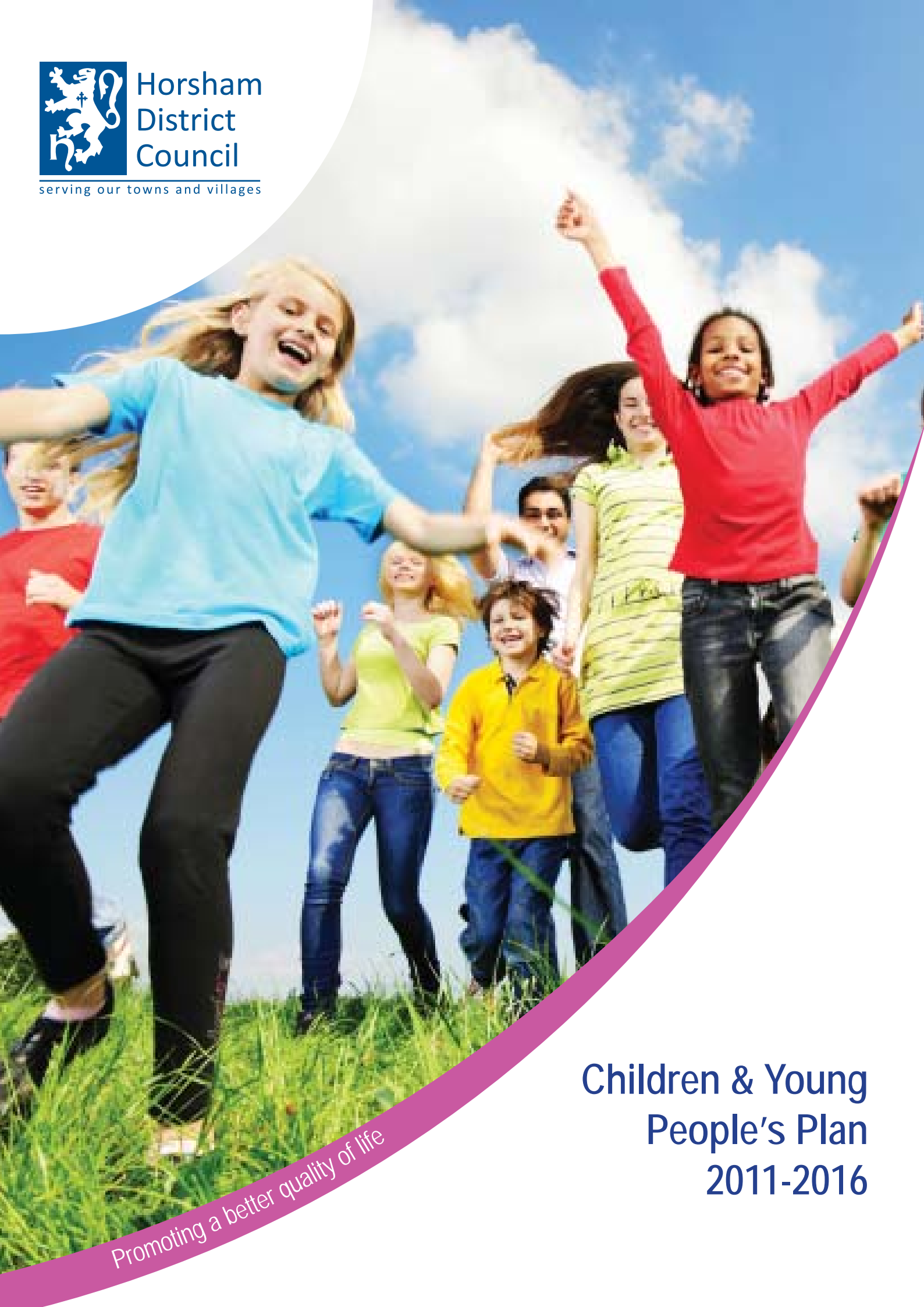




Horsham  
District  
Council

serving our towns and villages



# Children & Young People's Plan 2011-2016

Promoting a better quality of life

This document could be made available in other formats if required.  
Please contact [community.development@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:community.development@horsham.gov.uk)  
or telephone 01403 215207.  
(Text Relay calls welcome).

# Children and Young People’s Plan 2011-2016

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## Foreword

This plan outlines HDC's strategy for children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 19 years and sets out how Horsham District Council (HDC) proposes to fulfill its obligations and duties under the Children Act 2004 and other legislation that impacts on children and young people. In special circumstances, this will also include 19 - 24 year olds who are vulnerable or at risk

HDC is committed where possible, to improve the prospects of young people in our district and to concentrate resources on where they are likely to deliver the greatest benefit. Accordingly a key element of the Plan will be to determine the current profile of resource expenditure, against services and the outcomes delivered. That information will then be used to re-focus resources & service delivery.

In developing the plan HDC has consulted with staff, councillors, external organisations, members of the public and, most importantly, young people living in the area, taking account of all feedback, to understand the broad consensus on priorities over the next five years. The plan particularly aims to respond to the needs of those children whom HDC is likely to be able to influence most positively.

It is recognised that some children and young people have to deal with ill health or disability; that some may not have a very good start to life, or might be otherwise disadvantaged.

Children and young people with special needs may require extra help in accessing our programmes and we will take the steps necessary to address those needs.

This plan should not be regarded as a single project. It is part of a sustained effort to progressively enhance the quality of life of children and young people, in the Horsham District, particularly where they are seen to be vulnerable or have special needs.

Our services are likely to be better if they are designed, delivered and evaluated on the basis of identified, rather than presumed, needs. To find this out we need to ask the users - children, young people, their parents and guardians. Therefore participation by children and young people is central to this plan.

We now look forward to delivering the actions set out in this plan to provide every child and young person in the Horsham District with the best life chances.

