



Our Plan Your Plan

Draft Gwynedd Children and Young People's Plan

2008 - 2011

**Gwynedd Children and Young
People's Strategic Partnership**

May 2008

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Foreword

The children and young people of Gwynedd have the right to live happy, satisfied and safe lives, to voice their opinions and to have access to a range of opportunities, services and resources that will enable them to reach their full potential.

However, not every child and young person currently living in Gwynedd has access to the opportunities, services and resources that will enable them to enjoy life to the full, to voice their opinion and reach their full potential. This is due to a combination of factors such as poverty, poor health, insufficient housing, lack of affordable transport and low levels of skills and educational achievement.

Enabling children and young people to know what their rights are, to reach their full potential and to enjoy a positive way of life, therefore, are all priorities for the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The purpose of **Our Plan, Your Plan**, which is Gwynedd's first Children and Young People's Plan, is to clearly state the vision, priorities and intentions of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in order to promote the wellbeing being of all the children and young people of Gwynedd.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is fully committed to bring together many statutory and voluntary services and agencies as well as other strategic partnerships to co-operate in order to implement this important plan for the benefit of all the children and young people of Gwynedd. That is why we have decided to name Gwynedd's first Children and Young People's Plan **Our Plan, Your Plan**, as it is a plan for us as a Strategic Partnership and a plan for you, whether being a child, a young person, a parent, a carer or one of the many people who work for an organisation or body that provides services for children and young people and their families.

I am extremely grateful to all who have contributed to the process of forming the Children and Young People's Plan. Obviously, this is not the final Children and Young People's Plan. This is a draft version. I would like to encourage you to read it, to consider and discuss it and I ask you to make the most of this opportunity to present your comments on it. The closing date for responding to the draft document is **31 July 2008**. With your help and contribution, the Strategic Partnership will be able to develop a truly comprehensive, clear and firm plan to promote the wellbeing of all of Gwynedd's children and young people.

I look forward to receiving your comments and to present the final Children and Young People's Plan to you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Iwan Trefor Jones

Chair of the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

1. Introduction

1.1 What is 'Our Plan, Your Plan'?

- 1.1.1 'Our Plan, Your Plan' is the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's first plan for the County's children and young people.
- 1.1.2 This is the first multi-agency strategic plan of its kind in Gwynedd for children and young people. Its main purpose is to highlight the vision, aims, priorities and plans of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to promote the wellbeing of children and young people over the next three years.

1.2 Why do we need a Children and Young People's Plan?

- 1.2.1 At the moment, many different plans and strategies are published to steer the way in which services are provided for children and young people and their families. The Children Act (2004) removed the requirement to prepare these plans and strategies and placed a new statutory duty on Local Authorities to co-operate with their partners through Children and Young People's Partnerships to prepare and publish one comprehensive strategic plan to promote the wellbeing of children and young people. Therefore, publishing the Children and Young People's Plan offers the opportunity to develop and implement one strategic document for the wellbeing of all children and young people.
- 1.2.2 Not every child and young person that currently lives in Gwynedd has access to the opportunities, services and resources that will enable them to live life to the full, to voice their opinion and to reach their full potential. This is due to a combination of personal, family, social, economic and geographical factors. As a result, it is essential that a wide range of partners across every sector co-operates to get to grips with these factors, to secure positive outcomes for children, young people and their families. The Children and Young People's Plan, therefore, provides a strategic framework to steer the work of a wide range of partners and partnerships across many sectors to ensure that their services and plans promote the wellbeing of children and young people.
- 1.2.3 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) is a collection of statements or 'articles' that deal with the civil, political, social and cultural rights of children and young people. Preparing and publishing the Children and Young People's Plan, therefore offers the opportunity to actively implement the requirements of the Convention, by ensuring that bodies and strategic partnerships plan, commission, provide and evaluate services in ways which enable children and young people to realise their rights.

1.3 Who is the Children and Young People's Plan for?

- 1.3.1 Firstly, 'Our Plan, Your Plan' is a plan for all the children and young people in Gwynedd – that is, any person between 0 and 25 years old. It will therefore be the children and young people of Gwynedd who will benefit the most from this plan. However, this plan also recognises the importance of parents and families in terms of promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. So, this is a plan for them also.
- 1.3.2 Secondly, 'Our Plan, Your Plan' is a plan for all bodies that provide services for children and young people in Gwynedd. The Children and Young People's Plan sets a firm vision and a series of clear priorities to ensure that services are commissioned, planned and provided in a way which promotes the wellbeing of all the children and young people of Gwynedd.

1.4 Who is responsible for the Children and Young People's Plan?

- 1.4.1 It is the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership that is responsible for developing and implementing the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.4.2 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership was established in January 2007 to promote and strengthen co-operation between bodies and agencies that provide services for children and young people in Gwynedd.
- 1.4.3 There are 25 Members in total on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership representing a wide range of bodies that provide services for children and young people, including Gwynedd Council, Gwynedd Local Health Board, North West Wales NHS Trust, North Wales Police Authority, North Wales Police, North Wales Probation Board, Gwynedd and Anglesey Youth Justice Service, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Mantell Gwynedd and the Countryside Council for Wales. There is also representation on the Strategic Partnership from the County's Primary and Secondary Schools as well as Further and Higher Education establishments

1.5 How was the Children and Young People's Plan developed?

- 1.5.1 The Children and Young People's Plan was developed in a series of steps in accordance with the requirements of The Children Act (2004) and guidance published by the Welsh Assembly Government in relation to developing and publishing Children and Young People's Plans – 'Shared Planning for Better Outcomes' (2007).
- 1.5.2 The first step in the process was to identify the needs and to assess the wellbeing of Gwynedd's children and young people and their families. This was done jointly between the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Board, and the results were published in a series of reports under the name 'Gwynedd Children and Young People Today'. More information about this process and the initial conclusions of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership regarding the wellbeing of children and young people are presented in Part 2.

1.5.3 The second step in the process was to use the results of the assessment of the wellbeing and needs of children and young people in order to identify and agree on a series of areas that influence the wellbeing of children, young people and their families to prioritise in the Children and Young People's Plan. This was done by assessing the areas according to:

- The risk to children, young people and families (including specific groups of children, young people and families) of not intervening
- The degree of influence that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has to intervene.

The results of the assessment were used to determine each individual area either as a critical priority area, a high priority area, a medium priority area or a low priority area. The areas are presented in accordance to their order of priority in Part 5.

1.5.4 The next step in the process is to widely consult on this draft plan by inviting comments on its content and suggestions for improvements. The consultation period will end on **31 July 2008**. More details are available in Part 15 on how to present comments and suggestions on the document during the consultation period.

1.5.5 Following the consultation period, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will consider the comments and the recommendations presented on the draft document. The Children and Young People's Plan will be adapted before being finally adopted and published on **30 September 2008**.

1.6 What is the relationship between the Children and Young People's Plan and other plans and strategies?

1.6.1 Although 'Our Plan, Your Plan' is the main strategic plan for children and young people in Gwynedd, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership cannot tackle all the matters that influence and affect the wellbeing of children and young people without working closely with other strategic partnerships.

1.6.2 As a result, 'Our Plan, Your Plan' was developed in co-operation with other strategic partnerships such as the Gwynedd Local Safeguarding Children Board; the Gwynedd Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Board; the Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership; the Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance; the Gwynedd Economic Partnership, the Gwynedd 14 - 19 Learning Network and the Gwynedd Environmental Partnership. Indeed, many of the priority areas that appear in the Children and Young People's Plan also appear within other strategic strategies and plans therefore reinforcing the importance of co-operating across a wide range of partnerships to promote the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

- 1.6.3 'Our Plan, Your Plan' is also an important part of Gwynedd's Community Strategy, 'Gwynedd Tomorrow'. The Community Strategy is the main strategy for the County which sets a long term vision for promoting the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Gwynedd's people and communities. This Children and Young People's Plan, therefore, makes an important contribution towards achieving the vision of the Community Strategy by ensuring that the priority areas are consistent with, and reinforce areas for strategic intervention identified in 'Gwynedd Tomorrow'.
- 1.6.4 Also, to ensure effective implementation, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will ensure that each individual partner incorporates specific aspects of the Children and Young People's Plan in their business plans and implementation plans and that they report regularly on their performance in terms of achieving the aims and priorities of this document.

1.7 What is the structure of 'Our Plan, Your Plan'?

- 1.7.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is divided into the following parts:

Part 2: Gwynedd Children and Young People Today - The purpose of this part is to describe the process of assessing the wellbeing and identifying the needs of Gwynedd's children and young people and to present the initial findings of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in relation to the wellbeing of the County's children and young people.

Part 3: Gwynedd Children and Young People Tomorrow - The purpose of this part is to present the vision for Gwynedd's children and young people as well as the strategic aims and principles of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Part 4: Gwynedd Children and Young People's Charter of Rights - The purpose of this part is to present the Children and Young People's Partnership's Charter for promoting the rights of Gwynedd's children and young people.

Part 5: Priority Areas - The purpose of this part is to highlight the areas which are a priority for the Children and Young People's Plan.

Part 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12: The Strategic Aims - The purpose of these parts is to present the plans and intentions of the Children and Young People's Partnership in relation to the priority areas under each strategic aim.

Part 13: Developing the Children and Young People's Workforce - The purpose of this part is to present the plans of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for developing and supporting the children and young people workforce in Gwynedd.

Part 14: Making a Difference for the Wellbeing of Children and Young People - The purpose of this part is to describe the arrangements for implementing the Children and Young People's Plan and to measure and monitor it continuously.

Part 15: Your Voice - The purpose of this part is to describe the arrangements and the timetable for responding to the draft Children and Young People's Plan.

2. Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 There are 37,500 children and young people live in Gwynedd, representing 31.86% of the County's entire residing population.
- 2.1.2 The first step, therefore, in the process of promoting the wellbeing of Gwynedd's children and young people and their families is to assess their wellbeing and to identify their needs.
- 2.1.3 The wellbeing of children and young people – whether it be their physical, psychological, cognitive, social and / or economic wellbeing – is influenced directly and indirectly by a mixture of personal, family, social and economic factors. Indeed, children and young people are not a single, cohesive, unified group within society. Instead, children and young people rather are a broad, diverse and varied collection of individuals and as a result, the needs, experiences and aspirations of each one is different.
- 2.1.4 So, in order to better understand the needs of children and young people and to assess those factors that affect their wellbeing, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, jointly with the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership Board, has published **Gwynedd Children and Young People Today** which is a series of reports that create a detailed and comprehensive picture of the wellbeing and needs of Gwynedd's children and young people. The main purpose of these reports is to steer the Children and Young People's Plan by highlighting those areas that need attention at a strategic level. These reports also prepare a 'baseline' of children and young people's wellbeing so that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership can use it to measure and monitor its success in terms of improving results for children and young people over a period of time.

2.2 Part One of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

- 2.2.1 The purpose of Part One of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today is to bring together many different indicators and statistics to create a detailed and comprehensive picture of the wellbeing of Gwynedd's children and young people. The indicators and statistics are organised in line with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's strategic aims in order to identify and highlight specific areas that need attention under each strategic aim.

2.3 Part Two of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

- 2.3.1 As well as collecting and analysing indicators and statistics on different matters relating to the wellbeing of children and young people, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership was eager to listen to the voice of children, young people and their families and to ensure that this voice was heard whilst preparing the draft Children and Young People's Plan.

- 2.3.2 Therefore, Cynllun Clywed was commissioned to lead on the main aspects of Part Two, which was to consult with a cross-section of children, young people and families to obtain their opinions on different matters regarding their wellbeing and needs as well as their experiences of living in Gwynedd. Clywed consulted with 1,355 children and young people between 7 and 25 years old including 91 vulnerable children and young people (such as young carers and young offenders) as well as 282 parents as part of the 'Our Voice, Your Voice' Project.
- 2.3.3 Also, Cwmni Mabis was commissioned to lead on a Photography Project with children and young people. As part of this work, groups of children and young people worked with a professional photographer to take photos of their communities and of their day to day lives. The intention is to publish the work of the children and young people in the final Children and Young People's Plan and to exhibit it in local galleries.

2.4 Part Three of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

- 2.4.1 As well as assessing the wellbeing and identifying the needs of children, young people and their families, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is expected to collect information on the services provided locally to children, young people and families within every sector (statutory, voluntary, private and independent) as a basis for publishing Part Three of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today. This work will be completed before the publication of the final Children and Young People's Plan and it will be used as a basis for developing a firm Commissioning Strategy for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to ensure that the most effective and efficient use of resources is made across all sectors to develop and deliver services that meet the needs of children and young people and their families.

2.5 Part Four of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

- 2.5.1 Section 22 of the Childcare Act (2006) places a duty on all Local Authorities to secure, as long as it is reasonably practical, sufficient childcare to satisfy the requirements of the parents that need childcare in their areas in order to work or undertake training or education, or to prepare to work. Section 26 of the Childcare Act gives the Welsh Assembly Government the right to publish regulations that require Local Authorities in Wales to assess the sufficiency of childcare in their areas. Gwynedd's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will form the fourth part of 'Gwynedd Children and Young People Today' and will be published as an additional document to the Children and Young People's Plan.

2.6 The National Service Framework

- 2.6.1 As well as using 'Gwynedd Children and Young People Today' as a basis for planning the Children and Young People's Plan, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has also given detailed consideration to the requirements of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services whilst developing this document.

