



Denbighshire Children & Young People's Single Plan

Consultation Process & Outcomes 2007-2008



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Denbighshire Children & Young People's Plan has been developed over the last 18 months through engagement and involvement of a wide range of children, young people, organisations, groups and partners to reach its publication date of the 30th September 2008.
- 1.2 To supplement the Single Plan and its supporting documentation, this document highlights the consultation process, the results that we gathered and how we utilised those results to determine the agreed partnership priorities for the Single Plan 2008-2011.
- 1.3 The Single Plan reflects the needs and priorities of children & young people in Denbighshire and, after agreement with the partnership, concentrates on those priorities that, by working together, the partnership can make a positive difference to the lives of children & young people in Denbighshire.

2. How We Consulted

- 2.1 The initial consultation occurred during the development of the Needs Assessment. It was important to be as inclusive as possible in our determination of the needs of children & young people.
- 2.2 The research and collation of information was carried out by the partnership team. The information was sourced from a wide range of partners to encompass a broad baseline for the assessment.
- 2.3 In addition children & young people were involved in a series of workshops and activities to ascertain their views of needs for the county. These included work during democracy week in 2007 and specific workshops carried out by Barnardos with a range of young people with disabilities.
- 2.4 Schools were involved in the process, and in particular an intensive questionnaire exercise with pupils in years 7 to 10 at Ysgol Glan Clwyd.
- 2.5 The draft needs assessment formed part of the consultation process for discussing the emerging priorities and, through a series of drafting, discussion and approval, the final priorities identified within the Single Plan.
- 2.6 The Single Plan sought to reflect a needs led set of priorities that services, support and activities, delivered through the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, would respond to in order to improve the lives of children & young people in Denbighshire.
- 2.7 A series of workshops, events, questionnaires and meetings were convened. Two main workshops were arranged as follows:
 - a) Workshop 1 - attendees: Member of Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership,



Community Safety Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Local Service Board. This workshop developed first draft priorities.

b) Workshop 2 attendees: Wider multi-agency attendance to discuss and amend the Needs Assessment and also agree initial priority areas.

2.8 The Single Plan Task & Finish Group refined the emerging priorities based on the two workshop outcomes, for further consultation with the wider partnership, children & young people, parents, carers, the general public and those working with and supporting children & young people.

2.9 Opportunities to feed into the plan were provided in different ways. These included

- Structured consultation events targeted at key groups such as Council staff, Council members, voluntary and community sectors
- Staff meetings and/or staff 'Awaydays'
- Discussion at Scrutiny and member meetings
- Headteachers conference
- Focus groups with parents and carers
- Websites
- Leaflets and Posters
- Partners consultation within their own organisations.
- DVSC supporting the Voluntary Sector Network
- Questionnaires

2.10 The Appendices attached provide a listing of some of the meetings and events that took place as part of the consultation process

2.11 A summary of the draft plan – an “easy read” format – together with consultation response form was distributed with the Draft Single Plan during the 12 week formal consultation period.

2.12 To enable children & young people to individually contribute a simplified poster was designed highlighting the main priority areas and asking for comments. This poster was also used within schools and other groups working with children & young people.

2.13 Therefore a range of accessible, bilingual consultation materials were developed and utilised to ensure a fully inclusive approach.



3. What Did You Tell Us?

The Draft Priorities for Consultation

- 3.1 For the purposes of consultation on the draft priorities, and to enable a clear collation and analysis of the responses, the Core Aims and priorities were placed into two sets of numbered tables. Information was collected for us to take the emerging priorities from the needs assessment (nearly 50) and reduce them to the priorities that had the most responses from our consultation on the draft plan. Each response was recorded and the results were collated:
- 3.2 The first table shows the reference numbers used for the children & young people's poster version on the form that simplified the priorities. These forms were utilised by children and young people in groups, schools, youth clubs, outreach youth work discussions etc and some parents and other individuals utilised the forms which were displayed at a range of venues across the county. Partners were asked to support and enable children & young people that they worked with to discuss and complete the poster.

Core Aim Reference	Priority for Consultation
CA 1.1	Early learning, health and well being
CA 1.2	Increase childcare availability
CA 1.3	More support for single parents
CA 2.1	To improve attendance and attainment at school
CA 2.2	Support children who need extra help
CA 2.3	New, exciting and alternative lessons and learning choices
CA 3.1	Help us to have healthy lives and to exercise more
CA 3.2	Help for children with mental health needs
CA 3.3	More things to help children with disabilities



CA 4.1	Better play and sports areas and transport to get there
CA 4.2	More things to do
CA 4.3	More choice of places to go and things to do when you get there
CA 5.1	We want to use the Welsh language more
CA 5.2	School councils and youth councils are important and should work together more
CA 5.3	Develop Youthden website so we can get more information from it
CA 6.1	We would like more safe, sustainable and affordable homes
CA 6.2	We need to feel safe at home, at school and in our community
CA 6.3	More housing and better care for vulnerable young people
CA 7.1	Help those affected by severe and persistent poverty
CA 7.2	Increase free school meals uptake
CA 7.3	Support ways to improve access to learning for all

3.3 The table that follows shows the reference numbers for the formal consultation that utilised the draft plan's consultation feedback form. This form was accessed through the website, at workshops, events and meetings and forwarded to partner organisations. The draft plan and formal consultation form were forwarded to our partners to enable views to be obtained from people that worked with and



supported children & young people, and available via the website, by request and in reception areas of a range of venues for individuals, parents, carers and members of the public who wanted to fully respond to the consultation.