**Councillor Roger Arthur**

*Cabinet Member for a Safer and Healthier District*

## Section 1 Setting the scene

### National context

The Children Act 2004, which was preceded by the Government white paper, 'Every Child Matters', puts a duty on Horsham District Council to 'co-operate' with children's services providers and a 'duty to safeguard' children and young people to protect them from harm and help them to achieve what they want in life.

There are five key themes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

In 2005, the Government also produced a green paper entitled 'Youth Matters' and its follow-up, 'Youth Matters: Next Steps'. Its remit for young people was 'something to do, somewhere to go and someone to talk to'.

This plan describes how Horsham District Council will contribute effectively to the outcomes this legislation is seeking and will guide the services it provides over the next 5 years.

### County context

Horsham District Council is a statutory partner within the West Sussex Children's Trust. The Trust identifies five priorities for maximising the life chances of children and young people in West Sussex being:

- (i) Living in decent homes
- (ii) Parents and families can get the support they need
- (iii) Children and young people will have the support they need to achieve
- (iv) Children and young people feel confident to learn and develop healthy lifestyles
- (v) Children and young people will feel and be safe.

The Plan is guided by 3 core principles:

- (i) Better joined up local planning (e.g. of service delivery)
- (ii) Integrated workforce development (e.g. shared opportunities for training, policy writing)
- (iii) More involvement of children and young people (e.g. consulting and engaging children young people)

Horsham District Council is also a statutory partner within The West Sussex Cooperative (formerly the West Sussex Public Service Board). The Cooperative has prioritised 'Think Family', an early intervention & prevention programme designed to challenge the culture and parenting approach in the most troubled and troublesome families and to help keep families together and prevent the need for high cost 'later life' interventions. Although no parts of the Horsham district are designated Local Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (where projects are currently being piloted) there is a long term aspiration to meet the needs of targeted families everywhere within the County.

Horsham District Council also has a statutory duty to work in partnership to improve health and wellbeing and to reduce crime and disorder. To this end it currently works with partners to:

- Increase participation in sport and physical activity;



- Reduce the nuisance and harm caused by alcohol and drugs;
- Reduce youth offending;
- Promote active, empowered and influential communities;
- Improve housing options for vulnerable clients;
- Reduce the number of people not in education, employment or training;
- Reduce health inequalities.

## Local context

Priorities within the Horsham District Council 'District Plan' with implications for children and young people include (but are not limited to):

- Enable high quality training for skills and enterprise

- Make the most of economic and community opportunities from the 2012 Olympics
- Establish an annual arts programme which links to and supports community events
- Work closely with communities to understand their needs and deliver appropriate services
- Identify and understand the needs of vulnerable people and those who have difficulty accessing services
- Provide access to appropriate and affordable housing to meet local needs
- Work with partners to reduce social isolation
- Make services easier to access for vulnerable residents and those who have difficulty accessing service
- Foster community spirit and promote local organisations
- Make the best use of voluntary organisations to help deliver services
- Determine and address future needs for a healthy district Promote healthy lifestyles through public health, culture and leisure initiatives
- Work with local communities through the Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- Promote joint working with the police, parking wardens and street scene officers to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour

Examples of the way services and initiatives are addressing these priorities include (but are not limited to):

- Providing work experience placements for children from local schools and colleges and 6 month training placements for 15 young people who had been out of work for more than 6 months via the Future Jobs Fund
- Working with Horsham Rotary Club to launch 'Set for Success' a new funding stream for talented local athletes
- Establishing and delivering the annual 'Battle of the Bands'
- Working with West Sussex County Council to establish a Children and Families Centre serving residents of the Needles Estate in Horsham
- Working with parents of disabled children to establish the Aiming High Programme for children with disabilities
- Working with the YMCA to establish supported housing for young adults
- Delivering services to small communities in partnership with West Sussex County Council via the Snack Wagon



- Extending diversionary activities in targeted parishes in direct response to 'peaks' in antisocial behaviour
- Helping over 100 voluntary organisations, including sports clubs and arts groups, to extend their services for children and young people
- Responding to reports of high levels of depression and suicide within the district through a project in partnership with West Sussex County Council and Sussex Police which has since been rolled out district wide
- Reducing the number of times prolific perpetrators of antisocial behaviour come to the attention of authorities by 75% through the 'Understanding Teenage Behaviour' courses for parents and the 'Revolution' behaviour change programme for teenagers
- Reducing criminal damage by 25% and reported antisocial behaviour by 13% in the last 3 years through targeted crime and disorder reduction initiatives
- Helping to establishing skate parks at Southwater, Henfield and other parishes
- Working with Job Centre Plus to get young people into work
- Working with Parish Councils through the production of Parish Plans to identify the needs and aspirations of communities.

Whilst we are pleased with our progress so far and would like to develop some services further, this will not be easy. Financial pressure requires the Council to be more focussed in the services it provides for children and young people and the recent reduction in grant from central government will further limit the Council's options in this respect.

## What our residents, children and young people have told us

The 2008 Place Survey showed activities for young people were the issue residents thought most in need of improvement and it is anticipated that this view will still prevail if the survey is repeated.

Engagement with young people through the Snack Wagon, the Youth Council and events such as the Speak Out Youth Conference reveal that:

- Young people resent the stereotype that they are all anti-social and intimidating
- Young people do not feel that there is enough for them to do and activities that are provided are often too expensive or too far from home
- Skate parks, multi-use games areas and an ice rink were most requested leisure facilities
- Young people would like places to meet without being moved on
- Young people do not know how to engage in democracy, for example by contacting councillors
- Young people do not understand what the Council does and can do for young people

- Young people were concerned about lack of jobs and money
- Young people were concerned that they would not be able to afford to live in The Horsham District when they were older
- Isolation due to lack of public transport and cost of existing provision was seen as a major issue
- When it comes to safety, young people were most in fear of being bullied or intimidated by their peers. However, most had not been victims of crime, bucking national trends
- Rather than worrying about underage drinking, some consultees were concerned about the help available to friends or members of their families affected by alcohol

This plan aims to provide a further focus for activity relating to children and young people and to bring about practical action and change. Indeed, many of the actions are already underway.