- 2.6.2 The main purpose of the National Service Framework is to contribute to realising the Welsh Assembly Government's seven core aims for children and young people by improving the quality of services that are provided for children and young people. This is mainly done by setting standards to be achieved by Local Authorities and other public bodies.
- 2.6.3 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has responded positively to the requirements of the National Service Framework and has managed to make good progress against many of the standards. However, the National Service Framework has highlighted many areas that need further attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership such as mental health services for children and young people and services for children and young people with disabilities. As a result, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will pay attention to these areas and will continue to respond to the requirements of the National Service Framework by embodying the relevant standards in the implementation plans for the priority areas that have been identified for this plan.

2.7 Initial Findings of Gwynedd Children and Young People Today

- 2.7.1 Although the work of assessing the wellbeing and identifying the needs of Gwynedd's children and young people and their families is yet to be fully completed, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has started to use the information to draw initial findings about the wellbeing of children and young people in Gwynedd:
- All in all, the wellbeing of children and young people is relatively good. However, not all children and young people in Gwynedd at present have access to opportunities, services and resources that enables them to enjoy life to the full and to reach their full potential due to a mixture of personal, family, social, economic and geographical factors. Obviously, many of these factors are beyond the influence of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The challenge, therefore, for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to develop and foster firm arrangements for co-operating with a range of partners and partnerships across every sector to ensure that children and young people have full access to opportunities, services and resources in accordance with their entitlements.
 - The quality of the lives of some groups of children and young people is hindered due to their circumstances. These groups of children and young people include children and young people with disabilities, children and young people in care, young offenders, young carers and children and young people from ethnic minorities. The challenge, therefore, for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to develop systems to recognise these children, young people and their families at an early stage, to fully assess their needs and to plan, provide and co-ordinate integrated services in order to effectively respond to those needs.

- Over the last few years, there has been a significant reduction in the number of children and young people that live in Gwynedd and it is anticipated that the number will continue to decrease in years to come. Obviously, the level of the decrease is a cause for concern from a social, economic and language perspective and it also has significant implications to the viability of Gwynedd's communities and to the nature of services in the future. The challenge, therefore, for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to firmly respond to these demographic changes by planning, providing and co-ordinating services in a new or different way in order to fully respond to the needs of Gwynedd's children, young people and their families.
- There is a need to strengthen the focus on preventative work and early intervention to reduce the possibility and risk of putting children and young people in situations or circumstances that place them in danger of developing intense and complicated needs. The challenge, therefore, for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to plan, provide and effectively co-ordinate services that prevent children and young people from developing intense and complicated needs in the first place whilst also providing services that are already trying to support children and young people with intense and complicated needs.
- Parents and families have a key role to play in terms of enabling children and young people to reach their full potential. Indeed, the influence of parents and families on the lives of children and young people is substantial. But, some parents and families will need help and support from time to time whilst raising their children. The challenge, therefore, for the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to plan, provide and co-ordinate accessible and flexible services that support and help parents and families, whatever their circumstances, to secure the best possible outcomes for their children.

2.7.2 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is entirely confident that the vision, principles and priorities in this document have been based on a firm understanding of the needs of children and young people and offer a clear focus to the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the work of its partners over the next few years.

2.7.3 However, this is not the end of the process. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will continually assess the wellbeing and identify the needs of Gwynedd's children and young people to ensure that the partnership's plans, programmes, policies and services continue to fully respond to the needs and aspirations of the County's children and young people.

3. Gwynedd Children and Young People Tomorrow

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 At the heart of the Children and Young People's Plan is the Strategic Partnership's vision for promoting the wellbeing of Gwynedd's children and young people.
- 3.1.2 The vision is consistent with the vision that has been adopted for 'Gwynedd Tomorrow', which is: 'By 2021, our vision is that Gwynedd will have undertaken the challenge and opportunities in a world that is changing to be a more lively, successful, open and co-operating community, which takes pride and promotes its cultural and uniquely natural assets and which positively contributes towards a more sustainable world'.

3.2 Vision and Strategic Aims

- 3.2.1 The long-term vision of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for the children and young people of Gwynedd is:

By 2021, all of Gwynedd's children and young people will have realised their right to live a happy, satisfied and safe life, to voice their opinion and to have access to a range of opportunities, services and resources that will enable them to reach their full potential

- 3.2.2 The vision is supported by seven strategic aims which are consistent with the Welsh Assembly Government's seven core aims for children and young people, which are:

Strategic Aim 1: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have the best start in life.

Strategic Aim 2: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have access to a range of education and learning opportunities to enable them to fulfil their potential.

Strategic Aim 3: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

Strategic Aim 4: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have access to play, leisure, sporting, social and cultural activities.

Strategic Aim 5: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd are listened to, treated with respect and have their race, language and cultural identity recognised.

Strategic Aim 6: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have a safe home and a community which supports their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Strategic Aim 7: To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd are not disadvantaged by financial poverty.

3.2.3 So, when the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will have achieved the strategic aims and realised the vision, the children and young people of Gwynedd tomorrow will:

- Have a good start in life and will receive the best care in order to fully develop both physically and emotionally.
- Have full access to a wide range of quality formal and informal educational opportunities in order to enable them to acquire and develop skills and to reach their full learning potential.
- Live a healthy life and enjoy good physical health and emotional wellbeing.
- Participate fully in activities that are energetic, cultural, social and community-based.
- Be confident whilst voicing their opinion on different matters that affect their lives and the world around them and be treated with respect by adults.
- Live in suitable homes and are protected against abuse, neglect, crimes, accidents, violence and bullying.
- Have full access to services, opportunities and resources despite the family's material or financial circumstances.
- Receive quality services in the language of their choice by a qualified, experienced and professional workforce.

3.2.4 Indeed, these outcomes provide the basis for the **Gwynedd Children and Young People's Charter of Rights** that is presented in Part 4.

3.3 Principles

3.3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will adhere to the following principles whilst implementing the vision and strategic aims:

- **Putting Children and Young People First** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will ensure that the wellbeing, rights and needs of children and young people come first whilst planning, commissioning, providing and evaluating services for them.
- **Promoting Participation and Information** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will ensure the full participation of children, young people and their families whilst planning services and developing plans for them. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will also ensure that clear and accessible information is available for children and young people regarding their rights and the services and opportunities available to them.
- **Co-operating Effectively for the Wellbeing of Children and Young People** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will work in partnership with other key partners and partnerships in an open and honest manner to plan, develop, commission and provide services that are accessible, open, effective, efficient and of quality, and that are firmly based on the evidence of need.
- **Safeguarding Children and Young People** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will ensure that the safety of children and young people will be central in the process of planning and providing services for them.
- **Investing in Preventative Work and Early Intervention** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will develop services and plans that are focused on preventative work and early intervention whilst also continuing to provide services and plans for children and young people with complex and acute needs.
- **Appreciating Diversity and Promoting Equal Opportunity** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will develop services and plans that appreciate Gwynedd's diversity and do not differ between any child or young person on the basis of race, language, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion in accordance with the partnership's Equality Policy and the Gwynedd Language Charter.
- **Promoting Sustainable Development** - The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will develop services and plans in a manner that promotes the principles of sustainable development and therefore firmly contributes to the aim of 'Gwynedd Tomorrow' of creating a more sustainable Gwynedd and world.

4. Gwynedd Children and Young People's Charter of Rights

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has fully committed itself to firmly promote the rights of children and young people.
- 4.1.2 One of the first steps taken by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership when it was established in January 2007 was to formally adopt The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).
- 4.1.3 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is also responsible for promoting the rights of young people in accordance with the 10 Entitlements for young people between 11 and 25 years old as detailed in the Welsh Assembly Government's document, 'Extending Entitlements'.
- 4.1.4 In order to promote children and young people's rights in a co-ordinated and consistent manner across the age range, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has decided to develop the **Gwynedd Children and Young People's Charter of Rights**.

4.2 Gwynedd Children and Young People's Charter of Rights

- 4.2.1 The purpose of the Charter of Rights is to help assist children and young people to know about their entitlements, to understand them and to realise them by setting out eight clear and basic rights for every child and young person between 0 and 25 years old in Gwynedd.
- 4.2.2 The Charter of Rights is also a public statement of the commitment and promise of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to plan and provide services and to develop plans in accordance with these entitlements.

4.3 The Rights of the Children and Young People of Gwynedd

- 4.3.1 Presented below are eight rights for the children and young people of Gwynedd. These rights are consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the 10 'Extending Entitlement' Rights. It also provides a framework for promoting the rights of children and young people in a consistent and co-ordinated matter across the age range locally.

Right 1: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have a good start in life and to receive the best possible care in order to fully develop, both physically and emotionally.

Right 2: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have full access to a wide range of quality formal and informal educational opportunities in order to enable them to acquire and develop skills and to reach their full learning potential.

Right 3: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to live a healthy life and to enjoy good physical health and emotional wellbeing.

Right 4: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to participate in activities which are energetic, creative, cultural, social and community-based.

Right 5: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to voice their opinion on different matters that affect their lives and the world around them and to be treated with respect by adults.

Right 6: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to live in suitable homes and to be protected from abuse, neglect, crime, accidents, violence and bullying.

Right 7: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have full access to services, opportunities and resources, regardless of the family's material and financial circumstances.

Right 8: Every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to receive services, information and advice in the language of their choice by a bilingual workforce that is qualified, experienced, professional and confident.

4.3.2 In addition to outlining the rights of children and young people, the Charter also notes the responsibilities of children and young people towards each other and others, as follows:

Responsibility 1: Children and young people have a responsibility to respect themselves, to respect each other and to respect others regardless of their race, language, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or creed.

Responsibility 2: Children and young people have a responsibility not to abuse, commit crime or bully.

Responsibility 3: Children and young people have a responsibility to respect the world around them and to care for the environment.

Responsibility 4: Children and young people have a responsibility to learn and to develop to the best of their abilities and to share their experiences and learning where possible.

Responsibility 5: Children and young people have a responsibility to respect and promote the rights of each other and the rights of others in order to ensure that everyone can live in a fair and just society.

4.4 Implementing, Monitoring and Adapting the Charter of Rights

- 4.4.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will be responsible for promoting the Charter of Rights and ensuring that members of the partnership operate accordingly with its requirements.
- 4.4.2 The Charter of Rights was developed in consultation with children and young people and will therefore be monitored and reviewed annually in full co-operation with children and young people and be adapted when needed.

5. Priority Areas

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The purpose of this part is to introduce the main priority areas for Gwynedd's first Children and Young People's Plan.

5.1.2 The initial findings of 'Gwynedd Children and Young People Today' and information regarding the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's performance in terms of achieving the standards of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services were used to recognise, choose and agree on priority areas.

5.1.3 The priority areas are divided into four groups, as follows:

Priority Group 1 - Critical Priorities: These are priority areas that need attention and intervention at a strategic level by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership due to the high risk to children, young people and families of not responding to these matters.

Priority Group 2 - High Priorities: These areas are high in terms of their risk to children, young people and families. Although the Strategic Partnership can intervene directly in some of these priority areas, the partnership will have to influence and work with other partners and strategic partnership to intervene in other priority areas.

Priority Group 3 - Medium Priorities: Although these areas do not pose a high risk to children, young people and families, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership feels that they are important enough to be included in the Children and Young People's Plan as including them offers added value to other partners and strategic partnerships.

Priority Group 4 - Low Priorities: These priorities either do not pose a high risk to children, young people and families or the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership doesn't have much influence over them. As a result, these areas do not feature in the Children and Young People's Plan.

5.1.4 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will focus mainly on critical and high priority areas and will ensure that resources are directed appropriately to realise plans within these priority areas.

5.2 The Priority Areas

5.2.1 Presented below are the priority areas for the Children and Young People's Plan according to each strategic aim. A number of these priority areas are interrelated and the aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to focus on those areas that together will have the greatest impact on the lives of children and young people over the next three years.

5.2.2 **Strategic Aim 1 - The Best Start**

Area	Priority Level
Parenting Skills	Critical
The Early Years	High

5.2.3 **Strategic Aim 2 - Education and Learning Opportunities**

Area	Priority Level
Children and Young People in Special Circumstances	Critical
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Critical
Accessibility and Learning Facilities	High
Education, Training and Skills	High
Youth Support Services	High
Exclusions	Medium

5.2.4 **Strategic Aim 3 - Health, Freedom from Abuse and Exploitation**

Area	Priority Level
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	Critical
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation	Critical
Young Carers	Critical
Obesity	High
Diet / Nutrition	High
Sexually Transmitted Infections	High
Smoking	High
Alcohol	High
Substance Misuse	High
Bullying	High
Dental Health	Low
Teenage Pregnancy	Low

5.2.5 **Strategic Aim 4 - Play, Sports, Leisure and Culture**

Area	Priority Level
Play	Critical
Sports and P.E in Schools	High
Leisure and Sporting Opportunities	High
Artistic and Cultural Opportunities	Medium

5.2.6 **Strategic Aim 5 - Respect**

Area	Priority Level
Participation and Advocacy	Critical
Volunteering	Medium
Welsh Speakers	Low
Minority Groups	Low
Discrimination	Low

5.2.7 Strategic Aim 6 - A Safe Home and Community

Area	Priority Level
Homelessness	Critical
Housing Conditions	High
Domestic Abuse	High
Young Offenders / Children and Young People in Prison	High
Sustainable Development and Schools	Medium
Accidents	Low
Transport	Low

5.2.8 Strategic Aim 7 - Freedom from Poverty

Area	Priority Level
Poverty	High
Fuel Poverty	High
Deprivation	High

5.2.9 In the next parts, the plans and intentions of the Children and Young People's Partnership are presented in relation to these priority areas under each strategic aim. The information is presented under the following headings:

Why is this a priority area?

