

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHILDREN'S TRUST FOR CUMBRIA.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Leader Councillor George Clements; Executive Member Councillor Hugh Branney.
LEAD OFFICER: Keith Parker.
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Summary:

This report introduces the concept of a Children's Trust for Cumbria and outlines proposals to establish the Trust.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- 1 Members support the process whereby the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is established as the Commissioning Trust for children's services in Cumbria.
- 2 Members endorse the partnership protocol (attached as appendix A) and commit to its implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Young People's Strategic Partnership Board has been established in Cumbria, to address the Government's "Every Child Matters" agenda. This includes representatives from a number of partner agencies with a "Duty to Cooperate" under Section 10 of the Children Act (2004) which includes District Councils.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board is required to have in place Children's Trust arrangements for joint planning and commissioning of children's services by April 2008. The Partnership Board has agreed in principle in September 2006 that it will become a commissioning Trust by June 2007. District Council representation on the Board is through Gillian Bishop, Chief Executive of Allerdale Borough Council.
- 1.3 The Board is the children and young people's partnership for development of the Cumbria Local Authority Agreement (LAA) Children and Young People's Block. The West Cumbria Local Strategic Partnership Children and Young People's thematic group are responsible for development of

activity and monitoring of performance identified in the LAA in West Cumbria. Copeland BC has Executive Member (Cllr Hugh Branney) and officer representation on this group.

- 1.4 The guidance document that accompanied the Children Act identifies four essential components of a Children's Trust:
 - strong inter-agency governance arrangements, in which shared ownership is coupled with clear accountability
 - a planning and commissioning framework which brings together agencies' planning supported as appropriate by the pooling of resources, and ensures key priorities are identified and addressed
 - common processes which are designed to create and underpin joint working
 - professionals enabled and encouraged to work together in more integrated front-line services, built around the needs of children and young people.
- 1.5 The current legal status of the Partnership is that of an unincorporated association - this means that it has no formal status in law. Individual partners retain their legal status, powers and responsibilities - resources or funding used as part of partnership activities by any partner is aligned rather than pooled/delegated.
- 1.6 The Partnership Board fulfils the expectation of a "powerful integrated governing board through which senior representatives of all key partner organisations will give strategic leadership and direction, and drive through change" (as described in the draft statutory guidance on interagency co-operation to improve the wellbeing of children).
- 1.7 The Board is taking forward a significant amount of work including;
 - Commissioning and strategic planning activity
 - Delivery of the preventative strategy – to enable early intervention where there are issues in the development of a child and prevention of these occurring at an earlier stage
 - The implementation of the reduction strategies for Teenage Pregnancy and Drug and Alcohol misuse
 - Development of locality working across the county
 - Service reviews of Family Support services; Behaviour Support Services; Looked After Children Services; Children with Disabilities Services; and Integrated Youth Provision Services across the county
- 1.8 The partnership board has developed a protocol (attached as appendix A) which lays out the purpose and roles of the board, its members and

partner agencies together with working arrangements. Commitment to this protocol is seen as part of the endorsement process of the Children's Trust by partner agencies.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 The Partnership Board has agreed in principle that the partnership needs to establish a new identity as a Children's Trust.
- 2.2 The Partnership Board receives regular performance monitoring reports and is developing its performance management framework in line with the Cumbria LAA.
- 2.3 District Council's have been formally approached by the Director of Children's Services at Cumbria County Council (Moira Swann) to support the establishment of a children and young people's commissioning trust in Cumbria and to sign up to a Partnership Protocol.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Board already meets a number of the requirements of an effective Children's Trust and has agreed the establishment of a formal trust. The board is seeking confirmation from partner agencies for the establishment of a Children's Trust.
- 3.2 District Councils have a duty to contribute towards the development of the Children's Trust and should ensure that services that impact on children, young people and their families are aligned to the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.

4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 4.1 Staff attendance at meetings and working groups counted as a partnership contribution
- 4.2 Specific project based work to be funded from the existing Cultural Services budget in the 2007-08 financial year.

5. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 No significant risks have been identified.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 6.1 Section 2.4.5 of the Copeland Borough Council Corporate Plan identifies the need to respond to statutory guidance in relation to children and young people.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOL.

List of Consultees: Councillor George Clements; Councillor Hugh Branney, Corporate Team.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	The establishment of a formal Children’s Trust will consolidate the work of partners to prevent children and young people becoming involved in crime and disorder.
Impact on Sustainability	Addressed as part of the CYP agenda.
Impact on Rural Proofing	Addressed as part of the CYP agenda.
Health and Safety Implications	N/A.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Addressed as part of the CYP agenda.
Children and Young Persons Implications	Central theme of main report.
Human Rights Act Implications	Addressed as part of the CYP agenda.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision ~~YES~~/NO

APPENDIX A.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOL

Statement of Commitment

The member organisations of the CYPSPB (the Board) are committed to working together at every level to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of all children and young people in Cumbria.

