

## DEVON CHILDREN'S TRUST – BOARD MEETING

13 November 2008

### Present

#### Board Members

Mary Nisbett (Independent Chair)  
Kathy Beechen (Voluntary Sector – Youth Services)  
Peter Boeuf (Devon Race Equality Council)  
Nicola Bulbeck (Devon District Councils)  
Dr Michael Halls (Intercom Trust)  
Jeanette Kemlo (Parent Carer)  
John Peart (Learning and Skills Council)  
Bruce Pollit (DAG)  
Debbie Pritchard (Children's Trust Programme Director)  
Jenny Rudge (Connexions SW)  
David Tall (Devon Association of Governors)  
Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)  
Councillor Nick Way (Executive Support Member, Schools, DCC)  
Councillor Brenda Taylor (DCC Executive Support Member Social Care)  
Alyson Sheldrake (CoE Diocese)  
Anne Whiteley (Director of Children and Young People's Services, DCC)  
Jenny Winslade (Clinician PCT)

#### Also Present

Steven Brown (PCT) for Virginia Pearson  
Ciara Eastell (Head of Devon Library Service DCC)  
Suaad George (DREC)  
Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat, DCC)  
Tim Tod (Young Devon)  
Anne Walker (Traveller Education Service, DCC)

#### Apologies

Councillor Alan Connett (District Councils)  
Heather Colbeck (Voluntary Sector Early Years)  
Gary Ferrand (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue)  
Penny Mathers (GOSW)  
Phil Norrey (DCC Chief Executive)  
Virginia Pearson (Director of Public Health, Devon PCT)  
Councillor Marguerite Shapland (Non-Executive Director, Devon PCT)  
Kevin Snee (PCT)  
Councillor John Smith (Executive Member, CYPS, DCC)  
Eelke Zoestbergen (Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

## **63** Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2008 were signed as a correct record.

## 64 **Membership**

The Chairman welcomed new members to their first meeting of the Board: Peter Boeuf, Dr Michael Halls, John Peart and Jennifer Winslade.

## 65 **Equality and Diversity: Themed Discussion with invited Guests**

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on how issues relating to equality and diversity would be addressed through the work of the Children's Trust, together with the Devon Strategic Partnership's Joint Declaration for Equality. The agreed reference group for the Trust would be the Devon's Strategic Partnership's Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group (ESSG) and all implementation plans for the Children and Young People's Plan would undertake an Equality Impact Needs Assessment by April 2009 and policies would be reviewed and reported by partners in April 2009. To support this work an analysis would be undertaken by the County Council's Strategic Intelligence Group reporting to the ESSG on behalf of the Trust.

The Board received different perspectives on equality and diversity issues from Michael Halls in relation to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans Community; Suaad George and Peter Boeuf in terms of racism; Anne Walker for Travellers Education; and Jeanette Kemlo for families with young people with disabilities. The speakers referred to how the lives of children and young people could be seriously affected or curtailed by conscious or unconscious preconceptions or prejudice. The Board discussed the issues for children and young people, the common threads within the diverse communities and groups, and including:

- serious safeguarding issues;
- the common cultural conceptions and the key role of schools;
- how children and young people could be supported by all partner agencies to share and optimise resources;
- and address needs through partnership working in order to 'narrow the gap' in terms of opportunity, achievement and well being.

It was agreed to:

(a) investigate ways of developing the understanding of governors to influence the culture in schools (David Tall);

(b) develop understanding of the needs of children and young people in qualitative terms.

The Chairman thanked the Board for the wide ranging, interesting and important issues discussed, which would be progressed by the DSP and by individual Board members through their organisations.

Following further qualitative and quantitative analysis, by the ESSG, progress reports would be submitted to the Board.