This section lists the reasons for including the matter as a priority area in the Children and Young People's Plan as well as the priority level of the matter under consideration.

What is the aim?

This section notes the aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in relation to the priority area.

What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

This section lists the plans of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for achieving the aim between 2008 and 2011.

What will be achieved by 2011?

This section highlights what the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership hopes will have been achieved in relation to the priority area by 2011.

Which body or bodies will lead the priority area?

This section notes which body or bodies will lead the priority area on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

5.2.10 It should be noted that these priority areas may change following consultation on the draft Children and Young People's Plan.

6. Strategic Aim 1 – The Best Start

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have the best start in life.
- 6.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have the best start in life and to receive the best possible care in order to fully develop, both physically and emotionally. Many problems during childhood and problems throughout life can be prevented by taking the relevant preventative steps as early as possible with children, their parents, the wider family and the community in which they live. Ensuring that children and young people have the help and support early on in life, therefore, is more effective and efficient than responding to problems later in life.

6.2 National Priorities

- 6.2.1 Ensuring that children and young people have the best start in life is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 6.2.2 Over the last few years the Welsh Assembly Government has tried to promote and develop this area with a series of specific plans such as Sure Start, Flying Start and the Foundation Phase as well as publishing policies and regulations relating to the early years, such as childcare provision.
- 6.2.3 The national priorities for Welsh Assembly Government therefore, is:
- To increase childcare provision and ensure that quality childcare is available, especially for families that live in deprived areas and for children with multiple needs.
 - To improve pre-natal and maternity services.
 - To improve young children’s health.
 - To assist parents in developing their parenting skills to enable them to support the emotional and social development of their children.
- 6.2.4 The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership will respond to these priorities as part of the plans for the priority areas for this strategic aim.

6.3 Local Priorities

- 6.3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has identified two priority areas for this strategic area, which are **parenting skills** and the **early years**.

6.4 Parenting Skills

6.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

An affirmative way of raising children has a strong and effective effect on the results of children and young people and it is one important factor that safeguards them from other risks. Although there is no firm information available regarding parenting approaches and skills in Gwynedd, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is fully aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes that will enable parents to develop and gain skills and information to raise their children effectively and to assist them to prosper and reach their full potential. As a result, parenting skills has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

6.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to promote parenting support of good quality for parents in order to enable children to prosper and to reach their full potential.

6.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Mapping the parenting programmes and plans that already exist and operate in Gwynedd at present.
- Mapping the plans that are operational in Gwynedd and are relevant to parenting such as Flying Start, Sure Start and Keeping in Touch.
- Reviewing national research in order to recognise examples of good practise in parenting.
- Consulting with national and local agencies that are interested in parenting and to create effective connections with other relevant services with a view to mainstream parenting matters.
- Reviewing Parenting Strategies and notable parenting plans that already exist in other counties and countries.
- Training relevant staff and to mentor them to run effective parenting courses.
- Developing and publishing a Parenting Strategy for Gwynedd.
- Promoting and Implementing the Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme.

6.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- All the present services relating to parenting will have been mapped in full, and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will have information about:
 - (a) The availability of staff that have the skills, experience and training to provide parenting courses.

- (b) The availability of a variety of programmes and resources to meet various needs, on an individual level or within the community.
 - (c) The availability of all the necessary resources, especially childcare provision and adequate buildings to allow the groups to take place.
 - (d) The accessibility of programmes and resources for families that live in rural areas.
 - (e) The availability of Welsh medium programmes and resources.
 - (f) The availability of Welsh medium programmes and resources that are suitable for parents.
- A clear and firm Parenting Strategy will have been prepared and will be operational within the County.
 - Specific work with fathers will have been developed and strengthened.
 - The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership will have signed a certificate of UNICEF commitment for Breastfeeding.
 - The Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme will be operational and mothers’ opinions on the service and implementation of the plan will be collected regularly.

6.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead the priority area?

The Planning and Development Group – Parenting, Early Years and Childcare will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

6.5 The Early Years

6.5.1 Why is this priority area?

The support and encouragement that children receive during their early years has a lasting effect on their ability and potential throughout their lives. The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is aware that not every child in Gwynedd has the best start in life at the moment and that there is a need, therefore, to ensure that their needs are identified early and to invest in plans and programmes, including quality childcare, to give every child the best start. As a result, the early years has been identified as a **high** priority area.

6.5.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation to the priority area, which is:

- Ensuring that every child in Gwynedd has the best start in life and the opportunity to fully develop their potential during the early years.

- Ensuring that the childcare market in Gwynedd satisfies the needs of parents and children by providing and sustaining a variety of childcare services of high quality.

6.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Preparing and completing a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment within a year of the date that The Childcare Act (2006) comes to power and then every three years after that.
- Implementing the Flying Start Scheme within three areas in Gwynedd.
- Undertaking a pilot scheme of the 'Behaviour Support' plan within organisations that provide childcare for the Flying Start scheme.
- Undertaking SOGS assessments ('Schedule of Growing Skills') on children that are part of the Flying Start scheme.
- Implementing the Foundation Phase from September 2008.
- Improving the quality of childcare provision (by using the Welsh Assembly Government's new quality mark if it is operational before 2011).
- Collecting information about the Early Years' workforce and providing relevant training to the field.
- Offering grants to improve the quality of childcare provision or to begin childcare provision.

6.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- The audit of childcare provision in Gwynedd will be completed with the information presented on the basis of a pyramid of need.
- The insufficiency in terms of the types of provisions and on a geographical basis and in terms of progression will be fully recognised.
- A comprehensive Childcare Plan will have been published on the basis of the results of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
- A conference will have been held on the Early Years to raise awareness of the field and to highlight good practice.
- Childcare grants will have been appropriately targeted on the basis of need according to the results of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

6.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Planning and Development Group – Parenting, Childcare and Early Years will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

6.6 The National Service Framework

- 6.6.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the two priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Area	Standard(s)
Parenting Skills	2.40, 2.48, 2.49, 2.44 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.19, 3.9, 3.12, 3.8, 3.29, 3.11, 3.15, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17, 3.22, 3.28, 3.20, 3.24 5.6, 5.7, 5.22, 5.13, 5.21, 5.31 6.2
The Early Years	2.40, 2.47, 2.60, 2.41, 2.44, 2.48 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.7, 3.10, 3.11, 3.17, 3.22, 3.24, 3.28, 3.30 5.2, 5.29, 5.28

7. Strategic Aim 2 – Education and Learning Opportunities

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have access to a range of learning opportunities to enable them to acquire and develop skills and to reach their full learning potential.
- 7.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have full access to a wide range of quality formal and informal learning opportunities to enable them to gain skills and to reach their full learning potential.
- 7.1.3 Achieving a minimum level of educational achievement is essential for the happiness, success and wellbeing of individuals. Having access to adequate, appropriate and effective educational provision is essential for children and young people. Every child and young person should take part in full time education; should have barriers to learning identified and removed at an early stage; to reach their full potential; to continue with formal education up to 19 years old, and to achieve economic and social wellbeing. Indeed, comprehensive formal and informal educational experiences enable children and young people to secure meaningful and continuous outcomes in terms of their health, personal wellbeing and economic prospects in life.

7.2 National Priorities

- 7.2.1 Ensuring that children and young people have access to a range of learning opportunities is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 7.2.2 The Welsh Assembly Government’s key priorities in relation to learning and education are highlighted in ‘The Learning Country: Vision into Action’, namely:
- Introducing a curriculum that is based on skills from 2008 and amended assessment arrangements.
 - Improving the performance of schools, especially by raising the standards in those schools that under perform.
 - Introducing a statutory Foundation Phase with a curriculum for 3 to 7 year old children, based on the principles and best teaching practice in the early years and present good practise in Key Stage 1.
 - Improving the transition between learning periods, especially from primary school to secondary school.
 - Implementing the requirements of 14 – 19 Learning Pathways in every school and further education settings that are based on work. That is, individual learning pathways, a wider choice of options, the learning core, the support of learning coaches, access to personal support and careers advice.

- Assisting practitioners to take part in the most effective teaching and learning.
- Developing the community focus of schools and learning activities outside school hours.
- Ensuring that every school that is supported becomes part of the Healthy Schools Plan.
- Providing and commissioning advice services in schools.
- Ensuring that children and young people have access to a variety of quality youth support services.
- Promoting the wellbeing and social inclusion of pupils, especially pupils with additional learning needs.

7.2.3 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will respond to these priorities as part of its plans for the priority areas of this strategic aim.

7.3 Local Priorities

7.3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has identified six priority areas for this strategic aim which are **additional educational needs and disabilities; children and young people in special circumstances; education, training and skills; accessibility and learning facilities; youth support services** and **exclusions**.

7.4 Additional Educational Needs and Disabilities

7.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

There has been an increase in Gwynedd in the last few years in the number of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and / or disabilities and a further increase is anticipated over the next few years. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is fully aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes that will enable children and young people with additional learning needs and / or disabilities to improve their educational results and to increase their participation and inclusion in educational settings. As a result, additional learning need and disabilities have been identified as a **critical** priority area.

7.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to raise the standards and ensure the full inclusion of each child and young person that has additional learning needs and / or disabilities.

7.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Decentralising funding in order to unlock the potential of special schools.

- Promoting the use of Person Centred Reviews in order to improve transfer arrangements during turnover periods.
- Training staff on ELKAN, Focus on Solution, Mental Health Risk Factors and literacy developing strategies.
- Ensuring the full co-operation of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the Language Therapy Unit of the North West Wales NHS Trust.
- Extending and promoting the Webster Stratton Scheme across Gwynedd schools.
- Developing a team of language and speech assistants.
- Developing a team of specialist literacy assistants.
- Employing regional Additional Learning Needs Monitoring Officers
- Developing a team of specialist assistants in the field of Autism.
- Ensuring training for staff in the senses, physical and medial areas.

7.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- The efficiency of Special Needs Schools will have ensured sufficient inclusion for every pupil with Additional Learning Needs, intense needs and / or disabilities in the mainstream.
- An increasing number of children and young people with Additional Learning Needs, intense needs and / or disabilities will receive quality mainstream education following a programme to unlock the potential of special schools.
- Teachers and assistants will be more skilled in order to satisfy the literacy needs of children and young people within the mainstream.
- The influence of early intervention will have lead to an increase in the standards achieved by children and young people with Additional Learning Needs, intense needs and / or disabilities within the mainstream, especially in Key Stage 2.
- There will be an increase in preventative work in the schools in order to reduce difficulties experienced by children and young people.
- There will be better transition arrangements in place for transitional periods following the person centred review.
- Adequate and relevant provision for children and young people with communication, networking and language disorders and continuing improvement will have been ensured.
- School staff will recognise mental health risk factors and will respond appropriately by creating care pathways.
- The Webster Stratton Scheme will continue to be promoted and implemented across all of Gwynedd's schools.
- Schools will have a good understanding of the emotional and social needs of pupils and of Focus on Solutions techniques.

- Monitoring officers will ensure consistency and a level of provision for pupils.
- Finance for literacy and numeracy will be decentralised to schools.

7.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Schools Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in co-operation with the Psychology Team, Cynnal, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, the Specialist Children's Service, the Behaviour Support Team and Special Educational Needs Specialist Teachers the Additional Learning Needs Joint-Committee and Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

7.5 Children and Young People In Special Circumstances

7.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people in special circumstances do not always achieve and reach their full potential within the education system. Examples of these children and young people include children and young people in care, young carers, youth offenders and teenage mothers. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is fully aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes to raise the educational standards of children and young people in special circumstances and to enable them to reach their full potential. As a result, children and young people in special circumstances have been identified as a **critical** priority area.

7.5.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's aim is to raise the standards and ensure the full inclusion of every child and young person in special circumstances and to respond fully to their emotional and social needs.

7.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Ensuring training is given to teachers, learning coaches and assistants to equip them with more skills to provide behavioural, emotional and social support.
- Planning to effectively provide support to pupils in special circumstances by establishing a team of teachers and specialist assistants.
- Expanding the Team of Welfare / Education Inclusion Officers to provide a service for catchments across Gwynedd.
- Ensuring training and work experience opportunities are provided to upskill a team of Welfare / Education Inclusion Officers to enable them to effectively provide for categories of children and young people in special circumstances.
- Planning and Implementing a Post-Inspection Action Plan in response to Estyn's Inspection on the Social Inclusion and Welfare of Pupils in Gwynedd.

- Ensuring the provision of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Key stage 3, and Key Stage 4 Units across Gwynedd's districts in order to offer periods of purposeful therapeutic education for children with emotional, behavioural and social needs and difficulties.

