classic example of where the DSP needs to take a lead in order to improve outcomes for Children and Young People.