**66 The Way Ahead: Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care: Update**

Jennifer Winslade reported on development of the joint health and social strategy published in March 2008. Following an extensive consultation exercise and analysis of responses the themes emerging included: general support for the direction of travel with joint working by DCC and PCT, development of maternity services, additional support for carers, and for young people with Learning Disabilities, rurality and transport issues, further engagement of the voluntary sector, and the need to implement and deliver plans. High level and more detailed action plans would be drawn up for consideration and approval by the PCT and the Council's Executive over the next few months, which would be developed over the 5 year programme.

**67 Public Libraries and Every Child Matters: The Difference Books, Reading and Public Libraries make to Children, Young People and Families Across Devon**

The Board received a paper and presentation by Ciara Eastell on developments within the library service and work to encourage take up by under represented groups, initiatives to meet the needs of children and young people and families, and the contribution to the Every Child Matters outcomes.

The Board commended the valuable role of this important service in the community and noted further opportunities in discussion with Ciara:

- the role of library staff in supporting vulnerable children and young people and the need for appropriate training
- the need for age related material for young people with learning disabilities and material for the BME community
- extension and development of the successful 'book track' scheme
- review of the diversity and age profile of staff in the library service
- increased and flexible opening hours.

The Chairman thanked Ciara for her report and presentation.

**67 Are We There Yet? Audit Commission National Report: Improving Governance and Resources Management on Children's Trusts**

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on the publication of the Audit Commission report on governance arrangements for Children's Trusts nationally, available on the Net: [www.audit-commission.gov.uk/childrenstrusts](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/childrenstrusts)

The report would be examined in more detail at a future meeting to include the self assessment exercise by members.

**68 PCT Consultation: Involvement of Young People (Minute 68 (a))**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**69 Teenage Pregnancy: Update (Minute 70)**

Steven Brown and Anne Whiteley reported on the three day visit by the National Support Team. The feedback from the team appeared positive with them citing examples of good work in Devon. The Teenage Pregnancy Board in Devon was developing its Action Plans with the support of the National Team and progress reports would be submitted to the Board in due course.

Suaad George referred to her education work within the Moslem community in this area.

**70 Any Other Business**

(a) Integrated Youth Service Strategy

Kathy Beechen referred to the development of the service for 0 -19 year olds and the role and engagement with the voluntary sector. Anne Whiteley referred to the commitment of the County Council as the lead partner to engage with the voluntary sector and that the proposals would be subject to approval by the CT Executive, the Early Years Partnership and DCC Executive in due course.

The Chairman requested progress reports to future Board meetings.

(b) Parenting Strategy Plan

Jeanette Kemlo requested that involvement of parent carers in the selection process for the appointment of key staff.

(c) LPSA Awards: Homelessness for Young People

Nicola Bulbeck referred to the joint District and Devon Councils' homeless policy for young people and the award of LPSA grant and that the DSP would discuss projects and use of the grant award. Anne Whiteley also advised that Shelter was undertaking an audit of need across the county which would help inform the commissioning process involving district and county officers.

(d) Learn to Live

The Chairman commended the event held at the University on 16 October which she attended for young learner drivers and the powerful testimonials of the speakers. Jo Tennant indicated that another similar event was planned shortly for North Devon.

**71 Meetings During 2009/10**

Following recent consultation the following dates were endorsed: Monday, 12 January 2009; Wednesday, 11 March; Wednesday, 29 April; Friday, 26 June, Tuesday, 8 September; Wednesday, 4 November; and Tuesday, 12 January 2010. Meetings to commence at 10 am at County Hall, Exeter

Members were reminded that the appointment of substitutes was permissible.

**72 Haringey Incident: Serious Case Review Process**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Anne Whiteley reported on the Baby P case in Haringey and the on going serious case review, the national context and local arrangements in Devon. The Chairman of the Devon Local Safeguarding Board Alan Wooderson had agreed to report to the next Board meeting lessons from the Haringey case which could inform Devon's local safeguarding policy/practices which operate within a national framework.

There would be an opportunity to report any concerns or issues to Government.

The meeting started at 11.30 am and finished at 1.30 pm