7.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Every child and young person will be receiving sufficient education that satisfies their need.
- Policies and procedures for promoting the full participation of children and young people in special circumstances will be operational and will lead to removing the obstacles to learning and celebrating diversity.
- Forums for Promoting Behaviour and Good Practice will be established and operational.
- Groups of specific pupils will receive adequate support to fully integrate into the curriculum and educational activities and events.
- Full support will be given to each learner to enable them to have access to suitable learning pathways.
- Relevant plans to deal with the needs of each learner will be operational, especially for: (i) pupils subject to statement, (ii) children on SEN periods, (iii) children from ethnic minorities with extra needs, (iv) children with English or Welsh as an additional language, (v) children of refugees, (vi) children and young people with medical needs, (vii) young parents and pregnant girls, (viii) young offenders, (ix) pupils of families facing difficult conditions, (x) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual pupils, (xi) children and young people who are talented and gifted, (xii) children and young people from families who are gypsies or travellers, (xiii) children and young people with phobias and children and young people who refuse to attend school, and (xiv) children and young people who perform or are in employment.
- There will be an increase in the accessibility of buildings, education, the curriculum, activities and events after noting and removing obstacles to access and inclusion.
- The ability of schools to provide broadly and equitably will have been increased.
- Education Outside School will be provided effectively and lead to recognised qualifications and accreditations.
- Systems will have been established for monitoring and evaluating the levels of inclusion across Gwynedd schools.
- Effective systems will have been established to ensure the protection of each category of pupils within schools and beyond.

7.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's School Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in cooperation with the Welfare / Inclusion Team, the Psychology Team, the Special Educational Needs Joint-Committee, Cynnal, the Children and Families Service (Gwynedd Council), appropriate services of the North West Wales NHS Trust and Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

7.6 Education, Training and Skills

7.6.1 Why is this a priority area?

Receiving good quality education gives children and young people the best possible start in life and enables them to reach their full potential. Ensuring that young people also have full access to training is key to enabling them to gain the skills, including basic skills, they need to achieve personally and take advantage of employment opportunities.

In 2006, exam performance and the performance at the end of key stage period assessments varied. A small reduction was seen in the percentage that managed to achieve the expected level in the individual subjects in Key Stage 1. However, the percentage that managed to achieve the Core Subjects Indicator continued to be higher than the national figure, and it placed Gwynedd in the upper half nationally. In Key Stage 2, the percentage that reached Level 4 in the Core Subjects Indicator had improved a little, therefore, placing Gwynedd in the upper half nationally. A small reduction was seen in the percentage that had achieved the expected level in English and Science but Mathematics stayed consistent.

In 2006, a reduction was seen in the percentage that achieved the expected level in Welsh, English and Mathematics and the Core Subjects Indicator in Key stage 2, but an increase was seen in Science.

Gwynedd's performance in Key Stage 4 was good and an increase was seen in the numbers achieving 5 A* - C or the equivalent. Even though employers note that there is a lack of skills among young people, the percentage that leaves education in Gwynedd without qualifications is low.

As with Key Stage 4, Gwynedd's learners had performed well in their A Level examination.

The vast majority of schools in Gwynedd that have undergone an Estyn Inspection in the past few years have received positive reports and the challenge now is to ensure that every learning establishment achieves Grade 2 or higher in each Key Question.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is fully aware of the need to further invest in education, training and skills in Gwynedd in order to ensure that all of the County's children and young people reach and achieve their full learning potential. As a result, education, training and skills has been identified as a **high** priority area.

7.6.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure the highest possible standards in every area, through effective co-operation, challenge and monitoring and through ensuring that the infrastructure, the governing arrangements and the inclusion of local education establishments fully satisfies national and local requirements and needs.

7.6.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Earmarking sufficient resources to ensure detailed and intense attention to raising standards.
- Recognising gaps in the present provision and planning to satisfy the various needs.
- Recognising gaps in Welsh medium provision and planning to overcome the obstacles.
- Supporting schools to raise standards of achievement and to introduce the amended curriculum.
- Ensuring sufficient resources and opportunities for training of the highest standard.
- Developing more effective patterns of co-operation to support vulnerable learners.
- Earmarking sufficient resources to ensure progression to the work of the 'Co-operating Commission' and the 'Geographical Pathfinder' so that (i) the present system is re-aligned (to include rationalising all of the strategic groups operating in the field), (ii) a new management arrangement is in operation, (iii) a clear accountability and quality control procedures are in place, and (iv) formal arrangements for co-operation are operational.
- Recognising gaps in the present curricular provision, planning to satisfy the various needs and agreeing on an area curriculum.
- Ensuring appropriate guidance is provided to establishments to strengthen quality assurance arrangements for co-operative provisions.
- Ensuring local capacity for e-learning developments, specifically: (i) introducing a structured training programme for pedagogical and technological aspect, and (ii) to develop bilingual multi-media materials.
- Supporting establishments to raise the standard of achievements and to introduce the amended curriculum, the manifold frameworks, basic skills, wider key skills, the Learning Core, The Welsh BAC and enterprise / entrepreneurship. Specifically, there will be a need to: (i) define the work programme for the Consultation Service, (ii) ensure adequate resources to provide the support, the leadership and relevant training to each educational establishment, and (iii) ensure sufficient resources to establishments to plan effectively to introduce the elements above.
- Ensuring sufficient resources to train and employ Learning Coaches.
- Developing more effective patterns of multi-agency co-operating to support vulnerable learners and increase the inclusion of individual establishments to operate on a starter level.

7.6.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- The Foundation Phase Curriculum and the 2008 Curriculum will be implemented confidently in schools.
- The Personal and Social Education Framework will be implemented confidently in schools.
- School will have received appropriate guidance / support to introduce the amended curriculum.
- Every educational establishment for 11 – 18 years olds will introduce the Welsh BAC as part of the options provision.
- Good attention to skills as well as information will be given in every school.
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship skills will be prominent in the curriculum of each school.
- Every school will continue to put the utmost emphasis on raising achievement standards across the curriculum.
- Every school will have received a Quality Mark accreditation.
- Every school will have joined the 'Healthy Schools' and 'Green Schools' schemes.
- Attention will be given to pupil participation in the life of every school.
- New arrangements for providing post-16 education will have been introduced.
- Patterns of co-operation for joint-provision will have been empowered and formalised.
- Every learner will have access to an area curriculum that will meet legislative requirements.
- The 14 – 19 Curriculum will be aligned with the needs of the labour market locally.
- Every learning pathway will be available in both Welsh and English.
- Every establishment will have received the appropriate guidance and support in order to introduce the amended curriculum (including the statutory and non-statutory frameworks).
- Every 11 – 18 establishment will introduce the Welsh BAC as part of the option choices.

- Provisions for developing Basic Skills will have been strengthened across learning establishments.
- Provisions for developing and accrediting the Key Skills and Wider Key Skills will have been empowered across the learning establishments.
- Provisions for nurturing Enterprise and Entrepreneurship skills will have been formalised and strengthened.
- Relevant leading programmes will have been introduced to schools to raise achievement standards across the key stages.
- The support of Learning Coaches will be available to each learner in every educational establishment.
- Personal support of a higher quality will be available to learners across the range of establishments.

7.6.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Due to the wide ranging nature of this priority area, many bodies will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership including the Gwynedd Council's School Service; Cynnal; the Education, Training and Skills Steering Group; the Gwynedd 14 - 19 Learning Network; Coleg Menai; Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor; Training Providers such as Gwynedd Training and Arfon-Dwyfor Training; Bangor University and Gwynedd's Primary and Secondary Schools.

7.7 Learning Accessibility and Facilities

7.7.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people achieve better in adequate schools that can fully respond to modern learning and teaching needs. There are 106 Primary Schools, 14 Secondary Schools, 3 Special Schools and 1 Pupil Referral Unit in Gwynedd that serve a total of 18,111 pupils (in 2006). During 2006/07, there were 20.7% empty places in Primary Schools, and 8.5% in Secondary Schools in Gwynedd. In addition, the condition and suitability as well as the use made of school facilities by the community vary greatly across the County.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership accepts that the present situation is not sustainable for the future and that there is a need to develop an infrastructure that is suitable for modern education, that reduces the number of empty spaces and that develops the use of school buildings to provide services to the community. As result, learning accessibility and facilities has been identified as a **high** priority.

7.7.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to develop schools that can fully respond to the requirements and needs of modern teaching and learning, that provide services and facilities to the wider community and that are sustainable for the future.

7.7.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, agreeing and implementing a clear plan for re-organising primary and secondary education in the County.
- Implementing a strategy to ensure that one Secondary School in every area and one Primary School in every catchment-area is designated to secure full curriculum access for disabled children and young people.
- Developing and implementing a Community Focused Schools Strategy to raise standards achieved by pupils and to create an ethos that promotes community-based and care activities in an inclusive manner.

7.7.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Clear schemes will have been established for primary and secondary school re-organisation within the County with firm foundations to implement these schemes.
- Disabled children and young people will have full access to education and learning opportunities.
- Schools will have prepared a community focused prospectus and trialled a range of activities in accordance with the Community Focused Schools Strategy.

7.7.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Schools Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

7.8 Youth Support Services

7.8.1 Why is this a priority area?

The Learning and Skills Act (2000) places a statutory duty on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to plan, co-ordinate and provide youth support services for young children between 11 and 25 years old. The Youth Support Services of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership was inspected in March 2008 by Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspector for Education and Training in Wales) and many good features were noted as well as shortcomings that need attention. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is fully committed to respond in full to the findings and recommendations of the Estyn Inspection and to invest in quality youth support services that will enable and support the young people of Gwynedd to socialise, to take part effectively in formal and informal education or training, to take advantage of career opportunities and to take part effectively in the lives of their communities. As a result, youth support services has been identified as **high** priority area.

7.8.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's is to ensure that the young people of Gwynedd have full access to a wide range of high quality local Youth Support Services that are co-ordinated effectively.

7.8.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Mapping and profiling in full the Youth Support Services in Gwynedd in order to identify and respond to gaps and duplication in provision and to co-ordinate services effectively.
- Increasing young people's access to information regarding their rights and the services available to them locally by establishing a specific newsletter for young people, developing a website for children and young people and strengthening the use of local information shops.
- Co-operating with Youth Support Service providers to widen the opportunities available to young people locally to gain recognition and formal accreditation for their work and also to develop and broaden their basic skills.
- Co-operating with Youth Support Service providers to establish strong arrangements for regularly assessing and recording the achievement and development of young people.
- Arranging training to Youth Support Service providers on how to plan and evaluate sessions and activities for young people.

7.8.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Young people will have full access to a wide range of quality local Youth Support Services that will challenge them and enable them to aim for excellence.

- The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership will have completed the work of mapping and profiling Youth Support Services in full and will have used the information to effectively co-ordinate the provision.
- Young people will have more access to information regarding their rights and the services available to them locally.
- Young people will have more access to opportunities to receive formal recognition and accreditation for their work and to develop and expand their basic skills.
- Strong arrangements will have been established to assess and record young people’s achievement and progress and to plan and evaluate activity sessions for young people.

7.8.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Planning and Development Group – Young People will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

7.9 Exclusions

7.9.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people are excluded from school and other educational establishments for different reasons and for various periods of time. Indeed, exclusions have substantial education, emotional, social and economic implications for children, young people and families, especially if those children, young people and families already live in challenging situations. Permanent exclusion levels in Gwynedd have been on the increase and continue to be high in comparison to similar areas. Although there are signs of improvement, the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is aware of the need to do further work to standardise practice across schools, to establish arrangements to reduce and prevent permanent exclusions and to re-integrate excluded pupils into the mainstream as early as possible. As a result, exclusions has been identified as a **medium** priority area.

7.9.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that school policies and operations lead to a reduction in the number of permanent exclusions and fixed period exclusions.

7.9.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Establishing a Promoting Good Behaviour Protocol for Primary Schools in order to improve systems for promoting better behaviour and to reduce exclusions.

- Monitoring the implementation of the Promoting Good Behaviour Protocol within Secondary Schools in order to improve systems for promoting better behaviour and to reduce permanent exclusions across every Secondary School.
- Ensuring that schools effectively self-assess their inclusion strategies and fully comply with the requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government Circular 47/2006 – 'Including and Supporting Pupils'.
- Developing the Secondary Inclusion Working Group in order to share good practice within schools and to further develop inclusion projects.
- Using the PASS Scheme ('Pupil Attitudes to Self and School') to monitor pupils' attitude towards the school in order to identify pupils in danger of withdrawing from education in the future.
- Using 'Focus on Solution' principles within educational settings in order to promote equal opportunities for pupils to fully participate.
- Ensuring co-operation between the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service, the Behaviour Support Service and the Educational Psychology Service and other agencies outside the Education Authority (e.g. Children's Specialist Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and Social Services) to harmonise information in order to encourage schools to look at wide strategies to respond to pupils' needs.
- Providing training at an Authority-wide level, on a school-wide level or in groups within schools on principles or strategies to respond to preventing behavioural problems.
- Offering training for pastoral staff within schools on children and young people's emotional development and on how to create schools that are more aware of children and young people's emotional needs.
- Upskilling specific staff with skills in counselling, anger management, self image and emotional health in general.
- Continuing with the training in behaviour management strategies to give skills to school staff in relation to emotional and behavioural difficulties through the Rob Long training to teachers of Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 and Webster Stratton Training for teachers of Key Stage 1 and parents.
- Encouraging secondary schools to adopt the 'Intervention Framework' as part of the strategy to intensify the maintenance and support level to staff and learners.
- Sharing good practice in terms of the effective use of Learning Coaches.
- Extending the provision of Youth Workers within some of the County's Secondary Schools.
- Ensuring that schools plan Pastoral Support Plans for pupils in danger of being expelled, and that they are also in operation.
- Promoting an improvement in the standard of Pastoral Support Plans so that they are useful operational documents.
- Ensuring that the Youth Justice Service's Educational Contact Officer has a more operational role in terms of planning the Pastoral Support Plan to offenders, and to support it.
- Ensuring that a short report on the opinions of the Welfare and Education Inclusion Officers is available to disciplinary panels following the permanent exclusion of a pupil.
- Ensuring that schools are aware of multi-agency referral paths for supporting behaviour before exclusion.
- Promoting consistency in terms of the decision to exclude a pupil by sharing experiences between schools.