Our Vision

The best for every child, young person and family

Our Mission

- To create opportunities for all children, young people and their families and those working with and for them to be actively involved in developing and participating in children's services.
- To find new ways of working and sharing available resources to meet the needs of children, young people and their families at the earliest opportunity.
- To invest in a highly skilled and integrated workforce to develop the expectations of children, young people and their families.
- To commission services to secure improved outcomes through evidence based practice for all children, young people and their families.

Our Values

- **RESPECT**
- **TRUST**
- **INCLUSION**
- **RELIABILITY**
- **FAIRNESS**

Governance & Accountability Arrangements

The governance and accountability arrangements set out in this Partnership Protocol (The Protocol) put into operation the duty to cooperate as set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004.

The Protocol applies to all services provided or commissioned by the Board that support children and young people's 0 to 19 and specific groups of young people up to age 25.

The Protocol requires each partner agency to retain full responsibility for its statutory duties and functions at all times and allows for these duties and functions to be carried out through a single system of joint planning and commissioning.

The Protocol supplements existing organisational arrangements and provides additional robust accountabilities outside of existing partner agencies arrangements.

The Protocol enables the Board to take responsibility for setting the strategic direction for services to children, young people and their families. This includes setting priorities, joint planning and commissioning decisions; the alignment of resources at strategic level and agreeing service models based on service performance and agreed service specifications.

The Board will act as the single coordination body for all children's services planning and commissioning arrangements and will be the focus for facilitating joint working leading to the integration of multi agency services for children and young people and their families.

The Board will be responsible and accountable for the performance and commissioning decisions made by all other planning and commissioning groups in children's services.

The Board will be accountable to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board for the actions it takes in ensuring that all children and young people in Cumbria are adequately safeguarded.

Decision Making

Each partner agency accepts collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Board. All decisions will be transparent and informed by open debate, advice, performance reporting and analysis, best practice, risk assessment and option appraisal.

The jointly appointed and managed joint commissioning unit will be responsible for providing advice to the Board to support the decision-making processes.

Challenge process

In exercising collective responsibility for all decisions made by the Board each partner agency will open to challenge and scrutiny through the formal processes of the accountable body (the County Council) and of the other agencies.

Progress on the delivery of the Children and Young Peoples plan will be performance managed by the board and is open to challenge by any interested party.

A formal review of the progress made by the Board will be reported to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis and on other occasions on request.

Agency & Member Accountability

This Protocol assumes all partners accept collective responsibility and accountability for all decisions made by the Board.

However, within this collective responsibility and decision-making process it is recognised there are different levels of accountability and risk for individual agencies and organisations.

This Protocol differentiates these levels of accountability and risk in the following way:

Primary Partners

- The Local Authority (the County Council) is responsible for leading the Partnership and the council in the improvement of outcomes for all children and young people. In this respect the County Council is the accountable body for the children's trust. The County Council is responsible for the development and implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) as the single agreement between the partnership on priorities and actions for children and young people
- The Primary Care Trust is responsible for ensuring that health provision meets the identified needs of children, young people and their families on behalf of the children's trust. The PCT is responsible for ensuring health provision is aligned to the priorities agreed in the CYPP, and for the commissioning of health service on behalf of the Partnership.

Relevant Partners

All relevant partners have a statutory duty to co-operate with the Local Authority to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

- District councils have a duty to contribute to the development of the vision of the Partnership, and to the setting of priorities. As a direct provider and commissioner of services that impact on children, young people and their families, the District Councils should ensure that these services are aligned to the delivery of the CYPP.
- The Police are responsible for ensuring that the Local Policing Plan is consistent with the Partnership vision and the priorities in the CYPP
- The Probation Service is responsible for protecting the public, reducing reoffending and for rehabilitation. In discharging these functions the services is responsible for ensuring provision is consistent with the Partnership vision and priorities as agreed in the CYPP. The Probation service has specific responsibilities for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). These arrangements are discharged through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- Youth Offending Service is responsible for the production of the Youth Justice Plan. This plan must be consistent with the Partnership vision and with the priorities agreed in the CYPP. The Plan should state how the pooling and alignment of resources will contribute to the improvement of outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- The Connexions Partnership and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) provide and secure services that enable and encourage young people to participate in education, training and employment. It is the responsibility of Connexions and the LSC provide information on the needs of young people to inform Partnership priorities and inform commissioning decision-making.

