

# Our priorities for the next three years and how we will deliver them

The preceding two sections have outlined our progress since the last Children and Young People's Plan and the results of our most recent consultation exercise. In preparing this new Plan we have, in addition, reviewed a wide range of other information. For example, we have looked at all of the most recent guidance from central government, and have analysed other local plans and strategies that might have a bearing on this one. A full list is at Appendix C.



At the same time, we have made sure that our new priorities are based on a thorough examination of all of the statistical data available to us. The YorOK partners between them collect a wide range of information, and we have been keen to ensure that we have the most up-to-date picture of recent trends in York and how we compare with other cities that are similar to ours.

All of these pieces of the jigsaw – a combination of facts, figures, guidance, opinions and dreams – have been put together to construct our new priorities. This section sets out where we stand now and what our top priorities are for the next three years. There are twenty-five in all, which may sound a lot, but this reflects the range of our responsibilities and the scale of our ambitions. The Plan is all about improving outcomes for children and young people, and these priorities will be the main focus of our activities from 2009 until 2012.

We have followed the usual format of grouping these together under the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes, since these are widely recognised as being a helpful way of ensuring that we consider the development of children and young people from all angles. There is a sixth section that covers how we manage our services.

The only downside to grouping our priorities this way is that sometimes the divisions are a little artificial. For example, working with parents could come under almost any heading, while much of our early intervention work is designed to produce positive outcomes in all five areas. It is important not to get 'hung up' about where a priority appears – if it is a priority, we must tackle it regardless.

One other thing needs to be said at the outset of this section: these are just our priorities, not a complete description of everything we do. And for almost all of those that are mentioned there will be many supporting plans and documents – the purpose of this Plan is simply to highlight in a few words those areas that we have agreed are the most important.