Core Aim Reference	Draft Priority
CA 1.1	Increase Immunisation Rates
CA 1.2	Develop multi agency teams to support families with pre-school children including development of parenting skills. By evaluating the Flying Start Programme to identify impact and consider future developments .
CA 1.3	Develop the Foundation Phase in school and other early years settings across the county.
CA 1.4	Increase the range and provision of adoption services to children, parents and adopters through regional consortium arrangements.
CA 1.5	Implement the recommendations of the child care audit (Childcare Sufficiency Assessment).
CA 2.1	Implement the action plans in response to Estyn inspections of Local Authority Education Services and Youth Support Services and the Cambridge Education "Modernising Education" Report
CA 2.2	Devise and implement a systematic approach to multi-agency support for vulnerable children and young people - linked to school clusters/locality which supports the Prevention and Inclusion Strategy
CA 2.3	Reduce school absence for medical reasons including parents medical issues that impact on young carers.
CA 2.4	Increase accredited learning opportunities for young people in formal and non-formal settings.



CA 2.5	Continue to increase participation rates in education or learning after the age of 16 (including targeting NEETs and other vulnerable groups).
CA 3.1	Improve services for disabled children and their families and establishing multi-agency integrated services.
CA 3.2	Reduce the risk and incidence of obesity amongst Denbighshire's children and young people.
CA 3.3	Reduce childhood injury rate, focusing on children under 11.
CA 3.4	Increase community based sexual health services for young people.
CA 3.5	Address bullying for example through a multi-agency approach to counselling and support and peer mentoring programmes.
CA 3.6	Reduce the incidents of Drugs and alcohol misuse.
CA 3.7	Improve access to emotional health and CAMHS services.
CA 3.8	Continue to develop safeguarding work, including safeguarding communities toolkit
CA 4.1	Implement the Denbighshire Play Strategy
CA 4.2	Develop a range of activities and opportunities that are appropriate for and reflect young peoples interests.
CA 4.3	Develop Youth Den as single point of access for information for children and young people.



CA 5.1	Partners will update and implement a participation strategy and action plan
CA 5.2	Map the future likely ethnic, cultural, age and gender make-up of our county to enable development of appropriate services and support.
CA 5.3	Develop and encourage membership of schools councils, youth councils and youth forums as core participation opportunities.
CA 5.4	Support providers of services to children and young people to promote Welsh culture and the use of Welsh Language.
CA 5.5	Promote and provide volunteering opportunities for children and young people and link to accredited learning (including the Children's University initiative).
CA 5.6	Develop a range of accessible advocacy support across the county.
CA 6.1	Improve young people's access to a range of appropriate and affordable housing in their local communities.
CA 6.2	Develop multi-agency safeguarding children practice and support projects to address the needs of referrals through domestic abuse.
CA 6.3	Reduce youth crime.
CA 6.4	Reduce young people as victims of crime.
CA 7.1	Reduce the hurdles and barriers to benefit take up including free school meals.



CA 7.2	Deliver multi-agency schemes enabling young people and parents to have increased access to education, learning and employment
CA 7.3	Contribute to the WAG target of halving child poverty by 2010.
Working Together 1	Map the Workforce in detail to develop and prioritise recruitment/retention action in particular sections
Working Together 2	Produce a training catalogue and keep it updated.
Working Together 3	Continue to develop training packages for partners in support of key priorities in this Plan.

3.4 This provided a clarity in the information gathered, analysed and presented to the Strategic Partnership who agreed the changes to the plan, following the results of the consultation. We were able to record in a data base all the responses and then produce charts to show the % of people who chose each of the priorities. This meant we could rate the priorities according to the feedback from all the people who took part in the consultation.

3.5 We have received almost 200 written consultation responses to the draft Plan, representing the views of around 300 people. This splits between about 175 children and young people, the remainder the views of individual adults or professional groups. We have not received strong feedback from some groups eg parents, or young people beyond school age. The figures quoted here do not include those consulted at earlier stages of the Plan development process, so significantly more people have been involved in consultation events and workshops at earlier stages of development- this would more than double the numbers quoted here, though there would be some duplication.

3.6 We have not received many specific comments on the Vision, or to the questions:

- Is the Plan laid out in a way that makes it clear what we are trying to do?
- Is the language used understandable?
- Is it inviting and easy to read?

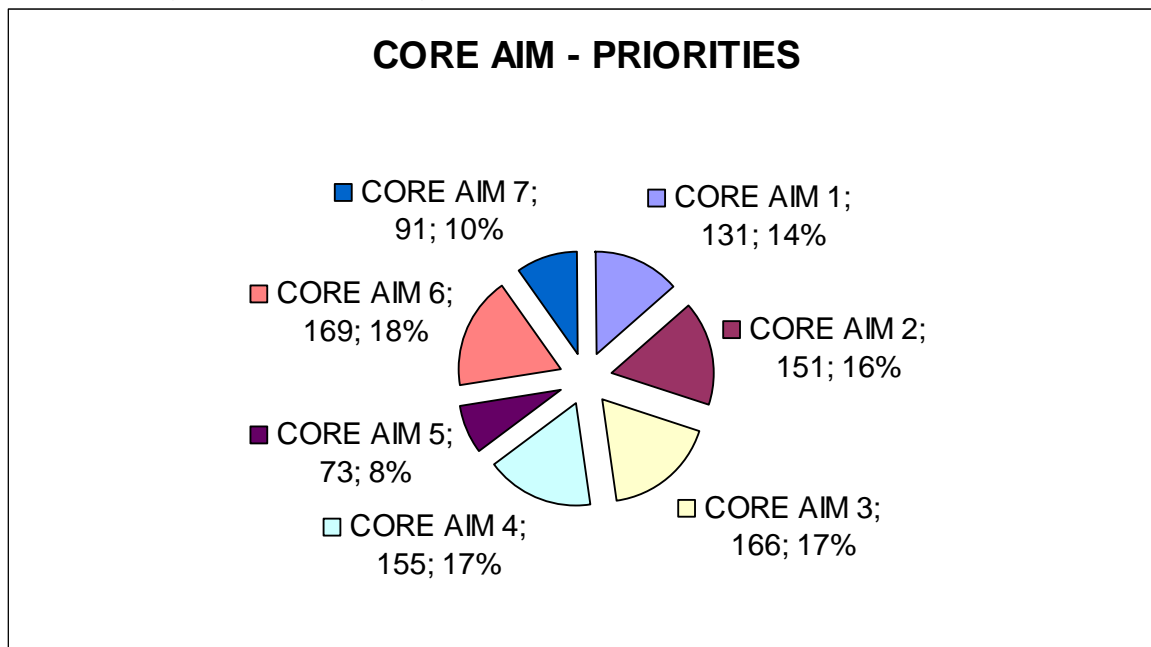
However, the comments received on these have all been positive, and some very positive



