

CHILDRENS TRUST

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Geoff Blackwell; Cllr George Clements;
Cllr Margaret Woodburn (OSC Chair)
LEAD OFFICER: Keith Parker
REPORT AUTHOR: Keith Parker

Summary: This report seeks approval for the Chief Executive and Leader to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council.

Recommendation: That the Chief Executive and Leader be authorised to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council.

Impact on delivering Corporate Plan objectives: The Childrens Act 2004 places an obligation on the Council to work with Partners to improve the wellbeing of children and young People. Thus this report and the principles its supports should underpin the Corporate Plan and the Council's activities for the future

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): Indirectly by meeting the needs of children and young people other statutory obligations are supported.

Financial and human resource implications: Of this report nil, The Head of Leisure and Environmental Services will act as lead officer for the Council and any future implications will be taken forward through Corporate Plan and Service Plan development.

Project & Risk Management: No known risks to the Council at this point.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Children Act 2004 requires each children's service authority, in Cumbria the County Council, and partners to cooperate to improve the well-being of children. The origin of the legislative requirement stems from Lord Laming's Report into the death of Victoria Climbié, and the Kennedy Report. The Laming Inquiry highlighted the contribution that poor cooperation and communication made to the event, as had a number of previous inquiries into other tragic child deaths. As a consequence, the Children Act 2004 sets out a statutory requirement for services including this authority to cooperate for the well-being of children and to plan together how this will be achieved.

1.3 Prior to the 2004 Act in 2003, the Government published Every Child Matters, a Green Paper which identified four main areas for focusing activities:

- Supporting parents and carers
- Early intervention and effective protection
- Accountability and integration
- Workforce reform

Consultation from the Green Paper informed the Children Act and other significant government guidelines under the Change for Children title. In Cumbria, the County Council accepted the responsibility of leadership and committed itself to a strong partnership approach. A Change for Children Partnership was set up under an independent (non-County Council) chair and resources were made available to support a core Change for Children Partnership team. The Change for Children Partnership drew membership from all the required partners and beyond, and established fourteen workstreams, many of which have contributed directly to this plan. An early priority of the Change for Children Partnership was to secure the involvements of children and young people in the planning process. The existing Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership was reviewed and refocused and a new governance body, the Children and Young People's Board, was established. There is no plan to establish a formal Children's Trust in Cumbria as yet, but all partners involved in the Change for Children Partnership are adopting trust ways of working.

1.4 Five key outcomes for children and young people's well-being are identified in Every Child Matters (2003) and the Children Act (2004) are the focus of partnership working. They are:

- Physical and mental health
- Protection from harm and neglect
- Education, training and recreation
- The contribution made by them to society
- Emotional, social and economic well-being

1.5 As a Council Copeland now has a duty to work with other agencies to improve the well-being of children and young people and to safeguard their welfare. This duty particularly affects our Culture and Leisure service which works closely with young people. It also impacts on our housing role (e.g. providing accommodation for young homeless) and our licensing responsibilities (e.g. making sure young children are protected when dealing with licensed premises).

1.6 All partners, including the District Council's are now being asked to sign up to a Partnership Protocol. The Protocol committing everyone to improving outcomes for all children, young people and their families. The draft protocol carries the support of the Cumbria Chief Executives Group and all Chief Executives and Leaders will be asked to sign the protocol this month. Accordingly it is recommended that the Leader and Chief Executive sign the protocol on behalf of this Council.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children's Trust Arrangements in Cumbria Partnership Protocol

Appendix B -

List of Background Documents:**List of Consultees:**

Corporate Team; Cllr's Clements and Blackwell