- Establishing Rotation Units for Key Stage 3 that will expand therapeutic provision for pupils with intense emotional or behavioural problems for short periods of time.
- Promoting a curriculum that pays attention to emotional and social elements within Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Consulting with the Primary School Headteachers in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor regarding establishing a similar provision to that in Canolfan Brynffynnon.
- Establishing effective Upbringing Groups to work with a small number of pupils and their families within schools.

7.9.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- There will be fewer children and young people being permanently excluded from Gwynedd's schools and the periods of exclusions will also be reduced, and no child or young person will be excluded unofficially.
- The Promoting Good Behaviour Policies of schools will fully comply with the inclusion policies of Gwynedd Council's School Services and Circular 47/2006.
- Full support will be available to schools to further sharpen and strengthen their inclusion practices, culture and procedures, and that being in the context of promoting good behaviour.
- Schools will be making appropriate use of a range of procedures and systems for maintaining and supporting learners that are in danger of being excluded.
- There will be consistency across Gwynedd in terms of the response of schools to cases of exclusion.
- School staff and parents will have received training and support on improving the behaviour of children and young people.
- There will be more clarity in relation to the referral pathways to education outside of school for the most challenging pupils.
- Effective support systems will be available to support pupils in mainstream education that do not need to be excluded.

7.9.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's School Services will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

7.10 The National Service Framework

7.10.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the six priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Area	Standard(s)
Children and Young People in Special Circumstances	2.34, 2.49, 2.54, 2.60 3.11 5.28 6.6, 6.7, 6.12 7.7
Special Learning Needs and Disabilities	2.49, 2.56 4.6, 4.11 5.2, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.11, 5.13, 5.15, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24, 5.28, 5.33
Learning Accessibility and Facilities	6.7, 6.12
Education, Training and Skills	2.36, 6.7
Youth Support Services	2.44, 2.45, 3.11, 5.33, 6.8
Exclusions	-

8. Strategic Aim 3 – Health, Freedom from Abuse and Exploitation

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.
- 8.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to live a healthy life and to enjoy good physical health and emotional wellbeing. They also have the right to be protected from abuse, neglect, crime, accidents, violence and bullying.
- 8.1.3 The aim, therefore, is to promote the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in Gwynedd and to ensure timely accessible services for those who experience illness, disability and other problems. Children and young people’s needs must be met in an appropriate and age-sensitive manner, and there is also a need to safeguard children and young people from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Children and young people’s health and protection make an important contribution to their chances of participating and enjoying life both while they are young and throughout their later lives.

8.2 National Priorities

- 8.2.1 Promoting better health, by reducing inequality, is a high priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 8.2.2 The Welsh Assembly Government’s key priorities in relation to the health, wellbeing and protection of children and young people are highlighted in many strategic documents, and these priorities include:
- Ensuring that children and young people have the right to lead a healthy and safe life with their families within their communities.
 - Encouraging children and young people to choose healthy methods of living and to support them to enjoy good physical, emotional and nutritional health.
 - Ensuring that children and young people have full access to community and specialist health services when needed.
 - Securing and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and ensuring that they are fully protected from significant harm.

8.3 Local Priorities

- 8.3.1 The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has identified ten priority areas for this strategic aim, which are **Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing; Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation; Young Carers; Obesity; Diet / Nutrition; Sexually Transmitted Infections; Smoking; Alcohol; Substance Misuse** and **Bullying**.

8.4 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

8.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

Mental health illnesses and problems in children and young people ruin the lives of the ones affected and ruin the quality of life of those around them. Society pays a very high price in terms of social disturbance, educational failure, disease, antisocial behaviour and a large financial cost for failing to deal effectively with these problems. Although there is no firm data available on the scale of mental health problems and illnesses among children and young people in Gwynedd, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is aware of the need to ensure that children and young people enjoy positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. As a result, mental health and emotional wellbeing has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

8.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children and young people have full access to services that support their emotional well-being and which enable them to enjoy good mental health.

8.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing and implementing co-operation protocols and arrangements between every tier of the Mental Health Service for Children and Young People so as to strengthen the relationship between teachers, school nurses, health visitors, family doctors, social workers and the specialist child and adolescent mental health service and ensuring that children and young people receive the appropriate service and support.
- Securing resources to develop the specialist child and adolescent mental health service and providing better access for children and young people to intensive mental health services.
- Securing resources to develop a new service based at Ysbyty Gwynedd for children and young people who self-harm.
- Developing and establishing a Counselling Service in Secondary Schools in Gwynedd.

8.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people with mental health disorders will have better access to effective, appropriate, coherent and timely services which fully meet their needs.
- Professional workers will possess a better understanding of children and young people's mental health needs and of their role with regards to supporting and promoting their emotional wellbeing and positive mental health.
- A new service will be established for children and young people who self-harm.

8.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The CAMHS Service Improvement Group will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.5 Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

8.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people who are being abused suffer in terms of their physical, psychological, emotional and social development. The abuse can be physical, emotional or sexual or neglect or any combination of these, and children and young people are abused by parents, other carers, brothers, sisters or others. Abuse, neglect and exploitation is a serious social problem that affects many children and young people and this is reflected in the number of children and young people that are placed on the Child Protection Register or in the care of the Local Authority. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is fully committed to ensuring that children and young people are fully protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation. As a result, abuse, neglect and exploitation has been recognised as a **critical** priority area.

8.5.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation to this priority area, namely:

- To ensure that abused, neglected or exploited children and young people are fully protected and safeguarded.
- To reduce the probability that abuse, negligence and exploitation will occur within communities and families in Gwynedd.

8.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Publishing and implementing an Early Intervention Strategy.
- Planning and providing parenting courses and support targeted towards the most vulnerable children, young people and families.
- Improving agencies' performance with core assessments and core groups.
- Reducing the number of children and young people placed out of county by increasing the number of care places available locally.

8.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Fewer children and young people will be placed in care due to significant harm.
- Parents will receive more assistance and support to bring up their children effectively.

8.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Local Safeguarding Children Board will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.6 **Young Carers**

8.6.1 Why is this a priority area?

Young carers care for another family member. Many young carers are responsible for completing many tasks at home as well as providing nursing care, personal care and emotional support for those in their care. As a result, many young carers are disadvantaged in terms of their education and social development and only a few of them have the energy to have fun and enjoy life. The physical and emotional health of the carers suffers as a result of the pressure and responsibility of caring and the constant worrying about the future. It is not known how many young carers are in Gwynedd at present. However, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is aware of the need to establish effective arrangements for identifying young carers, assessing their needs and providing appropriate support for them. As a result, young carers has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

8.6.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation to this priority area, namely:

- To identify young carers, assess their needs effectively and to ensure an appropriate response to those needs.
- To reduce the numbers of children and young people providing care by ensuring that effective services are in place to support those being looked after.

8.6.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Establishing effective arrangements for identifying young carers and assessing their needs.
- Ensuring that young carers continue to receive full attention within the Gwynedd Carers Strategy.
- Holding training for relevant staff in every field to enable them to develop the skills to identify young carers and refer them to the appropriate services.
- Reinforcing and extending the support and assistance provided to young carers.

8.6.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- There will be effective arrangements in place to identify young carers and to assess their needs.

- Young carers will have improved access to opportunities and services that support and enable them to develop to their full potential.
- Fewer children and young people will provide care due to improved arrangements to support those requiring attention.

8.6.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Carers Forum will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.7 Obesity

8.7.1 Why is this a priority area?

Obesity is constantly on the increase and is described as a worldwide epidemic. The main causes of obesity among children and young people are a poor diet and a sedentary way of life. Obesity endangers the physical and emotional health of children and young people, it affects their quality of life and it limits their participation in the community. 30% of the children and young people questioned as part of 'Our Voice, Your Voice' feel that they weigh more than they should. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes to prevent obesity and to assist obese or overweight children and young people to lose weight and control it effectively. As a result, obesity has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.7.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to reduce an increase in obesity amongst children and young people and their families.

8.7.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a local strategy to tackle obesity amongst children and young people and their families and to assist children and young people and their families to effectively manage their weight.

8.7.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- A strategy for tackling obesity amongst children and young people will have been published and be implemented effectively.

8.7.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.8 Diet / Nutrition

8.8.1 Why is this a priority area?

Good eating habits are developed early and a poor diet established early during childhood continues throughout the life of the individual and can lead to problems further on. A varied, balanced and adequate diet during childhood and adolescent that provides a sufficient supply of nutrition is key for ensuring good health and to avoid problems such as dental decay, anaemia, a delay in growth and obesity. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes that promote and establish good eating habits among children and young people. As a result, diet / nutrition has been identified as a **high** priority area. .

8.8.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to increase the number of children, young people and families who eat a well-balanced, healthy and nutritious diet.

8.8.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a local food and nutrition strategy that is consistent with the priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Taste for Life' Strategy.

8.8.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- A strategy to encourage children, young people and families to eat a well-balanced, healthy and nutritious diet will be implemented.
- Children and young people and their families will be more aware of the benefits of eating a well-balanced, healthy and nutritious diet.
- Young people will have more opportunities to follow courses that will enable them to develop their cookery skills.
- The number of local food schemes will have increased.
- Establishments that provide services for children and young people and their families (such as schools and leisure centres) will provide more choices of healthy and nutritious food and fewer snacks and drinks that are full of sugar, salt and starch.
- Breast-feeding mothers will receive more support.
- Schemes and programmes to assist children and young people to effectively manage their weight will be implemented.

8.8.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.9 **Sexually Transmitted Infections**

8.9.1 Why is this a priority?

Most Sexually Transmitted Infections are increasing, especially among young people. Some, such as Syphilis and HIV, are a threat to lives and most of the others can have serious results on health. 64% of the young people between 17 and 25 years old questioned as part of 'Our Voice, Your Voice' noted that they did not know what Sexually Transmitted Infections are and it seems that the levels of some Sexually Transmitted Infections in Gwynedd is among the highest in Wales. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes to educate children and young people about Sexually Transmitted Infections as well as put accessible and effective services in place for those affected by Sexually Transmitted Infections. As a result, Sexually Transmitted Infections has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.9.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation this priority area, namely:

- To increase children and young people's awareness of the need to practice safe sex and their access to information and specific services relating to Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- To reduce the number of young people who suffer from sexually transmitted infections.

8.9.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Establishing a multi-agency Task Group to develop schemes and programmes to raise children and young people's awareness of sexual health issues.

8.9.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will be more aware of the dangers of not practicing safe sex.
- More young people will practice safe sex and consequently there will be fewer cases of sexually transmitted infections.
- Young people will have more access to information and specific services relating to Sexually Transmitted Infections.

8.9.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.10 Smoking

8.10.1 Why is this a priority area?

It is a recognised fact that smoking is the largest individual cause of avoidable disease and premature death in Wales. The number of children and young people that start smoking and then continue with the habit is very high in Wales. 28% of young people between 11 and 25 years old who were questioned as part of 'Our Voice, Your Voice' noted that they smoked, but the percentage was much higher among groups of vulnerable young people (50%). The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is aware, therefore, that there is a need to put effective arrangements in place to prevent children and young people from smoking, to encourage them to stop and to stay smoke-free. As a result, smoking has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.10.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation to this priority area, namely:

- To prevent children and young people from smoking.
- To encourage and assist children and young people who smoke to give it up for good.

8.10.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Increasing awareness amongst children and young people of the dangers of smoking.
- Improving the access of children and young people who smoke to support that will help them give up smoking for good.
- Ensuring that regulations on cigarette advertising and selling and the smoking ban are effectively implemented.

8.10.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will be more aware of the dangers of smoking.
- More children and young people will choose not to smoke.
- More children and young people who smoke will have chosen to give up once and for all.

8.10.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.11 Alcohol

8.11.1 Why is this a priority area?

The use of alcohol among children and young people increases faster than the use of any other drug in the United Kingdom and binge drinking and heavy drinking is associated with violence, accidents, suicide, injuries, crime truancy and exclusion from school. 42% of young people between 11 and 25 years old questioned as part of the 'Our Voice, Your Voice' survey stated that they sometimes drank alcohol, 20% drank regularly and 3% every day, but the percentage was much higher among groups of vulnerable young people. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to invest in programmes and plans that prevent children and young people from drinking illegally and irresponsibly. As a result, alcohol has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.11.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to assist children and young people to resist, reduce or defer alcohol consumption through educating and informing them of the potential harm of excessive alcohol consumption to their health, their families and the wider community.

8.11.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a local substances misuse strategy that is consistent with the priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government's Substance Misuse Strategy especially from the perspective of promoting preventative work, effective support of abusers, supporting families and getting to grips with provision.

8.11.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will be more aware of the dangers of drinking and excessive drinking of alcohol.
- There will be effective services in place to assist children and young people experiencing alcohol problems.
- There will be effective arrangements in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people as a consequence of problems with alcohol amongst other family members.