The Responses :

Children & Young People:

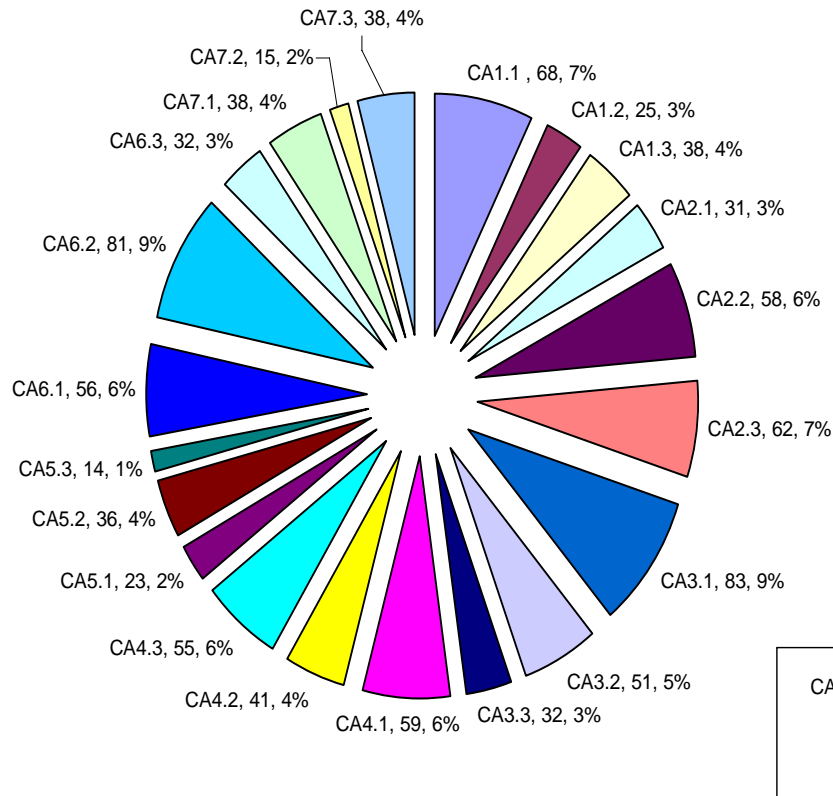
- 3.7 We had strong responses from children & young people throughout the whole process of developing both the needs assessment and the single plan. Over 500 young people from Ysgol Glan Clywd (years 7 to 10) took part in the needs assessment consultation, together with groups from Barnardos and other youth groups. These initial discussions helped us to bring together the “emerging priorities” from the needs assessment that we then used to put together the Draft Single Plan for further consultation.
- 3.8 Our poster responses, which were used by children and young people, show which of the Core Aims are most important. All core aims were responded to but CA 5, Respect and CA 7, Poverty had the lowest responses. The results show that learning, health and feeling safe were more important as priorities for children & young people in Denbighshire.



- 3.9 We then looked at the poster responses against each of the 3 priorities within each Core Aim and, from those that were responded to (some returns had chosen only to select the main heading) we found that responses were very evenly matched, but having healthy lives and exercising more came out top.



PRIORITIES - BREAKDOWN INTO SUB - CORE AIMS



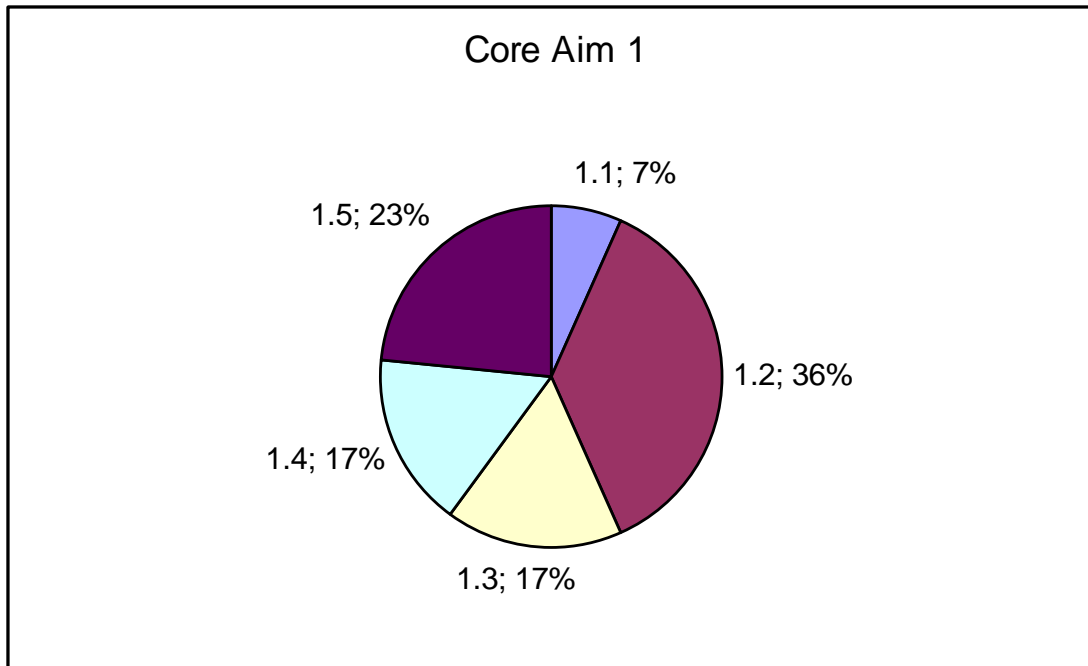
3.10 The top ten priorities from the 21 listed on the poster are:

1. help us to have healthy lives and to exercise more
2. we need to feel safe at home, at school and in our community
3. early learning, health and wellbeing for all children 0 - 7 years
4. new exciting and alternative lessons and learning choices
5. better play and sports areas and transport to get there
6. support children who need extra help
7. we would like more safe, sustainable and affordable housing
8. more choice of places to go and things to do when you get there
9. help for children with mental health needs
10. more things to do

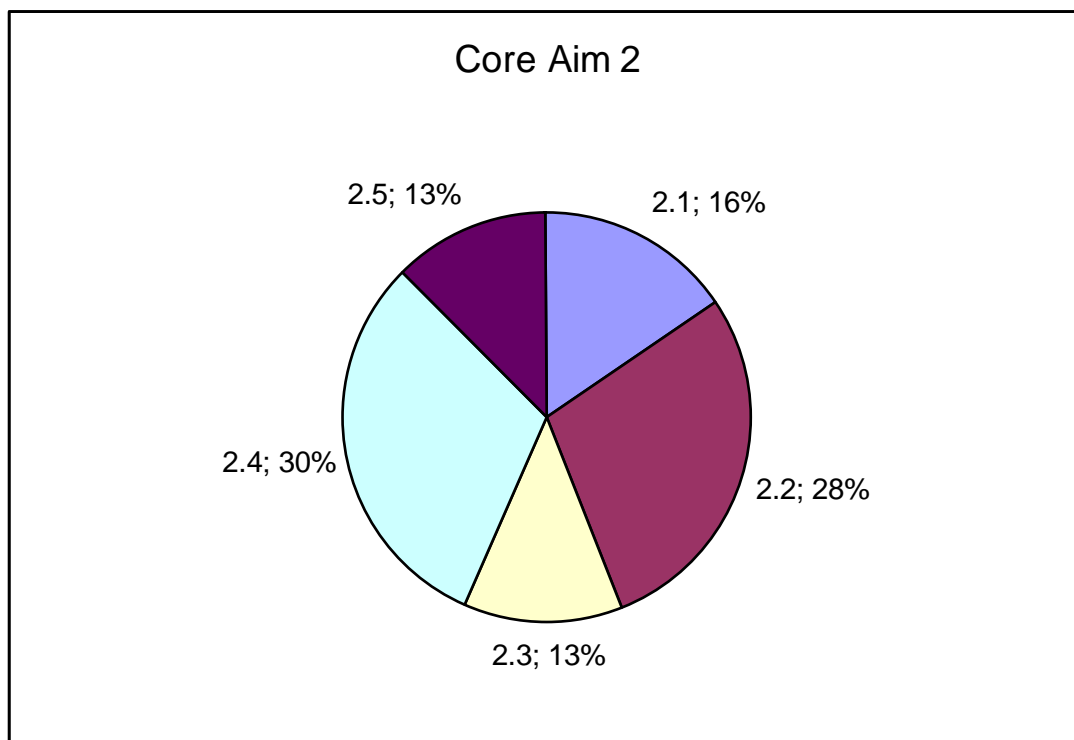
The top two received twice as many votes as number 10

Adults / Groups / Organisations / Partners

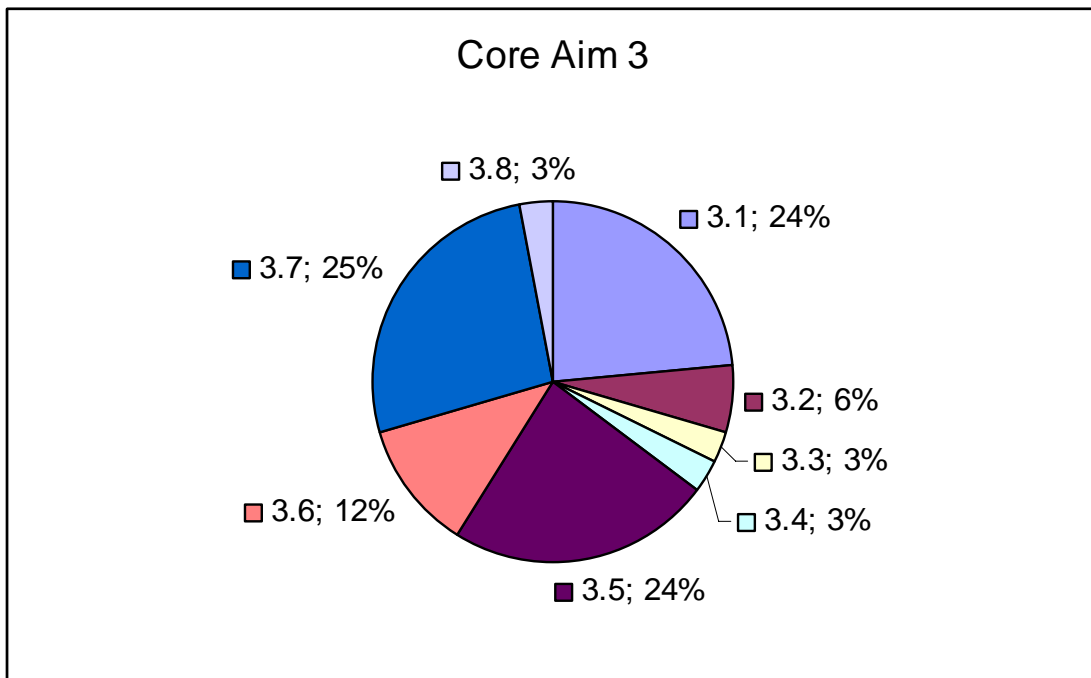
3.11 Information was collected for us to take the emerging priorities from the needs assessment (nearly 50) and reduce them to the priorities that had the most responses from our consultation on the draft plan. Each response was recorded and the following results were collated:



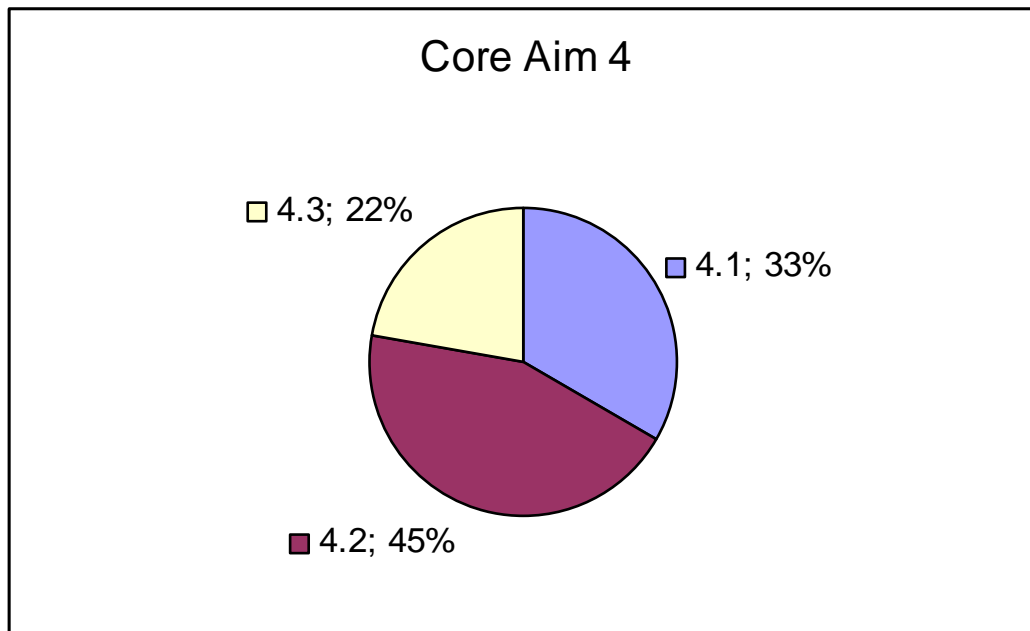
3.12 The results show that developing multi agency teams is a favoured approach to delivering Core Aim 1. Consortium approach to providing adoption services shared the third placed vote with developing the foundation phase. The low vote for immunisation does not reflect the government and health targets to increase immunisation take up. However it may be the lack of knowledge of the importance of immunisation with respondents that caused the low (7%) vote.



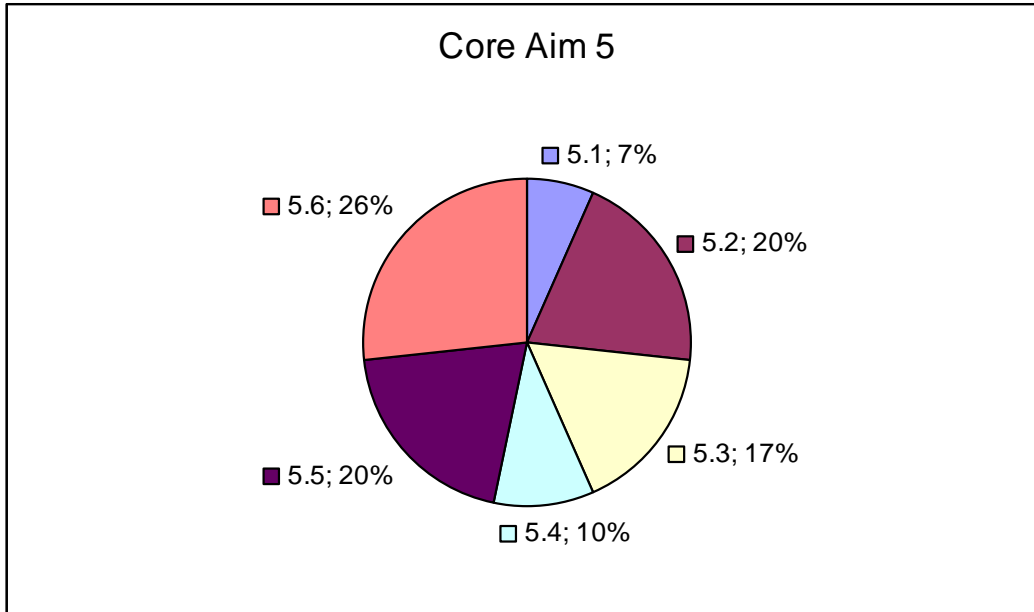
3.13 The split between the priorities in Core Aim 2 are relatively narrow, however once again the multi-agency approach to working has been given a high priority. Providing young people with opportunities for learning both at school and in groups, youth clubs and organisations was the top priority with 30%.