The delivery of this plan is the responsibility of all staff at Horsham District Council and it will be reviewed annually to evaluate progress and to respond to changes to the Horsham District area that may happen over time.

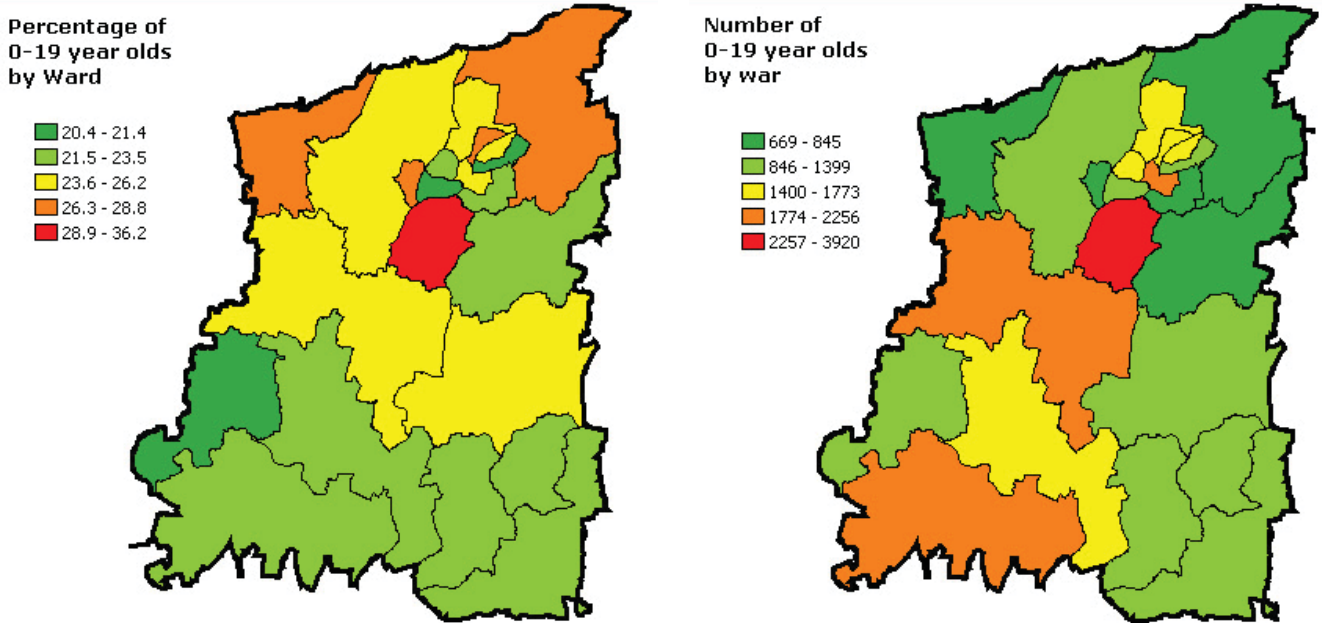
The plan will not operate in isolation: there are many plans and strategies that will have an impact on children and young people prepared by us, as well as partner organisations at county, regional and national levels. This plan will support those strategies and add to the body of evidence on the needs of children and young people.