Representative Partners

- The voluntary and community sector have a significant expertise in the delivery of services and in engaging children and families in identifying needs, innovative service models and commissioning priorities. The voluntary and community sector representation is responsible for informing the Partnership on these areas of expertise and for ensuring the sector has a voice in identifying priorities and actions in the CYPP.
- The Primary and Secondary Heads Association representative are responsible for ensuring the sector inform and influence priority setting in the CYPP and advise the Partnership on engagement with schools the county.

Role of Director of Children's Services & Lead Member

The Director of Children's Services (DCS) is professionally accountable for the delivery of the local authorities education and social care functions for children and any health functions for children delegated to the authority by the NHS. The DCS together with the Lead Member (LM) has a key role in driving wider partnership working to integrate and transform services. The Lead Member exercises political accountability for the same range of services as the Director and is expected to take a particular role in safeguarding.

Both the Director and Lead Member therefore have particular and distinct responsibilities as memberships of the Board. This entitles both the Director and Lead Member to hold other agencies to account for the joint planning and commissioning of integrated services.

Commissioning

The Board, supported by the joint commissioning team, will be responsible for the identification of need and the setting of priorities to support the development of integrated multi agency services for all children, young people and their families.

All planning and commissioning decision making will be informed by:

- Needs analysis
- Prevention priorities
- Performance
- Risk analysis

The Board will carryout an annual review with children and young people's plan and set out how through the alignment and pooling of resources jointly agree priorities, service improve and outcomes will be improved.

Joint Commissioning Team

To support its work the Board will establish a joint commissioning team. This team will be resourced by the Partnership.

The role of the joint commissioning team will be as follows:

- Ensuring that there is a comprehensive up to date analysis of children and young people's needs and services upon which an informed decision on the design and commissioning of services can be based.
- Provide professional advice to the Board on the needs of children and young people in Cumbria and the services that need to be commissioned to meet these needs.
- To coordinate the performance monitoring and management of the commissioned services and the implementation of the CYPP and LAA.
- To coordinate the implementation of the partnerships preventative framework by identifying shifts in activity and resource allocation that will enable the development of planned targeted interventions.
- To coordinate the development and implementation of the Board's business plan and project activity.
- To promote the work of the partnership by ensuring best practice is shared locally, regionally and nationally.
- To provide effective coordination of the contracting of service models including the performance monitoring and management of commissioned services through effective contract management.
- The joint commissioning team shall report directly to the Board.
- The Board shall determine the membership of the joint commissioning team.

Information Sharing

The Board will develop an information sharing protocol that will enable effective needs analysis to be carried out on a continuous basis. The information sharing protocol will also be developed to ensure the effective implementation of contact point and the common assessment framework (CAF).

Performance Management

Each member of the Board will take full responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the 5 ECM outcomes. The following Board members will take specific responsibility for the performance management of the ECM outcomes – Appendix 1.

The Board will review progress in achieving improved outcomes for all children against the 5 ECM outcomes on a quarterly basis. Responsibility for the coordination of the reporting process lies with the individuals named above.

In addition the Board will receive quarterly management information reports that will inform the Board of the progress being made in achieving the key targets set out in the CYPP 2007-2010.

Locality Working

In ensuring that joint planning and commissioning priorities are relevant to the diverse communities in Cumbria, the Board has established 5 local planning and commissioning groups. These groups are coterminous with district council local strategic partnerships and are accountable to the Board.

These planning groups are responsible for:

- Local needs analysis.
- The identification of priorities, which will contribute to the delivery of statutory requirements priorities as set out in the CYPP and local priorities where these are relevant.
- The monitoring and review of performance of the delivery of agreed priorities.
- The development of local preventative services.
- The coordination of the integration of preventative services in each locality.
- The promotion of collaborative partnership working at a local level.
- Ensuring that children, young people and their families inform all decision-making.
- To coordinate the participation of children, young people and their families in priority setting and service development.

Leadership

Each Board member will act as an ambassador for children services locally, regionally and nationally.

Board members will take responsibility for:

- The identification and celebration of best practice.
- The identification of service improvement priorities.
- The establishment of the evidence base behind service development proposals.
- Ensuring that agreed actions are carried out.
- Ensuring that there is appropriate challenge where partnership working becomes ineffective.
- Ensuring that their agency/sector is fully informed about the work of the Board and engaged in the delivery of the CYPP.

Risk Assessment

On an annual basis the Board will undertake a formal risk assessment process in order to identify:

- The effectiveness of the Board's work.
- The impact the partnership is having on outcomes for children and young people.

PAUL BOYCE
CYPSPB Manager

15.5.07