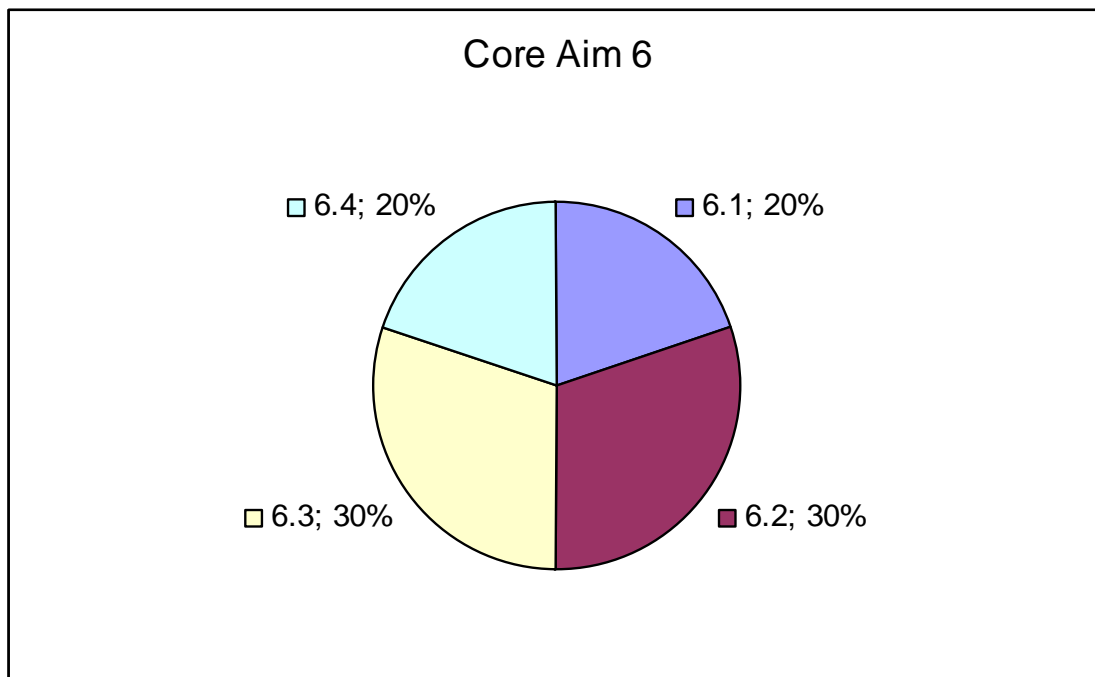
3.14 There are three priorities taking a quarter of the vote each, and once more the need to establish multi-agency integrated services has been identified. Anti-bullying counselling and peer mentoring and development of CAMHs taking the other two of the three top priorities.



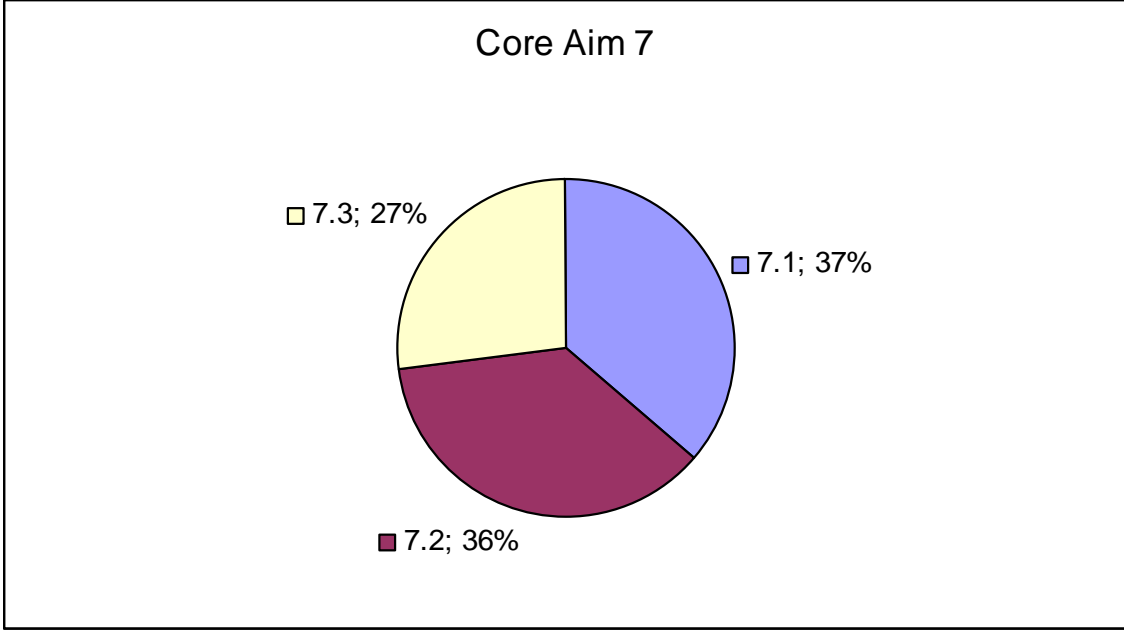
3.15 The Play, Sports, leisure and Culture priorities are fairly evenly spread, although Youth Den development as a point of information is the least favoured of the three. Respondents felt that developing the activities and opportunities that were relevant to young people what twice as important as developing an information service.



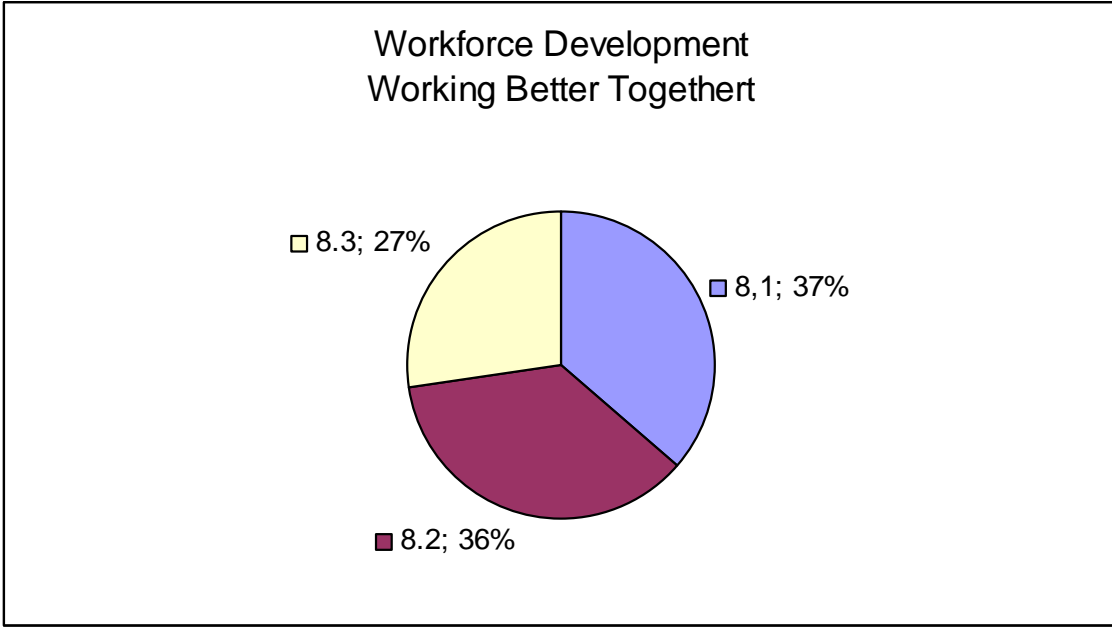
3.16 The top priority only showed a 6% lead against the joint second placed priorities showing that advocacy is an important issue for development. The opportunities for volunteering (5.5 with 20%) and mapping our future population (what will our county look like) for Denbighshire (5.2 20%) only just showed as preferred priorities to 5.3 development of youth forums, youth councils and school councils to increase participation of children & young people in decision making.