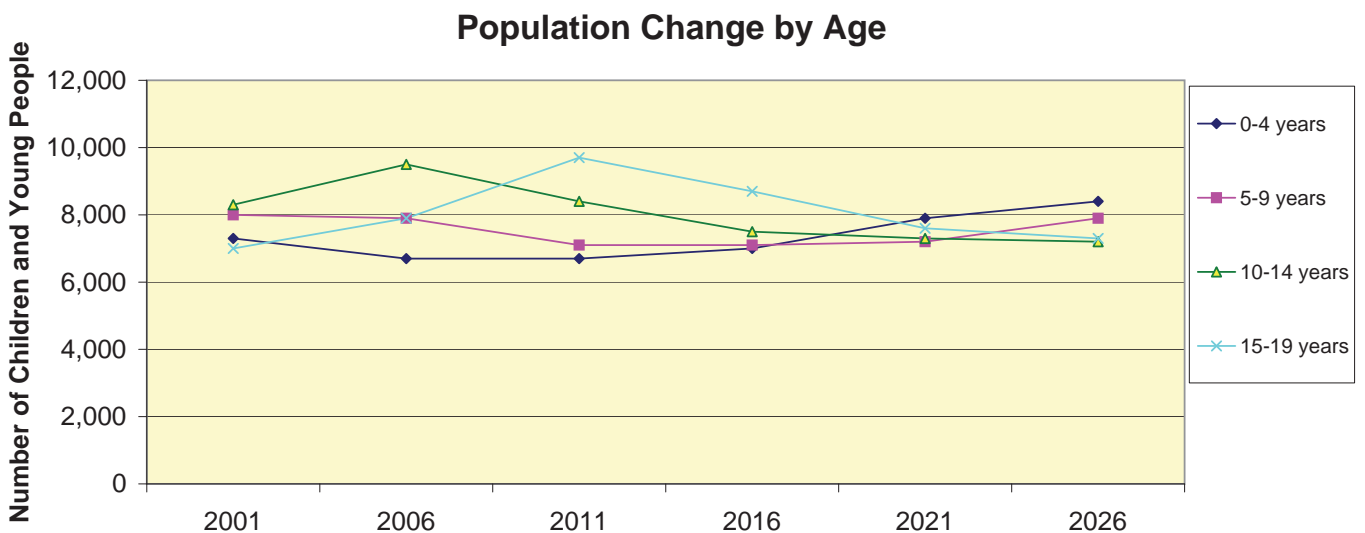


## Key Facts and Figures

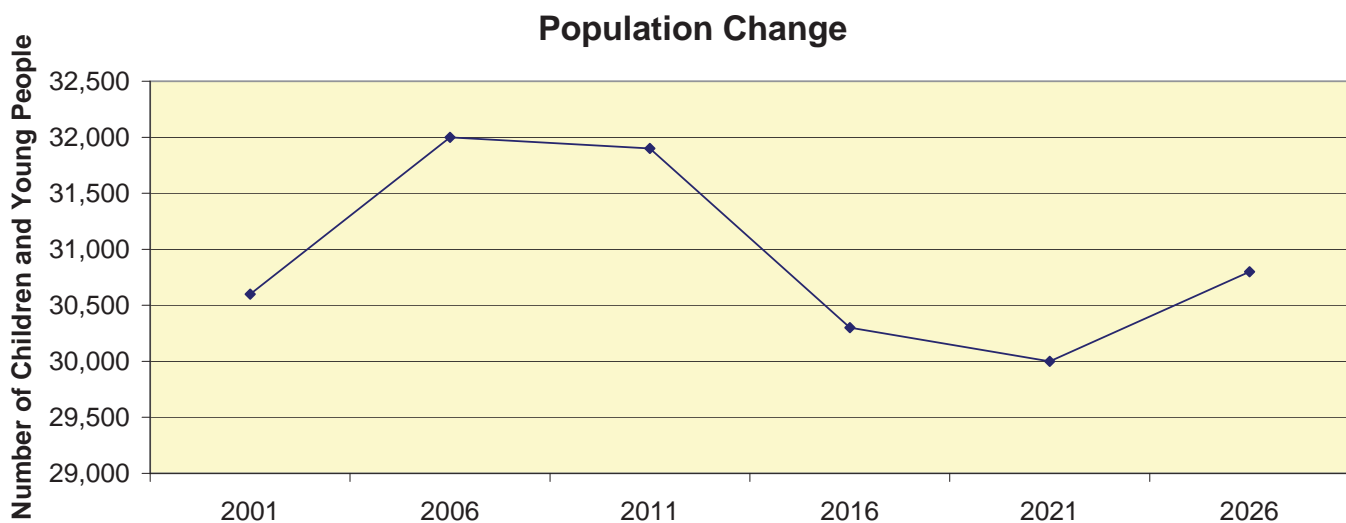
- There are 31,900 children and young people aged 0-19 years living in the Horsham District (24.7% of the area's total population).
- 19,410 (60%) of our children and young people live in rural parts of the district with potentially restricted access to services



- Over the next 15 years it is predicted that the number of children and young people living in Horsham District will reduce slightly to 30,800 (a 3.4% reduction).



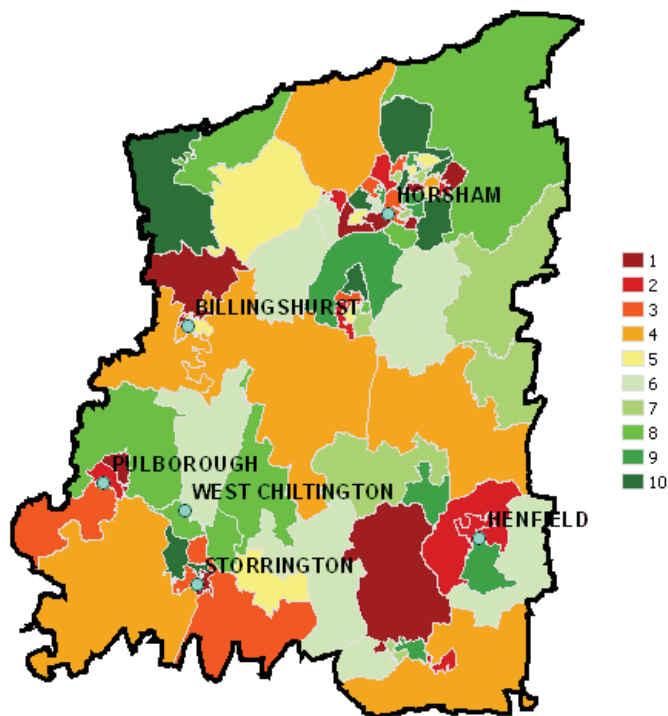
- The net reduction masks the prediction that whilst number of 10-19 year olds will decrease by 20% (from 18,100 to 14,500) over the next 15 years the number of 0-9 year olds will increase by 18% (from 13,800 to 16,300).



- Some wards have disproportionately high numbers of young people with 36% of Southwater residents aged 19 or under. This is double the national average and 33% higher than the county average.

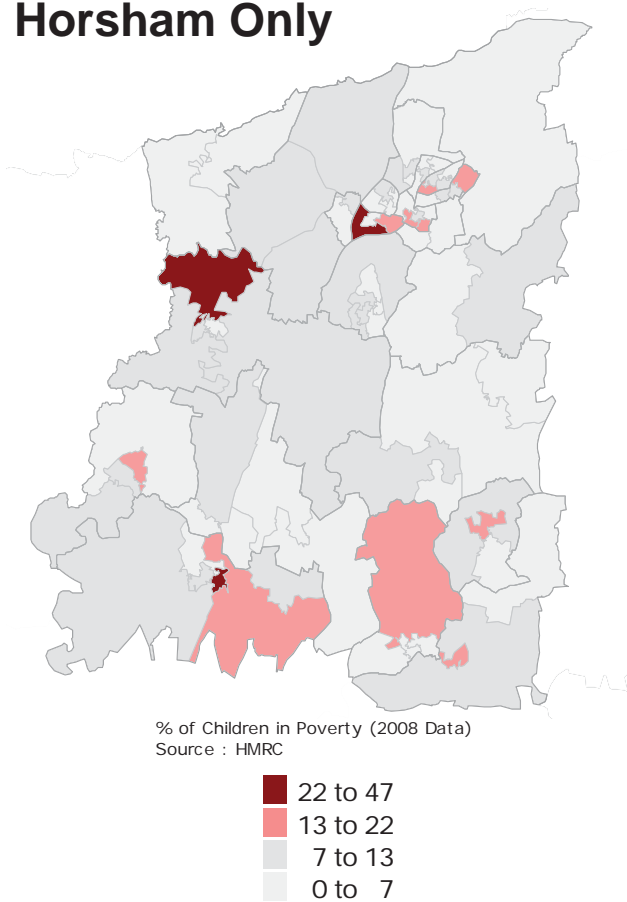
**LSOAs in Horsham by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (Decile 1 includes highest % child poor)**