8.11.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance and the Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.12 Substance Misuse

8.12.1 Why is this a priority area?

The earlier the individual starts to take drugs in life, the more likely they are to develop serious health problems over time compared to people who abstain. In the same manner, there is a strong connection between problems with drugs and poor academic performance, truancy, violence and crime. A survey of 2,000 young people in Gwynedd in 2005 showed that the use of drugs increased with age and by 17 more than 40% had used illegal drugs with 13 – 14 years old being the most common age to first have a go. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to invest in plans and programmes that stop and prevent children and young people from substance misuse. As a result, substance misuse has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.12.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to assist children and young people to resist, reduce or defer substance misuse by educating them and notifying them of the damage that substance misuse can inflict on their health, their families and the wider community.

8.12.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a local substance misuse strategy consistent with the priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government's Substance Misuse Strategy especially as regards promoting preventative work, effective support of abusers, supporting families and getting to grips with provision.

8.12.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will be more aware of the dangers of substance use and misuse.
- Effective services will have been established to assist children and young people who are victims of substance misuse problems.
- Effective arrangements will have been established to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people as a consequence of problems linked to misuse by another family member.

8.12.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Substance Misuse Implementation Team Commissioning Group will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.13 Bullying

8.13.1 Why is this a priority area?

Bullying can have a serious effect on the emotional and physical health of children and young people, as well as affect school performance and life at home. Children and young people that are bullied lose self-respect and self-confidence, they withdraw from social situations, they can't concentrate, suffer of a phobia of school, and in some cases, try to commit suicide. 51% of the children and young people (7 – 16 years old) that were questioned as part of the 'Our Voice, Your Voice' survey knew someone who was being bullied. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to put strategies in place to prevent and reduce bullying among children and young people, to support those who have suffered bullying and to support those who do the bullying in order to prevent them from bullying again. As a result, bullying has been identified as a **high** priority area.

8.13.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to reduce instances of bullying amongst children and young people within the school and the wider community.

8.13.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Providing leadership and support for every school and youth establishment in preparing and maintaining an effective, specific and implemented Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Monitoring the anti-bullying systems and policies of schools and youth establishments by visiting Primary and Secondary Schools and Youth Establishments and disseminating good practice by preparing a summary of findings.
- Preparing a County-wide Anti-bullying Policy by taking into account visits to schools and youth establishments.
- Developing, promoting and disseminating information on how children and young people should respond to instances of bullying.
- Supporting schools to develop their capacity to respond to bullying through providing advisory services through the Education Welfare and Inclusion Service and the Psychology Service.
- Monitoring levels of bullying within the County by ensuring that systems for monitoring and recording bullying and the nature of the bullying in individual schools is inputted into a central database.
- Working with the 'Healthy Schools' scheme, CYNNAL and children's charity agencies such as NSPCC and Child Line to promote activities that reduce instances of bullying amongst children and young people within schools and the wider community.

- Forming a multi-agency working group with cyber-bullying being part of the Agency's brief.

8.13.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Schools and youth establishments will have established, maintained and reviewed effective anti-bullying policies.
- Schools and youth establishments will have a greater awareness of how common bullying is as well as its nature.
- Teachers, governors and school support staff will be more aware of the nature of bullying and appropriate responses to bullying will be firmly established at every school.
- There will be fewer instances of bullying amongst children and young people at schools and youth facilities and establishments.
- There will be closer co-operation between the police and schools and youth establishments in responding to 'technological' bullying.
- There will be fewer instances of racism within schools and youth establishments.

8.13.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Schools Service, Gwynedd Council's Youth Service and North Wales Police will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

8.14 The National Service Framework

8.14.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the ten priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Area	Standard(s)
Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	2.8, 2.18, 2.34, 2.37, 2.39, 2.45, 2.49, 2.54, 2.60, 2.61, 3.13, 3.18, 4.5, 4.6, 4.11, 5.11, 5.24
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation	6.5
Young Carers	-
Obesity	2.33, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 7.12
Diet / Nutrition	2.33, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 7.12
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	2.36, 2.46
Smoking	2.46, 3.12, 4.6
Alcohol	2.46, 3.12, 4.6
Substance Misuse	2.46, 2.61, 3.12, 4.6
Bullying	2.45

9. Strategic Aim 4 – Play, Sports, Leisure and Culture

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have opportunities to participate in leisure, sporting, social and cultural activities.
- 9.1.2 Indeed, children and young people in Gwynedd have the right to fully participate in activities which are energetic, creative, cultural, social and community-based.
- 9.1.3 The aim, therefore, is to ensure that every child and young person in Gwynedd has full access to a broad range of energetic, creative, cultural, social and community-based activities which will enable them to improve their physical and emotional health, develop and acquire personal and social skills and understand and appreciate the world around them.

9.2 National Priorities

- 9.2.1 Promoting children and young people’s participation in play, sports, leisure and cultural activities is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 9.2.2 With regards to play, the Welsh Assembly Government’s Play Policy (2002) and associated Play Policy Action Plan (2006) emphasise the need for high quality play provisions that are appropriate, exciting and challenging for children.
- 9.2.3 With regards to sports and leisure, Climbing Higher, namely the Welsh Assembly Government’s strategy for sports and physical activity, outlines the measures to be taken to encourage every child and young person to participate regularly in sports and energetic activities.
- 9.2.4 Promoting children and young people’s participation in the arts and cultural activities is also a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government, as is increasing children and young people’s use of local libraries.

9.3 Local Priorities

- 9.3.1 The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has identified four priority areas for this strategic aim namely **Play; Sports and Physical Education in Schools; Leisure and Sports Opportunities, and Cultural and Arts Opportunities.**

9.4 Play

9.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

Despite the lack of data on the impact of not playing, the findings of existing studies are a cause for concern. Play deprivation is the name given to the notion that not playing can deprive children of experiences that are essential to their physical, emotional and social development. Depriving children of play opportunities may lead to behavioural problems, mental health disorders and poor social skills. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is wholly committed to ensuring that children, including children with disabilities, have access to high quality play opportunities that are appropriate, safe, exciting and assist them to enjoy, learn and fully develop physically, emotionally and socially. As a result, play has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

9.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children have access to high quality play opportunities that are appropriate, safe, exciting and assist them to fully develop physically, emotionally and socially.

9.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a local play strategy that is consistent with the priorities of the Welsh Assembly Government's Play Policy and associated Action Plan.

9.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- A clear and firm Play Strategy will have been published to promote and support children and families' access to play opportunities at a local level.

9.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

- The Planning and Development Group – Child Poverty will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

9.5 Sports and Physical Education in Schools

9.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Sports and physical education develop pupils' physical competence and confidence and their ability to use these to perform in a range of activities. Sports and physical education provide opportunities for pupils to be creative, competitive and face up to different challenges as individuals and in groups and teams. It promotes positive attitudes towards active and healthy lifestyles and enables pupils to learn how to plan, evaluate and improve their performance.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to ensure that every pupil is allocated 2 hours a week of sports and physical education in schools across Gwynedd. As a result, sports and physical education in schools has been identified as a **high** priority area.

9.5.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that all school pupils in Gwynedd have access to at least two hours a week of PE within the curriculum.

9.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Responding to the requirements of the new Curriculum 2008 and providing engaging and challenging programmes for every pupil by focusing on: health, fitness and well-being; outdoor adventure activities; creative activities, and competitive activities.
- Ensuring that all schools in Gwynedd participate in the PESS Scheme (PE and Sports in Schools) and that primary school teachers can confidently introduce all the requirements of the 2008 Curriculum.
- Developing extra-curricular programmes that provide a diversity of activities that reflect the 2008 Curriculum and meet the interests of all pupils in Gwynedd.
- Improving PE and Sports resources in Gwynedd schools, especially in the primary schools.
- Trying to ensure that there is a full-time Active Young People's Officer in every catchment-area in Gwynedd.

9.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Active Young People's Officers will have been appointed and will be working part-time in every catchment-area in Gwynedd.
- The 2008 PE Curriculum will be firmly established in all Gwynedd schools.
- A very high percentage of Primary and Secondary Schools will provide a minimum of two PE sessions in the curriculum per week for every pupil.

9.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Schools Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in co-operation with the Sports Council for Wales, the Gwynedd Active Young People Team, Cynnal and Gwynedd Primary and Secondary Schools.

9.6 Leisure and Sports Opportunities

9.6.1 Why is this a priority area?

Ensuring that children and young people have full access to leisure and sporting opportunities is key to their physical, emotional and social development. The advantages of an active childhood continue into adulthood as an active child is more likely to be an active adult. Most children and young people questioned as part of the 'Our Voice, Your Voice' survey said that they do weekly physical exercise with 3% doing less than 30 minutes, 18% doing an hour, 18% two hours, 15% three hours and 42% four hours or more a week. However, groups of vulnerable children and young people are less likely to do weekly physical exercise and are also less likely to be a member of a sports club outside the school. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to increase children and young people's access to leisure and sports opportunities, including open air activities, in Gwynedd. As a result, leisure and sports opportunities has been identified as a **high** priority area.

9.6.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children and young people have full access to leisure and sports opportunities that support their physical, emotional and social well-being.

9.6.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Giving full consideration to the findings and outcomes of plans for primary and secondary education re-organisation in relation to the infrastructure of leisure, sports and physical activity resources in the County.
- Reviewing the resources allocation formula for Primary Schools with regards to transport and admission costs to the Council's leisure facilities so as to provide equal access to the County's children and young people.
- Conducting a detailed analysis of the staffing structure of the Sports and Active Activity Service to ensure that the workforce possesses the necessary skills and that they cater for the new requirements.
- Establishing a sub-group from the Active Activities Network for community-based children and young people elements (i.e. outside school hours).

9.6.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will have greater access to quality leisure and sports opportunities.
- More children and young people will participate in sports and active activities.

9.6.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Lifelong Learning Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership with the co-operation of the Schools Service and the support of the Sports Council for Wales.

9.7 Cultural and Artistic Opportunities

9.7.1 Why is this a priority area?

Culture and the arts have an intrinsic value. Cultural and artistic opportunities contribute towards improving the quality of life of children and young people, provide them with an opportunity to learn new skills, improve their knowledge and explore their feelings. Culture and the arts also encourage creativity and boosts children and young people's pride and confidence in their communities and areas. The children and young people questioned as part of the 'Our Voice, Your Voice' survey noted that they participate in several cultural and arts activities including visits to the theatre, museums, eisteddfodau and libraries. However, groups of vulnerable children and young people are less likely to participate in such activities. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that there is a need to ensure that every child and young person in Gwynedd take full advantage of the cultural and artistic opportunities available to them. As a result, cultural and artistic opportunities has been identified as a **medium** priority area.

9.7.2 What is the aim?

The aim of Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that every child and young person has full access to a wide selection of various cultural and artistic opportunities of the highest possible standard.

9.7.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Continuing to provide services and opportunities for children and young people to participate in the arts through the work and schemes of the Gwynedd and Môn Arts Agency, the Gwynedd Arts Forum and the work of Gwynedd Council Community Arts Development Officer (e.g. Criw Celf and the Art in Health Scheme).

9.7.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will have greater access to quality cultural and artistic opportunities.
- More children and young people will participate in quality cultural and artistic opportunities.

9.7.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Lifelong Learning Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

9.8 The National Service Framework

9.8.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the four priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority	Standard(s)
Play	2.33, 2.38, 2.43, 2.44 5.2 7.2, 7.16
Sports and P.E. In Schools	2.33, 2.38, 2.43 5.2
Leisure and Sports Opportunities	2.38, 2.43, 2.44 5.2
Cultural and Artistic Opportunities	2.44

10. Strategic Aim 5 – Respect

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd are listened to, treated with respect and have their race, language and cultural identity recognised.
- 10.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to voice their opinion on different matters that affect their lives and the world around them and to be treated with respect by adults. They also have the right to fully participate in community-based activities.
- 10.1.3 It is important that every child and young person knows that they have a right to express a view and participate in the decision-making, the planning and the monitoring of activities and services that may affect them. It is therefore the role of commissioners and service providers to promote this by making it easy for children and young people to voice their opinion and by ensuring that their comments receive the necessary attention. It is important that several different methods and arrangements are used (including advocacy and complaints arrangements) to enable children and young people to effectively express their opinion, taking into account age and ability, so that everybody’s views are heard on a balanced and equal manner. Likewise, it is important that every child and young person knows that they are entitled to participate in activities which contribute towards the social, economic and environmental development of their communities and areas.

10.2 National Priorities

- 10.2.1 The Welsh Assembly Government’s aim is that Wales should be a place where children and young people are treated as valuable members of the community whose views are heard and whose needs are fully taken into account. As a result, the Welsh Assembly Government insists that local and national effective arrangements are established so as to enable children and young people to influence decisions, planning and monitoring that impact them.
- 10.2.2 The Welsh Assembly Government is also committed to ensuring that children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, have full access to quality independent advocacy services and effective complaints arrangements that provide support to solve their complaints and assist them to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

10.3 Local Priorities

- 10.3.1 The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has identified two priority areas for this strategic aim, namely **Participation and Advocacy** and **Volunteering**.

10.4 Participation and Advocacy

10.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

It is important that every child and young person knows that they have a right to express a view and participate in the decision-making, the planning and the monitoring of activities and services that may affect them. Providing children and young people with a stronger voice through effective participation and advocacy arrangements may bring several benefits including improving their attitude towards school, their school attendance, their academic performance and behaviour in school; it can encourage children and young people to avoid drugs and alcohol, offending and anti-social behaviour; and it can also enable children and young people to develop personal, social and community skills and boost their self-confidence and self-esteem. Although there are arrangements in place in Gwynedd to empower the voice of children and young people, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is aware that these arrangements need to be further developed and enhanced to ensure that every child and young person has an opportunity to voice their opinion effectively. As a result, participation and advocacy has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

10.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that each child and young person has the opportunity to take part and be heard in the usual way of planning and providing services for the children and young people of Gwynedd today and for the future people of Gwynedd.