3.17 Access to affordable housing received 20% of a very balanced priority vote in Core Aim 6 with 30% to safeguarding of children, particularly against domestic abuse and 50% to the two priorities to reduce young people involved in crime, 30% to reduce youth crime and 20% to reduce young people as victims of crime.



3.18 The anti-poverty agenda can be supported by all the actions within the Single Plan and the even split between the three priorities suggests that there is no one priority that will meet the desired outcome, but a combination of actions. Reducing hurdles to accessing benefits and free school meals (37%) and multi-agency approaches to developing schools for increased access to education, learning and employment (36%) will help to contribute to the halving child poverty priority of the WAG (27%) which may explain the slightly higher voting placed on the first two actions.



3.19 The results for the workforce development show that there is no one significant priority but that following all three elements is important for improvements. Mapping the workforce to improve recruitment and retention, knowing what training is available and developing the training offer further were seen as equally important in the development of our workforce.



3.20 Overall adults voted fairly evenly, against a more detailed list of priorities. The top 8 for them (out of 37) were:

1. develop a range of activities and activities that are appropriate for and reflect young people's interests
2. develop multi-agency teams to support families with pre-school children including development of parenting skills, by evaluating the Flying Start programme to identify impact and consider future developments
3. increase accredited learning opportunities for young people in formal and informal settings
4. devise and implement a systematic approach to multi-agency support to vulnerable children and young people- linked to schools clusters/localities
5. improve access to emotional health and CAMHs services
6. implement the Denbighshire Play Strategy
7. develop multi-agency safeguarding practice and support projects to address the needs of referrals through domestic abuse
8. reduce youth crime

Lowest votes

3.21 The risks of making changes to the Plan solely determined by consultation "votes" are apparent if we look at the suggested priorities receiving a low number of votes. For children and young people, these were

- develop Youthden
- increase free school meals uptake
- we want to use the Welsh language more
- increase childcare availability

3.22 For adults, lowest scores were for

- continue to develop safeguarding
- increase community based sexual health services for young people
- reduce childhood injuries rate
- update and implement participation strategy
- reduce obesity
- increase immunisation rates

General Issues and Consultation Comments

3.22 Additional issues raised, or issues it was thought should receive greater priority, (usually by individuals or individual groups) included childcare, the needs of older young people, need for more provision/addressing issues in the south/rural areas of the county, safeguarding standards for groups offering services to children and young people.



3.23 Specific comments were received on the draft plan from Estyn. They stated that:

“The process in preparing the Single Plan has been generally effective. A wide range of partners contributed to the development of the draft plan. The draft plan is well structured and identifies clear priorities under each of its seven core aims. However, the local authority needs to work with its partners to ensure that all services understand how the priorities in the plan will be resourced. The draft plan does not clearly identify the amount of resources that will be required to deliver the plan. In addition, it does not make clear the links between the plan and education service delivery....”

3.24 Welsh Assembly Government have also provided a number of comments on the draft plan. The Estyn and WAG comments have been addressed within the final version of plan.

3.25 The Plan has been through a number of consultation and adoption procedures and all comments from these have been addressed within the final document. These have included Denbighshire County Council scrutiny, council and cabinet; Key Statutory Partners boards for approval, Impacts Assessment procedures and Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

4. How Did We Use the Information?

4.1 In the draft Plan, we had 23 priorities emboldened in the Plan for focus over the 3 year period.

4.2 There was no overwhelming steer from the consultation though some insights into possible emphasis were provided.

4.3 On the basis of all the above, the following changes to the Plan were approved by the Strategic Partnership:

1. Focus identified priorities on those that will directly impact on outcomes. This means grouping together most of the "better process" priorities (eg Youthden and the workforce related ones), and put them in a different section to the Core Aims. The main purpose of this is to maintain focus on outcomes as well as reducing the apparent number of priorities
2. Group priorities slightly differently - especially in Core Aims 1, 3 and 5. Those responding to the consultation seemed to relate strongly to some of the “umbrella” statements eg “Help us to have healthy lives and to exercise more”. These should appear as the headline priority, but specify work on particular topics (those already identified as priorities in the draft Plan) in linked work plans