- In Horsham District, 20,801 (66.4%) of all children and young people achieve five or more GCSEs at A\* - C to grade compared to 53.8% across West Sussex.
- GCSE achievement varies by ward. As an example, only 53.3% of students living in Denne Ward achieved at least 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE in the summers of 2009 and 2010 combined compared with 81.1% in neighbouring Forest Ward
- There are significant disparities between areas of affluence and deprivation in the district. Whilst no wards feature in the bottom 50% of the most deprived wards in the country as measured by the index of multiple deprivation some Local Super Output Areas (parcels of population comprising just 1500 people) in Roffey feature in the bottom 20%.



- 2,345 children and young people (8%) living in Horsham District live in poverty of which 203 live in Denne Ward alone. ie. 18% of children in Denne Ward). A child or young person living in poverty is:
  - less likely to achieve five GCSEs,
  - more likely to be unemployed,
  - more likely to live in a lone parent family, and
  - more likely to live in social housing.

### Child Poverty (2008 Data) Horsham Only



- 35% of children live with one parent, step parent, foster or care/guardian arrangements (of which 53 are in care whilst another 37 have been placed in care in the district from outside of the area)
- significant numbers of children are also carers (25 in Pulborough and 20 in Henfield alone)

- the demand for young peoples housing has grown (42 acceptances of 16-24 year olds in 2010/11 as opposed to 28 in 2008/9. This is in addition to the 48 units at the Horsham Y Centre)
- approximately 1300 children and young people in Horsham District have a disability and parents of 520 children and young people (under 16) in Horsham District are claiming Disability Living Allowance.
- 481 dependent children live in homes without central heating
- Just over one in twenty (6.1%) young people aged 16 – 24 years had been a victim of domestic violence and 16.5% of young men, and 12.6% of young women, had witnessed domestic violence
- Horsham District has the highest reported levels of regularly depressed young people in compared to other areas of West Sussex (1 in 10) and highest levels of self reported cyber and physical bullying in West Sussex
- Horsham District has the highest numbers of 14-15 year olds who regularly drink or binge drink alcohol in West Sussex
- significant proportions of young people are experimenting with drugs (20% of 14-15 year olds had tried cannabis)
- Almost two thirds of families are potentially limited in access to a car at times when they may be seeking activities for their children
- 15.2% of year 6 pupils are considered to be obese and Horsham District has the lowest % of children and young people who are very active 30 minutes/day 5 times per week in West Sussex

- 27 young people in The Horsham District were the subject of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts between April 2010 and March 2011 and one anti-social behaviour order was obtained.

## Section 2 Principles of working

In delivering this strategy, we will adhere to the following:

- When considering service delivery for children and young people, their needs will be put first – within the constraints of our finite resources we will listen, be fair and open and do what we say we will do
- More for less - whilst this plan identifies a significant number of objectives there are considerable pressures on Council resources. Actions will be prioritised on the basis of ‘where they will make the most difference in terms of outcomes’ and unnecessary expenditure will be eliminated.
- More for less - we will continue to reduce the burden on the taxpayer by generating income from many activities and by seeking external resources to address new challenges.
- We will determine the most cost effective means of providing the selected service, pursuing an optimum balance between the use of internal & external agencies & maximising internal efficiency through ongoing use of redesign principles.
- We will kick start new activities and provide training and leadership so that these activities can be independently sustained through partners and volunteers
- Inclusion - we will respect, celebrate and harness diversity
- We will promote fairness and good community relations
- We will listen to our parish partners and, within financial constraints, will act where there is evidence of need
- We will use best practice models i.e. what works
- We will embrace innovation and creativity - providing the best solutions
- We will monitor and evaluate performance against targets

Friday Night @ Costa



## Section 3: The Objectives

The objectives detailed in this plan address local priorities, county priorities and national priorities. For ease of understanding they have been aligned to demonstrate how they meet the national priorities of

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

### Be Healthy

Our vision is for every child and young person in The Horsham District to have access to quality advice and support so that they can lead healthy lifestyles appropriate to their age, culture, ethnicity and gender, as well as any individual needs.

#### 1) Decrease consumption of alcohol and drugs among young people

- Direct and focus the activities of the Horsham District Alcohol Intervention Project commissioned by Horsham District Council through combined funding from the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Review licences of vendors who sell alcohol and cigarettes to under 18s, working with the Police and West Sussex County Council Trading Standards
- Co-ordinate alcohol awareness campaign through the Community Safety Partnership

- Maintain and expand outreach advice and alternative activities such as the Youth Support Team, Costa Coffee, the Snack Wagon and the Purple Bus.

#### 2) Reduce the levels of childhood obesity through encouraging healthy and active lifestyles

- Maintain Sports and Social Inclusion programmes and Arts and Social Inclusion programmes for children and young people
- Deliver 'whole family' activity interventions to targeted families through MEND ( Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it) programmes
- Involve children and family centres in joint planning of Health and Wellbeing Services

#### 3) Promote health and reduce health inequalities

- Seek to establish a Family Intervention Project for 8 of the most troubled and troublesome families in the District through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Work with partners to deliver targeted parenting support through time limited education programmes
- Work with Carers UK and other partners within the framework of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership to establish and address the needs of young carers



## Stay Safe

We believe that the children and young people of the Horsham District should be protected from harm, neglect or abuse, whether in their homes or in their communities, and encouraged to choose not to participate in criminal activity.

### 1) Equip young people with the skills to be able to recognise and minimise dangerous situations

- Provide Junior Citizen life skills training programme with Year Six pupils
- Deliver 3 'Revolution' behaviour change courses to the most troubled and troublesome teenagers each year
- Support the work of agencies providing advice and personal development programmes for young people. eg. Connexions, Y Centre, Youth Information Shop, Horsham Matters.