10.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Ensuring that services, bodies and agencies are fully committed to the Participation Strategy.
- Developing and publishing a resource pack to be used by services, bodies and agencies to enable them to effectively promote the participation of children and young people.
- Establishing arrangements to ensure that children and young people have an input to the task of developing and reviewing the Participation Strategy and Action Plan in the future.
- Establishing a structure to gather and collate views by children and young people and to provide feedback for children and young people, including hard to reach children and young people.
- Working with the Gwynedd Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that there are practical arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and young people when they participate.
- Developing indicators to measure the quality, value and effectiveness of children and young people's participation and inclusion.
- Establishing multi-agency arrangements to deal and respond to complaints from children and young people.
- Ensuring that local advocacy services are effectively commissioned in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government guidelines.

10.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children and young people will be more aware of their right to participate and voice an opinion.
- Children and young people will have access to more meaningful and appropriate opportunities to participate.
- More services, bodies and agencies will have committed themselves to the Participation Strategy.
- A clear multi-agency procedure will have been established to effectively deal with complaints from children and young people.
- More children and young people will have access to independent advocacy services.

10.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Planning and Development Group – Participation and Information will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership.

10.5 Volunteering

10.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Young people benefit personally from volunteering and have the opportunity to develop their skills, establish social networks and boost their employment opportunities. 37% of the young people between 11 and 25 questioned as part of the ‘Our Voice, Your Voice’ survey said that they did voluntary work within the community. However, the percentage was lower amongst vulnerable groups of young people (27%). The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware of the need to encourage more young people to take advantage of opportunities to volunteer within their communities and within the County. As a result, volunteering has been identified as a **medium** priority area.

10.5.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to encourage, enable and support young people to take advantage of volunteering opportunities within their communities and within the County.

10.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Promoting volunteering and publicising volunteering opportunities amongst young people.
- Providing more opportunities for young people to volunteer, including groups of hard to reach young people.
- Supporting and assisting services, bodies and agencies to overcome the obstacles that exist to volunteering.

10.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Young people will have greater access to volunteering opportunities and informal learning opportunities.
- More young people will take advantage of opportunities to volunteer and will receive recognition for their voluntary work.
- Young people will be more aware of their contribution to their communities and to the world around them.

10.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd's Volunteer Centre at Mantell Gwynedd will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

10.6 The National Service Framework

10.6.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the two priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Field	Standard(s)
Participation and Advocacy	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.11, 2.55 5.1, 5.34 6.2
Volunteering	-

11. Strategic Aim 6 – Safe Home and Community

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have a safe home and a community which supports their physical and emotional wellbeing.
- 11.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to live in suitable homes and to be protected from abuse, neglect, crime, accidents, violence and bullying.
- 11.1.3 The home and community provide an important context for the lives of children and young people and their families. The condition and suitability of housing, crime and disorder, the environment and social and community networks all have an affect on the wellbeing of children and young people. The aim, therefore, is to ensure that every child and young person is protected from harm and is able to live in suitable homes as well as in safe communities that support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

11.2 National Priorities

- 11.2.1 Safeguarding children and young people within the home and the community is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 11.2.2 The Welsh Assembly Government has a number of plans and programmes in place aimed at supporting the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and young people within the home and the community, including plans and programmes to:
- Reduce the numbers of children and young people who suffer due to domestic violence.
 - Reduce the numbers of children and young people who suffer due to racial harassment.
 - Reduce the numbers of children and young people who offend, re-offend, and participate in anti-social behaviour or who are the victims of crime.
 - Reduce the numbers of children and young people who suffer accidents and injuries.
 - Reduce homelessness, the use made of temporary accommodation and improve standard and condition of housing.
 - Reduce environmental pollution and increase children and young people’s awareness of the environment and the world around them.

11.3 Local Priorities

- 11.3.1 The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has identified five priority areas for this strategic aim, namely **Homelessness; Housing Condition; Domestic Violence; Children and Young People in Contact with the Youth Justice Service** and **Sustainable Development and Schools**.

11.4 Homelessness

11.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

Homelessness is more than simply being denied accommodation. A home brings with it the attributes of safety, security and privacy - a healthy environment, providing a foundation that enables a person to thrive. Homeless people have neither a safe environment nor the conditions that enable them to enjoy good health and positive emotional wellbeing. Homelessness can have a detrimental effect on children and young people by causing and exacerbating physical and mental health problems, disrupting their education and leading to stress in the home. There has been an increase in the numbers of homeless young people as well as homeless families with dependent children in Gwynedd. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that homelessness amongst young people and families needs to be reduced and that effective and appropriate support and assistance should be provided for those who are already homeless. As a result, homelessness has been identified as a **critical** priority area.

11.4.2 What is the aim?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has two aims in relation to this priority area, namely:

- To reduce the number of children and young people who present themselves as being homeless directly and as a family member.
- To address positively the housing and health needs of those children and young people who present themselves as being homeless by providing suitable temporary accommodation until their requirements have been fully met.

11.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a homelessness strategy and a young people's accommodation strategy to fully meet the accommodation needs of children, young people and families and to increase the choice available to them as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's long-term strategy.

11.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- There will be a clear and firm Homeless Strategy in place to meet the needs of homeless children, young people and families fully and appropriately.
- There will be a clear and firm Accommodation Strategy in place to meet the accommodation needs of young people fully and appropriately.
- There will be a reduction in the number of homeless children, young people and families.

11.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Housing Partnership's Homeless Forum will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

11.5 Housing Condition

11.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Poor housing has been linked to increased levels of limiting long term illness, respiratory and infectious diseases, injuries, psychological problems and perceived poor general health and even increased mortality. With regards to children and young people, research shows that there is a link between damp and mouldy conditions within homes with the frequency of asthma or respiratory problems amongst children and young people. Poor housing may also have a detrimental impact on the psychological state of children and young people as well and impair their education and ability to participate in leisure, sports, social activities and participation. Approximately 9% of the housing stock in Gwynedd is inappropriate compared to averages in North Wales and Wales of 6.6% and 8.5% respectively, largely due to the fact that 56.5% of the property was built before 1919. Although there is a lack of data on the numbers of children, young people and families living in inappropriate housing, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is aware that there is a need to ensure that children and young people are brought up in suitable homes that fully support their physical, emotional and social development. As a result, housing condition has been identified as a **high** priority area.

11.5.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children and young people nor their families are forced to live in poor quality accommodation which affects their health and wellbeing.

11.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Ensuring that more resources are invested in the local housing stock to raise standards in the Public and Private Sectors and ensuring that advice is readily available on how standards can be met.

11.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Fewer children, young people and families will be living in poor quality accommodation.
- Fewer children and young people will develop physical and mental health problems linked to living in unsuitable housing.

11.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Housing Partnership will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

11.6 Domestic Violence

11.6.1 Why is this a priority area?

Research shows that domestic violence is most commonly experienced by women and perpetrated by men. As many of these women are mothers, it is inevitable that the abuse will impact on the children and young people within the home, either directly or indirectly, especially considering that children and young people are in the same room or the room next door in 90% of the instances of violence. Domestic violence can impact on children and young people physically, mentally, educationally and socially and some will inflict and suffer domestic violence as adults as a consequence of their experiences in early life. Levels of domestic violence remain high in Gwynedd especially in deprived areas. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that there is a need to get to grips effectively with domestic violence in order to safeguard children and young people's physical, emotional and social wellbeing. As a result, domestic violence has been identified as a **high** priority area.

11.6.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to support and assist children and young people who are affected by domestic violence.

11.6.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing, publishing and implementing a strategy to tackle domestic violence effectively and to promote and safeguard the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of children and young people.

11.6.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- A clear and firm Domestic Violence Strategy will be in place that responds fully and appropriately to the needs of children and young people affected by domestic violence.

11.6.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

11.7 Children and Young People in Contact with the Youth Justice Service

11.7.1 Why is this a priority area?

There are several reasons why children offend and participate in anti-social behaviour. However, certain children and young people are more likely to offend and behave anti-socially than others. Those children and young people who tend to commit offences are more likely to have experienced domestic difficulties; of playing truant, underachieve educationally and / or be excluded from school; using and / or abusing drugs or alcohol, and mixing with other children and young people who offend and behave anti-socially. Despite a reduction in the numbers of children and young people who come into contact with the Youth Justice Service for the first time, an increase has occurred in the number of re-offenders. The number of children and young people kept on remand in Custodial Settings remains very high. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that investment is required in plans and programmes that prevent children and young people from offending, exhibiting anti-social behaviour and re-offending and also in order to reduce the numbers being sent to Custodial Settings. As a result, children and young people in contact with the Youth Justice Service has been identified as a **high** priority area.

11.7.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to prevent and reduce offending and re-offending by children and young people and to reduce the number of children and young people who are sent to Custodial Settings.

11.7.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Ensuring that the Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey Youth Justice Service fully responds to new plans and legislation in the youth justice field.
- Securing consistent risk management arrangements and ensuring that risk panels are held quarterly.
- Raising the profile and range of work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service throughout the County.
- Developing staff skills within the Youth Justice Service to ensure that they are able to effectively respond to new plans and legislation and the needs of children and young people who are referred to the service.
- Continuing to develop the Youth Justice Service's prevention and early intervention arrangements.
- Developing further the Youth Justice Service's restorative justice work and ensuring that victims have an input to the process.
- Developing local performance indicators for the Youth Justice Service that are consistent with the performance indicators of the Youth Justice Board.
- Promoting the language needs of children and young people in the justice system, especially Welsh speaking children and young people.
- Promoting the educational, health and housing needs of children and young people in the justice system.

11.7.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Fewer children and young people will offend, re-offend and behave in an anti-social manner.
- Fewer children and young people will be sent to and held on remand in Custodial Settings.

11.7.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey Youth Justice Service will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

11.8 Sustainable Development and Schools

11.8.1 Why is this a priority area?

Sustainable development involves identifying ways to improve the quality of people's lives without damaging the environment or creating problems for the future or transferring them to other parts of the world. It appears that teaching and promoting sustainable development in schools contributes towards raising attainment, improving behaviour and making savings as well as providing opportunities to involve staff, parents and the wider community in school life. During 2005/06, 45 schools in Gwynedd were awarded the Green Schools Award (a scheme which seeks to encourage schools to adopt policies and activities that will protect the environment as part of the school's daily life) and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is firmly in favour of ensuring that every school in Gwynedd participates in this scheme. As a result, sustainable development and schools has been identified as a **medium** priority area.

11.8.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children, young people and families are aware of sustainable development principles and how they can contribute effectively towards efforts to create a more sustainable Gwynedd and world.

11.8.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Ensuring that at least 65% of the County's schools participate in the Green Schools Scheme and receive accreditation for their work.
- Encouraging Further and Higher Education Establishments to promote sustainable development principles through their academic activities and estate management arrangements.
- Developing clear guidance for parents, carers and families on how to promote and practically implement sustainable development principles within the home.

11.8.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Children, young people and families will be more aware of the principles of sustainable development and of their contribution towards the process of creating a sustainable community.
- More Primary and Secondary Schools will participate in the Green Schools Scheme and receive accreditation for their work.
- Further and Higher Education Establishments will contribute more towards efforts to practically promote and implement sustainable development principles.

11.8.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

Gwynedd Council's Environment Directorate will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

11.9 The National Service Framework

11.9.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the five priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Field	Standard(s)
Homelessness	6.8, 6.9
Housing Condition	2.38, 2.39 5.19, 5.20 6.8
Domestic Violence	-
Children and Young People in contact with the Youth Justice Service	6.8
Sustainable Development and Schools	-

12. Strategic Aim 7 – Freedom From Poverty

12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 The aim of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership is to ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd are not disadvantaged by financial poverty.
- 12.1.2 Indeed, every child and young person in Gwynedd has the right to have full access to services, opportunities and resources, regardless of the family’s material and financial circumstances.
- 12.1.3 The effects of poverty on children and young people manifest themselves in many forms. Children and young people who experience poverty are more likely to live in deprived communities and in poor housing; suffer poor physical and mental health; have learning and behavioural difficulties; underachieve and be excluded from school; lack any or few educational resources at home; have limited access to extra-curricular, social, leisure and cultural activities; be more vulnerable to stress at home; experience shame and loneliness and feel ashamed of their personal circumstances; become pregnant at a young age; have lower skills and aspirations, and receive lower pay, be unemployed and dependent on welfare benefits as adults. Children and young people that grow up in poverty are also likely to experience poor outcomes and poverty later in life and produce offspring who grow up in poverty. There is a close relationship, therefore, between poverty and other aspects of the lives of children and young people. The aim, therefore, is to ensure that children, young people and their families enjoy positive material wellbeing that enables them to have full access to facilities, opportunities and services that will enable them to develop their personalities, talents, mental and physical abilities and achieve their potential.

12.2 National Priorities

- 12.2.1 Eradicating poverty amongst children and young people is a high priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 12.2.2 The strategic document ‘A Fair Future for Our Children’ outlines the Welsh Assembly Government’s vision and priorities for tackling child poverty. This document outlines the Welsh Assembly Government’s plans in relations to the three main dimensions of child poverty, namely:
- Income Poverty – improving access to employment; securing financial inclusion and adequate levels of income; providing Further and Higher Education grants, and reviewing rates and benefits measures.
 - Participation Poverty – encouraging children and young people to participate in leisure and social activities; listening to the views of children and young people, and dealing with discrimination and bullying.
 - Service Poverty – ensuring that public services deal effectively with child poverty issues.