3. Focus the priority actions under Core Aim 2 on Improving Attendance and Attainment at school.
 4. Add a further priority under Core Aim 2 "To ensure that every young person has the skills for further education and employment" and take the related aim out of core aim 7.
 5. Widen the priority under Core Aim 4 and include specific reference to transport
 6. Under Core Aim 5 amalgamate the actions relating to Participation Strategy and that relating to furthering use of School Councils, Youth Forums and Councils etc
 7. Keep the housing priority as written in core aim 6, but transfer here the "bullying" priority, making the clear link with "keeping us safe" (that children and young people have prioritised) and clearly reference other "keeping safe" work
 8. Have one umbrella priority in core aim 7, focusing on "helping those affected by severe and persistent poverty".
- 4.4 The final approved Single Plan has incorporated changes and developments as a direct result of the consultation process. Headings that were identified by children and young people have been utilised under each Core Aim, under which other priority work areas have been listed.
- 4.5 There are 10 Headline Priorities under the Core Aims with 25 Sub-Priorities under those main headlines. These sub-priorities guide the work to achieve the 10 headline Priorities.
- 4.6 The Children & Young People's Plan for Denbighshire
- Includes the priorities that have been identified as the most important by those people responding to the consultation,
 - Includes issues and priorities that have been identified from the knowledge, expertise and direct experiences of people working with and supporting children & young people
 - Includes and reflects national aims, objectives, initiatives and directives of the Welsh Assembly Government
 - Most importantly, the Children & Young People's Plan for Denbighshire reflects the priorities that the partnership believe, by working together, they can bring added value, improved outcomes and positive impact upon the lives of children & young people in Denbighshire.



Appendix 1:

DATE	ORGANISATION / SERVICE	NO. PARTICIPANTS
26/04/2007	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Meeting	35
26/07/2007	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Meeting	31
14/08/2007	Quality and Evaluation Working Group	8
17/08/2007	Health Organisations Group Interview	4
23/08/2007	Play, Leisure and Enrichment Working Group	15
29/08/2007	Disability Action Working Group	10
30/08/2007	Extending Entitlement Working Group	11
13/09/2007	Denbighshire Anti-Poverty Network	8
06/09/2007	Social Services Group Interview	2
11/09/2007	Learning Disabilities Forum	15
12/09/2007	Training and Workforce Development Group	10
12/09/2007	DVSC Network Event Consultation	12
18/09/2007	Voluntary Sector Group Interview	2
21/09/2007	Family Support Working Group	6
03/10/2007	Cymorth Projects Working Group	17
09/10/2007	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Meeting	30
16/10/2007	Quality and Evaluation Working Group	11
18/10/2007	Play, Leisure and Enrichment Working Group	7
25/10/2007	Early Years and Early Entitlement Working Group	15
30/10/2007	DVSC Staff Meeting	6
06/11/2007	Training and Workforce Development Group	12
13/11/2007	Participation Working Group	15
13/11/2007	Welsh Language Organisations Group	8
12/11/2007	Education Group Discussion	8
11/12/2007	Quality and Evaluation Working Group	10
09/01/2008	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Meeting	37
16/01/2008	Participation Working Group	12
17/01/2008	Single Plan Seminars Session 1	19
10/03/2008	Head Teachers Conference	48
18/03/2008	Training and Workforce Development Group	8
23/01/2008	Training and Workforce Development Group	8
24/01/2008	Single Plan Seminars Session 2	28
19/02/2008	Quality and Evaluation Working Group	6
20/02/2008	Extending Entitlement Working Group	9
25/02/2008	Key Decision Makers - Statutory Partner Meeting	8
26/02/2008	DVSC Network Event	15
27/02/2008	Councillors Area Meeting (South Area)	6
27/02/2008	Councillors Area Meeting (Rhyl Area)	6
28/02/2008	Early Years and Early Entitlement Working Group	16
03/03/2008	Councillors Area Meeting (Central Area)	8
04/03/2008	Local Service Board	18
06/03/2008	Headmasters Community Focussed Schools / Single Plan seminar	60
12/03/2008	Councillors Meeting (Prestatyn Area)	4
17/03/2008	Health CSF / Single Plan Workshops (2 x half day)	30
19/03/2008	Countryside and Leisure Senior Management team Meeting	8
19/03/2008	Chief Executive & Lead Corporate Directors DCC	3
28/03/2008	DVSC Directors Meeting - Presentation and Discussion on Single Plan	13



10/04/2008	Play, Leisure and Enrichment Working Group	11
10/04/2008	Impact Assessment - DCC	9
16/04/2008	Quality and Evaluation Working Group	6
31/04/2008	Environment Directorate Management Team DCC	6
28/04/2008	Early Years and Early Entitlement Working Group	14
30/04/2008	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Meeting	32
14/05/2008	Participation Working Group	9
21/05/2008	Training and Workforce Development Group	6
03/06/2008	Voluntary Sector Network meeting (South)	7
04/06/2008	Voluntary Sector Network meeting (North)	26
04/06/2008	Housing Seminar	27
06/06/2008	Rhyl Going Forward	2
10/06/2008	school Cluster Meeting (1)	8
11/06/2008	school Cluster Meeting (2)	9
12/06/2008	Key Decision Makers - Statutory Partner Meeting	7
13/06/2008	school cluster meeting (3)	14
16/06/2008	Communities First SW Rhyl	9
19/06/2008	School Cluster Meeting (4)	11
09/07/2008	Public Protection & Planning Team Meeting	8
23/07/2008	Anti Poverty Network - Single Plan Action planning	18
	TOTAL NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS	917



Appendix 2

DATE	GROUP	NO. PARTICIPANTS
19/10/2007	Democracy Day	32
22 to the 25 th October	Barnardo's Cymru "Young People's Rights"	25
02/11/2007	Kids Fun Club Event	15
19/11/2007	Keeping In Touch Project consultation	6
01/12/2007	Ysgol Glan Clwyd Questionnaires years 7,8,9,10	541
20/12/2007	Ysgol Brondyffryn	15
01/03/2008	Leaflets sent out to Schools	ALL SCHOOLS
21/03/2008	School Councils Easter Residential	35
15/04/2008	Ysgol Caer Drewyn	26
17/04/2008	Ysgol Cefn Meriadog	16
23/04/2008	Ysgol Pentre Celyn	15
24/04/2008	Barnardos children and Young People with Disabilities Group	11
12/05/2008	Ysgol Glan Clwyd Questionnaires on Single Plan Priorities	25
Total Participants		762