### 2) Protect children and young people from harm

- Maintain training for staff in line with the corporate safeguarding policy



- Make sure that all staff and elected members who may come into direct contact with children and young people are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau
- Continue to vet all taxi drivers and their vehicles to protect users
- Be an active member within West Sussex Domestic Violence forums
- Maintain the Safe at Home scheme that allows families in fear of domestic violence to remain in their own homes at their local school
- Use Secured By Design standards to deter criminal activity in new housing developments
- Maintain risk assessments for all projects and services for children and young people

### 3) Take action to reduce the number of young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system

- Secure funding to maintain the anti-social behaviour case workers employed by the Council but funded through the Community Safety Partnership
- Maintain work with families, schools and the police to assist at-risk young people and develop and enforce Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- When necessary, issue Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (or any successor product) to protect the public
- Seek to provide appropriate activities and facilities for young people to deter them from taking part in criminal activity as a way to relieve boredom

## Enjoy and Achieve

Across the Horsham District we would like to see all children and young people achieve their full potential in their educational journey and through sporting, cultural and leisure opportunities.

### 1) Increase the number of children and young people taking up opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity

- Maintain Sports and Social Inclusion programmes for children and young people
- Continue to help voluntary organisations through funding advice and support with applications to funding organisations
- Continue to help parish and community partners deliver facilities to meet children and young people's needs such as Needles Children and Family Centre, Southwater Skate Park and the Billingshurst Eye Project
- Protect and enhance open space, sport and recreation facilities through Council policy. Ensure appropriate community facilities, open space and recreation facilities are delivered as part of new development

### 2) Increase the number of children and young people taking up opportunities to participate in culture and leisure activities

- Maintain Arts and Social Inclusion programmes for children and young people
- Encourage young people to be involved in any significant Horsham District cultural events via live music, dance, drama, carnival and other art forms

- Seek to extend opportunities for active recreation for children and young people via our leisure facilities and green space

### 3) Contribute to increasing educational attainment, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas

- Seek to establish a Family Intervention Project for 8 of the most troubled and troublesome families in the District through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Prepare children for school by making sure they are in stable households and not bed and breakfast accommodation
- Work with the faith sector to establish more family support initiatives



## Make a Positive Contribution

The children and young people of the Horsham district should be given the opportunities to participate in the lives of their communities, to develop their self-confidence through interacting with others and to learn about democratic society so that they become empowered citizens.

### 1) Increase the number of young people that know about and take part in the democratic process

- Encourage more young people to take part in events such as Speak Out, Takeover Day or Local Democracy Week
- Offer the Council Chamber to schools to develop activities, as appropriate
- Visit to schools to talk about the local democratic system, including Council Tax, Voting and contacting Councillors
- Review the way we consult/engage

### 2) Increase the number of children and young people engaging in community and voluntary activity

- Provide more opportunities for children and young people to get involved, such as coaching assistants, Junior Wardens, Ready and Able helpers, Health Walk leaders
- Encourage parishes to seek the opinions of children and young people when producing parish and town plans
- Work with Outset Youth action and the Horsham Volunteer Centre to promote volunteering opportunities and levels of take up among young people
- Improve the trust between generations through intergenerational cultural and community projects

### 3) Support youth engagement and empowerment

- Promote the work we do with young people and the achievements we make together through proactive communications to appropriate media
- Involve young people in the design and development of facilities, whether aimed at them directly (e.g. youth club) or indirectly (e.g. leisure centre)



## Achieve Economic Well-Being

We aspire to see every child and young person in the Horsham District living in decent homes and sustainable communities, as well as engaging in further education, training or employment on leaving school, so that they may live free from poverty and deprivation and reach their economic potential.



### 1) Help and encourage more young people (aged 16 - 19) to engage in education, employment or learning opportunities

- Support the development of a skills policy to provide school leavers with more opportunities to learn skills needed by local businesses
- Maintain a work experience programme to encourage interest in careers in the public sector
- Work with partners such as Job Centre Plus, West Sussex County Council and the faith sector to reduce the number of 16 to 19 year olds not in employment, education or training
- Investigate the potential for additional apprenticeships and internships for local young people within the Council

### 2) Seek to help children to live in decent homes

- Improve the condition of private rented housing through grants scheme so that homes are warm, dry and secure
- Deliver affordable housing through planning policy
- Deliver the appropriate mix of housing, both market housing and affordable housing, to meet needs
- Actively encourage the development of high quality social housing
- Support programmes that aim to reduce fuel poverty
- Continue to purchase properties to alleviate use of Bed and Breakfast as temporary accommodation when families are become homeless

- Continue the use of rent deposits to obtain housing in the private rented centre when social housing is unavailable
- Work with social services to ensure that 16 -17 year olds are not 'bounced between agencies' when in need of housing or requiring mediation to stay in their homes
- Maintain Disabled Facilities Grants for families in need

### 3) Reduce deprivation levels and encourage sustainable communities

- Seek to establish a Family Intervention Project for the most troubled and troublesome families in the District through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- Use planning policies to help children and young people to have access to play and recreation space in new developments.
- Use the Local Development Framework to forward plan for the District, maintaining and creating sustainable communities.

## Section 4 Delivering The Plan

A significant amount of activity is already being undertaken in pursuit of these objectives.

Whilst most of this activity is reflected through departmental service plans or work programmes the table below provides a summary of current delivery and delivery status.

It is an evolving document and will be reviewed periodically with activities being prioritised or rationalised on the basis of resources available, evaluation of outcomes and alignment with partner priorities so that there is no duplication of provision and best use of voluntary partners.

Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
Direct and focus the activities of the Horsham District Alcohol Intervention Project	Community Safety/ Community Development	Preferred supplier selected. Project commences July 2011
Review licences of vendors when required by Police and Trading Standards	Community Safety/ Environmental Health	Ongoing. Activity targeted in response to local intelligence.
Deliver alcohol awareness campaigns	Community Safety	Ongoing through seasonal and targeted geographic campaigns
Seek to maintain and expand outreach health advice	Community Development	Ongoing via Snack Wagon, Purple Bus and parish specific work
Seek to maintain Sports and Arts Social Inclusion programmes	Community Development/ Leisure	Ongoing programmes for rurally isolated, disabled and disenfranchised.
Deliver 'whole family' activity interventions to targeted families	Community Development	Currently delivering one programme a year for targeted and referred families.
Involve children and family centres in joint planning of Health and Wellbeing Services	Community Development	The centres now have a permanent representative on the Partnership Board
Seek to establish a Family Intervention Project for 8 of the most troubled and troublesome families in the District	Community Development/ Community Safety	Currently negotiating with partners within Health and wellbeing Partnership. No start date.
Work with partners to deliver targeted parenting support through time limited education programmes	Community Development	Delivering 3 courses a year through funding from the Community Safety Partnership.
Work with Carers UK to establish and address the needs of young carers	Community Development	Meeting scheduled for July 2011 to explore plans and potential funding through Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
Provide Junior Citizen Lifeskills training programme	Community Safety	Over a 1000 year 6 pupils trained each year
Deliver 3 'Revolution' behaviour change courses to the most troubled and troublesome teenagers each year	Community Safety	3 courses per year being delivered resulting in 70% reduction in reoffending
Support the work of agencies providing advice and personal development programmes for young people	Community Development	Work ongoing with WSCC, Y Centre, Outset Youth Volunteering, Families and Friends network for substance misuse
Maintain training for officers and members in line with the corporate safeguarding policy	Community Development	Started in 2010 and new members currently being trained
Make sure that all staff who may come into direct contact with children and young people are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau	All departments	Although this is being done a central register is planned to ensure all checks are up to date.
Continue to vet taxi drivers and their vehicles to protect users	Environmental Health	Ongoing
Be an active member within West Sussex Domestic Violence forums	Housing Services	Officers sit on multi agency meetings and assist with solutions such as 'Safe at Home' scheme
Maintain the Safe at Home scheme that allows families in fear of domestic violence to remain in their own homes at their local school	Housing Services	7 families helped in 2010/11 but use of this solution is dependent on agreement of partner agencies and victim.
Use Secured By Design standards to deter criminal activity in new housing developments	Strategic Planning and Development Management	Police officers have been involved in planning the developments for West of Horsham and Bewbush.

Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
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Maintain risk assessments for all projects and services for children and young people	All departments	Assessments are checked and updated on an annual basis.
Secure funding to maintain the anti-social behaviour case workers	Community Safety	Funding secured until March 2013 and being redesigned to ensure continuance thereafter.
Work with families, schools and the police to develop and enforce Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	Community Safety	27 contracts issued in 2010/11 and work ongoing
Issue Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (or any successor product) to protect the public	Community Safety	1 order obtained in 2010/11 and monitoring agencies for details of new product.
Provide appropriate activities to deter CYP from taking part in criminal activity as a way to relieve boredom	Community Development and Leisure Services	Extensive range of facilities and activities provided on a rolling and developmental basis
Help voluntary organisations through funding advice and support with applications to funding organisations	Community Development	Over 100 organisations have accessed funding through support over last 3 years
Encourage parish and community partners to deliver facilities to meet children and young people's needs	Community Development and Leisure Services	Skateparks in 7 parishes, basketball areas in 23 areas, work with Billingshurst and other parishes to establish facilities for indoor youth work
Protect and enhance open space, sport and recreation facilities through Council policies. Ensure appropriate community facilities, open space, sport and recreation facilities are delivered as part of new developments.	Strategic Planning	Children's Play, BMX tracks and Skateparks secured and broader leisure provision for West of Horsham and/or West of Bewbush
Seek to minimise use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families with children	Housing Services	3 new temporary homes purchased in 2010/11 and 5 more purchased or under offer

Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
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Work with the faith sector to establish more family support initiatives	Community Development	Follow up to 2009 conference taking place in July 2011
Review the way we consult/engage with children and young people	Community Development	Review completed and changes to approach anticipated
Help to provide more opportunities for children and young people to get involved	All departments	Work experience and apprenticeships established in some departments and training cohort looking at potential to expand
Promote volunteering opportunities and levels of take up among young people	Community Development	Established programmes within sports coaching and arts activities. Expansion dependent on capacity.
Improve the trust between generations through cultural and community projects	Community Development/ Strategic Planning	Programmes between 2005 – 2009 have been reduced but targeted work still undertaken in response to local issues
Help to maintain mix of leisure facilities and children and young peoples activity programmes therein	Leisure	Good district wide direct or facilitated facilities and programmes
Promote the work we do with young people and the achievements we make together through proactive communications to appropriate media	Communications Officer	Regular press releases provided by Community Safety and Community Development Officers
Involve young people in the design and development of facilities	Community Development and Leisure Services	Now an established approach to skateparks and other youth facilities.
Provide and fit Child Safety equipment (Stair gates and fire guards) for vulnerable families.	Environmental Health	Ongoing

Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
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Help to provide school leavers with more opportunities to learn skills needed by local businesses	Community Development	12 young people taken on in 2010/11 but future opportunities will be guided/limited by government funding and shape of new schemes
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Maintain a work experience programme to encourage interest in careers in the public sector	Community Development	Over 20 young people accommodated in 2010/11
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Monitor and improve air quality.	Environmental Health	The young in addition to the elderly and infirm are particularly susceptible to air quality. We support Air Alert which advises people of poor air quality episodes. We have declared one Air Quality Management Area and are about to declare another one
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Work with partners such as Jon Centre Plus ,West Sussex County Council and the faith sector to deliver NEET courses	Community Development	Work established with WSCC and new programme in conjunction with YMCA started in 2011/12.
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Ensure food safety and health and safety standards are maintained in premises for which we are responsible which include premises used by children and young people.	Environmental Health	Ongoing
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Actively encourage the development of high quality social housing for families and young adults. Deliver the appropriate mix of housing both market housing and affordable housing to meet needs.	Strategic Planning/ Housing	Standards established for new developments and working with Registered Providers on refurbishment and rationalisation programmes
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Continue the use of rent deposits to obtain housing in the private rented centre when social housing is unavailable	Housing Services	39 deposits issued in 2010/11 and 40 targeted for 2011/12
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Action	Lead department(s)	Current Status
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Adhere to the requirements of the West Sussex Joint Action Protocol to ensure that 16 -17 year olds are assessed by Children's Services and placed in suitable accommodation for their support needs.	Housing Services	New protocol adopted in April 2011 and multi agency training is in progress.
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Monitor demand for Council grants for heating repairs and replacement and research alternative funding streams (for example the Green Deal and West Sussex Credit Union (ethical lenders)	Environmental Health	Update required
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Promote affordable energy to improve thermal qualities of homes, tackling fuel poverty	Sustainability (Policy and Performance)	New promotional material developed. Targeting analysis underway
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Improve the condition of private rented housing through grants scheme so that homes are warm, dry and secure	Environmental Health	10 properties brought back to rental standard in 2010/11
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Actively encourage the development of high quality social housing for families and young adults. Deliver the appropriate mix of housing, both market housing and affordable housing to meet needs.	Strategic Planning/ Housing	Standards established for new developments and working with Registered Providers on refurbishment and rationalisation programmes
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Provide private sector housing financial assistance including Disabled Facilities Grants.	Environmental Health	Last year 30% of the Minor Repair Grants went to families and 3.9% of Disabled Facilities Grants (18.6% of the budget) were for the benefit of children and young people
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Action

Lead department(s)

Current Status

Ensure that private rented property is of a good standard.

Environmental Health

Where necessary we take enforcement action to ensure housing is free of hazards as prescribed by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System

Use the Local Development Framework to forward plan for the District, maintaining and creating sustainable communities.

Strategic Planning

The Local Development Framework is already guiding development in the District. Review of these document will continue to plan for sustainable communities.





## Section 5

### Links to other Strategies and Organisations

This plan has links to strategies and plans of other organisations including:

West Sussex Co-operative  
(previously the West Sussex Strategic Community Partnership)

West Sussex Children's Trust Children and Young People's Plan

West Sussex Child Poverty Strategy

West Sussex Think Family Programme

HDC Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

HDC Local Development Framework (planning)

HDC Housing Strategy / Homelessness Strategy

HDC Empty Homes Strategy

HDC Contaminated Land Strategy

Youth Matters

Children Act 2004 – Every Child Matters

Horsham District Sustainable Community Strategy

Horsham District Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

Horsham District Health Inequalities Plans

West Sussex Probation Plans

West Sussex Domestic Violence Strategy

Coast To Capital Local Economic Partnership

West Sussex Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

## Glossary

### A

#### Acceptable Behaviour Contract

A Voluntary agreement between the individual and the agencies regarding future behaviours. This normally lasts 6 months and can be extended. An ABC may run in conjunction with a court order for a criminal offence, or alongside other intervention/support.

Breach of the conditions of contract could result in further action being taken, such as eviction, injunction or an ASBO. There are however no penalties for the breach itself.

#### Alcohol Intervention Project

A project to reduce harm caused by alcohol which has been commissioned from Central Sussex YMCA by Horsham District Council through combined funding from the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Partnership

### B

### C

#### Children Act 2004

This is the document that sets out the contents of the 'Every Child Matters' paper into law

### D

#### The District Plan

This sets out the priorities for Horsham District Council for 2011-2016

### E

#### 'Every Child Matters'

This paper sets out how the Government wants to reform public services for children and young people from 0 – 19 years old.

## F

### Fuel Poverty

Not being able to afford to heat your home to a suitable temperature (defined by the Government as more than 10 per cent of your income).

## H

### Hear By Right Standard

A standard framework for organisations across the public (e.g. councils) and voluntary sectors to assess and improve practice and policy on the active involvement of children and young people in their work.

### Horsham District Community Safety Partnership

Members include: Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council, NHS West Sussex, the Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Probation Services

### Horsham District Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Members include: Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council, NHS West Sussex, the Police, representatives from the voluntary sector and faith groups.

## L

### Local Neighbourhood Improvement Area

An area where a substantive number of wards rank in the the top 20% most deprived wards in the country based on the index of multiple deprivation.

### Local Democracy Week

A national event each October that gives young people the chance to get involved in and learn about politics and local decision making.

### Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework through Spatial Planning influences the nature of places and how they function. The documents forward plan for the District, maintaining and creating sustainable communities. A key function being setting out the locations for development and policies to determine planning applications against.

## S

Scale of Multiple Deprivation

Describes levels of poverty in an area through a number of indicators: income, employment, health, education, housing and access to services

Secured by Design

Using clever planning of new and old buildings to minimise opportunities for crime e.g. street lighting, alleyways

Social exclusion

Related to levels of poverty, it is often associated with particular groups of people (elderly, disabled, ethnic minorities) or particular deprived estates, towns or cities. The situation of these groups of people prevents them from taking part in society to their full potential

Supporting People

Programme that offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve their quality of life by providing a stable environment for living.

Sustainable Community Strategy

A long-term vision for an area that sets the main priorities and actions needed to be done to get there.

## T

Think Family

An early intervention & prevention programme designed to help keep families together and prevent the need for high cost 'later life' interventions for the most troubled and troublesome families. At present WSCC is only funding programmes in Local Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

## U

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

An international document that most countries have agreed. It lists the rights that every child under 18 should have in those countries.

## W

The West Sussex Cooperative (formerly the West Sussex Public Service Board/ The West Sussex Strategic Partnership)

This comprises public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations, all working together to improve the quality of life for those who live, work in and visit West Sussex.

## Y

'Youth Matters'

A paper written by the Government that sets out a plan to provide young people with things to do, places to go and someone to talk to.