12.3 Local Priorities

12.3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has identified three priority areas for this strategic aim, namely **Poverty, Fuel Poverty and Deprivation**.

12.4 Poverty

12.4.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people who live in poverty experience emotional, educational, social and economic disadvantage and have limited access to opportunities and services that will enable them to achieve their maximum potential. However, it appears that some children and young people are at greater risk of poverty than others including the children of single parents; children who grow up in families where there are three or more children; children from ethnic minority families; children who grow up in homes where nobody is in full-time employment, and children in homes where there is a disabled child or adult. It has been estimated that approximately 25% of children and young people living in North West Wales live in poverty. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that policies, schemes, services and programmes need to be developed to enable children, young people and their families to enjoy full economic wellbeing. As a result, poverty has been identified as a **high** priority area.

12.4.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children and young people and their families are not disadvantaged by financial poverty.

12.4.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Developing a child poverty pilot project by working with a specific Secondary School to deliver education and training on financial literacy to young people as well as establishing a 'Savings Scheme' in partnership with the 'Y Llechen' Credit Union Ltd.
- Developing and establishing a framework to proof policies, schemes and strategies to ensure that they contribute towards local efforts to eradicate poverty amongst children and young people and families.
- Developing a series of indicators to measure poverty amongst children, young people and families in Gwynedd.

12.4.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

There will be a reduction in the number of children, young people and families who live in poverty.

12.4.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Planning and Development Group – Child Poverty will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

12.5 Fuel Poverty

12.5.1 Why is this a priority area?

Another dimension of poverty which impacts negatively upon the wellbeing of children, young people and families is fuel poverty. A household is deemed to be in fuel poverty if it is required to spend on fuel more than 10% of its net income to maintain a satisfactory heating regime and cover other normal fuel costs. Cold homes can have a detrimental affect on the health and education of children and young people by affecting sleeping patterns, increasing illness recovery times and increasing overcrowding which can affect levels of concentration whilst trying to do homework. It has been estimated that the proportion of homes experiences fuel poverty in Gwynedd varies from 37.9% to 40%. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that investment is required in plans and programmes that enable families to heat their homes effectively and efficiently. As a result, fuel poverty has been identified as a **high** priority area.

12.5.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that families, especially those with young children and single parent families, receive assistance and support to heat their homes to an acceptable standard at a reasonable cost.

12.5.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Raising awareness, education and training on affordable heating.
- Improving energy efficiency in homes.
- Assisting families to increase their income and reduce their fuel costs.
- Promoting the 'Here to Help' scheme in specific communities across Gwynedd.

12.5.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- Fewer children, young people and families will be living in unheated homes.
- Fewer families will need to spend more than 10% of their net income on fuel to adequately heat their home.

12.5.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Affordable Heating in Gwynedd Steering Group will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

12.6 Deprivation

12.6.1 Why is this a priority area?

Children and young people growing up in deprived areas are more likely than children and young people in less deprived areas to make poor lifestyle choices, break the law, fail at school, develop mental health problems, become homeless and fall pregnant at an early age. According to the 'Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation' (2005), two areas in Gwynedd are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Wales namely Peblig in Caernarfon and Marchog at Bangor. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, is aware that plans and programmes need to be established that ensure that children and young people who live in deprived areas have access to opportunities that will enable them to fully develop their potential. As a result, deprivation has been identified as a **high** priority area.

12.6.2 What is the aim?

The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to ensure that children, young people and families possess the general resources they require to meet and satisfy their needs.

12.6.3 What are the main plans for achieving the aim?

- Analysing current projects and programmes to identify good practice and success.
- Identifying clear measures to disseminate growth and opportunities provided for communities of need.
- Profiling services, intervention programmes and schemes and developing an action plan.
- Establishing a procedure to jointly plan and jointly target services for communities of need.
- Implementing the Communities Next Programme in the most deprived areas.
- Targeting and assisting families including economically inactive individuals.

12.6.4 What will have been achieved by 2011?

- A clear and firm programme of intervention action plans will be in place to break the cycle of deprivation.
- Children, young people and families will have greater access to opportunities to contribute to the process of regenerating their communities.

12.6.5 Which body or bodies will lead on the priority area?

The Gwynedd Economic Partnership will lead on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

12.7 The National Service Framework

12.7.1 Many standards within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services which are relevant to the three priority areas will receive attention by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as part of its response to these priorities:

Priority Field	Standard (s)
Poverty	2.39
Fuel Poverty	2.39
Deprivation	2.39

13. Developing the Children and Young People's Workforce

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 The purpose of this section is to highlight the arrangements for publishing the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's strategy to support and develop the children and young people's workforce across every sector in Gwynedd.
- 13.1.2 Indeed, the Children and Young People's Plan cannot be achieved and high quality opportunities and services cannot be provided to children and young people without fully investing in developing and supporting a bilingual qualified, experienced, professional and confident workforce.
- 13.1.3 The Gwynedd Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy, therefore, will outline the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's plans for developing, supporting and maintaining one workforce for the children and young people's sector in Gwynedd to include the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

13.2 National Priorities

- 13.2.1 The national priorities for the children and young people's workforce in Wales are listed in the Children and Young People Workforce Strategy for Wales that is currently being developed by the Children and Young People's Workforce Development Network. It is expected that these priorities will focus on the following areas:
- Recruiting and retaining the correct type of staff within the workforce and developing clear career paths for staff within the workforce.
 - Continually developing staff's core skills, knowledge and abilities and ensuring that practice is of the highest quality amongst volunteers, carers, self-employed providers and employed staff.
 - Transforming and re-modelling the workforce to reinforce multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working arrangements.
 - Reinforcing leadership, managerial and supervisory skills.
 - Developing a set of core data to provide information on the children and young people's workforce across every sector.
 - Developing the Common Assessment Framework to enable those who work with children and young people and their families to effectively assess their needs.
 - Ensuring that staff working with children and young people and their families are vetted by the Criminal Records Bureau and operate in accordance to the new All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

13.2.2 Particular attention will be given to recruit more Early Years and Child Care Workers; Health Workers; Social Workers; Youth Workers; Workers for Specialist Services, and Volunteers.

13.3 Developing the Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy

13.3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will build on preliminary work already undertaken by the North Wales Social Care Workforce Strategic Partnership and the Gwynedd Social Care Workforce Development Partnership, and use the detailed workforce planning experience that already exists in bodies and agencies which provide services for children and young people and their families. Through the local Workforce Development Partnership, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will also be able to examine practical opportunities to co-operate on specific matters such as organising and sharing training. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will also co-operate with the Gwynedd Economic Partnership to ensure that the strategy fully meets the economic needs of the area.

13.3.2 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, therefore, will develop the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy in a series of steps, as follows:

- Developing a Project Plan to Develop the Children and Young People Workforce.
- Confirming the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan and identifying workforce issues associated to those priorities.
- Noting and considering the impact of national and local influences on the children and young people's workforce in Gwynedd.
- Gathering and analysing data and information on the children and young people's workforce in Gwynedd.
- Considering and assessing the future requirements of the workforce including: core skills; professional qualifications frameworks; succession arrangements; leadership and management; quality, and workforce management issues.
- Considering where there are gaps in the market and analysing the reasons why, including: recruitment and retention; skills / training; experience; quality, and resources.
- Publishing a draft version of Children and Young People's Workforce Development Strategy and consult widely on it.
- Amending the strategy following the consultation phase, publishing a final version and preparing clear action plans to effectively support its implementation.

13.3.3 The aim of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is to publish the Gwynedd Children and Young People's Workforce Development Strategy within six months of the date of publication of the final version of the Children and Young People's Plan.

14. Making a Difference for the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

14.1 Introduction

14.1.1 The purpose of this section is to highlight the arrangements that need to be put in place to enable the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to implement the Children and Young People's Plan effectively in order to make a difference to the wellbeing of the children and young people of Gwynedd.

14.1.2 These arrangements include:

- Governance and partnership arrangements.
- Business planning arrangements.
- Commissioning and contracting arrangements.
- Arrangements for measuring, monitoring and managing performance.
- Quality assurance arrangements.
- Self-assessment arrangements.
- Information sharing arrangements.
- Research and continuous needs assessment arrangements.

14.2 Governance and Partnership Arrangements

14.2.1 Partnership arrangements in the children and young people field were re-organised in Gwynedd in January 2007 in order to fully respond to the new requirements of The Children Act (2004). The Gwynedd Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership was established to promote the wellbeing of the County's children and young people and a series of Planning and Development Groups were also established to lead on specific matters on behalf of the partnership including youth support services; child poverty; parenting, child care and the early years, and participation and information.

14.2.2 Prior to the publication of the finalised version of the Children and Young People's Plan, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will review the current partnership arrangements to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to support the effective implementation of this plan. As part of the review, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will fully consider the partnership's current governance arrangements and assess the effectiveness of the current arrangements for co-operating with other strategic partnerships in Gwynedd and further afield to promote the wellbeing of the County's children and young people.

14.3 Business Planning Arrangements

14.3.1 Following the publication of the final version of the Children and Young People's Plan, the Strategic Partnership will publish clear Business Plans so as to effectively implement the main elements of this plan. The Business Plans will clearly note the required tasks, resources and targets that need to be set in order to achieve the main schemes noted in the Children and Young People's Plan as well as the services, bodies or agencies that will be responsible for implementing them on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

14.4 Commissioning and Contracting Arrangements

14.4.1 As well as publishing Business Plans, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will develop and publish a Commissioning Strategy. The strategy will clearly note which new services will need to be commissioned, which services need to be commissioned differently and which services need to be decommissioned based on need in accordance with the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan. The Commissioning Strategy will also ensure that scarce public resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible, including Cymorth funding.

14.5 Arrangements for Measuring, Monitoring and Managing Performance

14.5.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will establish firm arrangements for measuring, monitoring and managing its performance in terms of achieving the Children and Young People's Plan. A series of strategic indicators will form the basis for the Performance Management Framework which will focus on measuring outcomes for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will use the Welsh Assembly Government's Outcomes Measures Framework as a basis for developing its Performance Management Framework. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will set annual targets for each indicator and regularly measure and monitor progress using 'Ffynnon', which is the national performance management system. The Performance Management Framework will also be used to develop and implement the Commissioning Strategy, the Quality Assurance Framework and the Self-Assessment Procedure. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will also prepare and publish an annual performance report in accordance with the timetable set by the Welsh Assembly Government.

14.6 Quality Assurance Arrangements

14.6.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will develop a Quality Assurance Framework as part of the Commissioning Strategy. The aim of the framework will be to ensure that agencies and bodies commissioned to provide services on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership incorporate quality in all aspects of their work and offer quality services for children and young people and their families. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services will serve as the basis for developing the Quality Assurance Framework.

14.7 Self-assessment Arrangements

14.7.1 As part of the Quality Assurance Framework, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will establish firm arrangements to enable the partnership and service providers to complete an annual self-assessment. Through the self-assessment process, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and service providers will be able to continually evaluate and improve their performance and thus contribute to the process of developing, commissioning and providing quality services for children and young people and their families. The self-assessment will also assist the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to annually review the Children and Young People Plan and amend it as required.

14.8 Information Sharing Arrangements

14.8.1 To support the process of providing appropriate, effective, efficient and quality services for children and young people and their families, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will need to agree on clear arrangements for information sharing. The Welsh Assembly Government has published the 'Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information' to enable agencies who provide services and other agencies directly involved with an individual's wellbeing to share information between them in a legal and informed manner. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will sign Tier 1 of the Agreement and make arrangements to implement the other elements to facilitate the information sharing process between agencies.

14.9 Research and Continuous Needs Assessment Arrangements

14.9.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will review and update 'Gwynedd Children and Young People Today' annually to ensure that the partnership has up to date information on the wellbeing and needs of children and young people. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will also identify a series of specific issues for research so as to gain a greater understanding of those issues that impact the wellbeing of children and young people in Gwynedd. The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will ensure that this information is used to guide the partnership's strategic planning arrangements and decision making processes.

15. Your Voice

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 The purpose of this section is to explain the arrangements for presenting comments on the draft version of the Children and Young People's Plan.

15.2 Accessible versions of the Children and Young People's Plan

15.2.1 Accessible versions of the Children and Young People's Plan can be provided on request, this includes:

- A summarised version for children and young people.
- Bold print version.
- Taped version.
- Version in Braille.

15.2.2 Contact the Strategic Team – Children and Young People to order an accessible version.

15.3 Written Response

15.3.1 A written response can be given on the Children and Young People's Plan by completing and returning the questionnaire that accompanies the draft plan.

15.3.2 A written response can also be sent through the post or by e-mail to the following addresses:

✉ Strategic Team – Children and Young People
Policy and Performance Unit
Development Directorate
Gwynedd Council
County Offices
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

✉ cypplan@gwynedd.gov.uk

15.3.2 The closing date for receiving responses to the draft Children and Young People's Scheme is **31 July 2008**.

15.4 Response by Telephone

15.4.1 Responses may also be given over the telephone. The contact numbers are: 01286 679 788 a 01286 679.

15.5 Attending a Workshop

15.5.1 A series of workshops will be organised and held in July to enable various individuals to meet to consider and discuss the draft Children and Young People's Plan. Workshop details will be published on the internet.