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Date: 26 September 2006

## **COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW 2007**

### **Call for Evidence: DfES/HM Treasury Joint Policy review on Children and Young People**

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 and provide a small sample of some Kent initiatives which we hope will be of interest to you.

There is a 'golden thread' that runs through our strategic policy development and that is our 'Supporting Independence Programme' (see [www.kent.gov.uk/sip](http://www.kent.gov.uk/sip)). The Supporting Independence Programme aims to help people to lift themselves out of dependency and into independence, employment and more fulfilling lives that enable them to take responsibility for themselves, their families and their future. Five of the ten groups we concentrate upon are:

- School leavers with low educational attainment
- Adult and young offenders
- Young people in care or leaving care
- Lone and teenage parents
- People lacking basic life and social skills and who lack basic literacy or numeracy skills

We have not developed these in isolation, within the County Council. Many of the initiatives described are developed with partners, including the private sector and the third sector. The partners that comprise the Kent Partnership (Kent's sustainable community strategy) has developed the 'Vision for Kent'. This sets the direction of travel for all the key players who are working to improve the quality of life for everyone in Kent (see [www.kentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.kentpartnership.org.uk))

The Kent Partnership, with the support of the Kent Public Service Board, had strategic oversight of the development of the Kent Local Area Agreement. In common with other LAAs this has a series of outcomes that relate to services for children and young people.

The County Council has its own ambitious goals set out in 'Towards 2010'. This contains 63 commitments to the people of Kent. These include such areas as early years education, multi-agency support to parents, careers advice, offering 'master classes', expanding vocational training, introducing a Kent Apprenticeship scheme and 'Skills Force programme, launching a range of community-based healthy eating pilots, increasing young people's awareness of the damaging affects of smoking, alcohol, drugs, and early or unprotected sex.

Finally, our emerging Kent Children's Trust arrangements are committed to ensuring that beneath the high level strategic vision and partnership arrangements there are effective local cross cutting planning, commissioning and service delivery mechanisms to guarantee effective services for local need.