

DEVON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

At a meeting held at County Hall, Exeter on

12 July 2007

Present

Board Members

Mary Nisbett (Independent Chair)
Councillor Hugo Barton (Executive Support Member, Social Care, DCC)
Nicola Bulbeck (Devon District Councils)
Faith Butler (Devon Association of Governors)
Councillor Alan Connett (Devon District Councils)
Superintendent Ian Curtis (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)
Juliet Doswell (Faith Communities)
Gary Ferrand (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service)
Dr Stella Imong (Clinician nominated by Devon PCT)
Liam McGrath (Children's Trust Programme Director)
Phil Norrey (DCC Chief Executive)
Dr Virginia Pearson (Director of Public Health, Devon PCT)
Bruce Pollit (Parents of Early Years Children)
Chris Roberts (Learning and Skills Council)
Jenny Rudge (Connexions)
Councillor Marguerite Shapland (Non-Executive Director, Devon PCT)
Dr Kevin Snee (Chief Executive, Devon PCT)
David Tall (Devon Association of Governors)
Tim Tod (Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Nick Way (Executive Support Member, Schools, DCC)
Anne Whiteley (Director of Children and Young People's Services, DCC)
Nichola Winstanley (Parent/Carers)
Eelke Zoestbergen (Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

Also Present

Brian Grady (Commissioning and Procurement Manager, Children and Young People's Services, DCC)
Penny Mathers (Government Office South West)
Liz Hill and Ruth Cohen (DAISI) (for Agenda Item 3 – Inspiration Aspiration Partnership)
Professor Derek Colquhoun (University of Hull) and Annette Lyons (Adviser - Children and Young People's Services, DCC) (for Agenda Item 5 – Devon Healthy Schools)

Apologies

Kathy Beechen (Voluntary Sector – Youth Services)
Jeannette Kemlo (Parent Carers)
Councillor John Smith (Executive Member, Children and Young People's Services, DCC)
Judith Wright (Voluntary Sector – Early Years and Primary Phase)

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Mary Nisbett, the newly appointed Chair of the Children's Trust Board:

(a) opened the meeting by saying how honoured she was to have been appointed as independent Chair of the Children's Trust Board and "Children's Champion" and that she looked forward to the challenges ahead. She had been impressed by the degree of goodwill and commitment she had found amongst Board members and was confident that the Trust could make a real difference to the lives of children and young people now that much of the groundwork was in place;

(b) referred to the involvement of young people in the selection process who had trained with Young Devon as part of the national Participation in Action scheme and to the receipt of a plaque recognising the Children's Trust's commitment to young people's quality participation;

(c) welcomed the following new Board members to their first meeting:

- Nicola Bulbeck, Chief Executive, Teignbridge District Council and Councillor Alan Connett, Teignbridge District Council - representing Devon District Councils;
- Chris Roberts – South West Learning and Skills Council;
- Gary Ferrand - Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service;
- Juliet Doswell, Acting Diocesan Director of Education - representing Faith Communities;

(d) congratulated Brian Grady, Commissioning and Procurement Manager, Children and Young People's Services, DCC on winning the LGA Employee of the Year Award for 2007 in recognition of his work in developing a pioneering partnership approach to setting up children's centres across Devon.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (15 May 2007)

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. AXS Programme

The Board received a progress report on the development of the AXS programme for integrated, locally based early assessment and intervention services for children and young people which was introduced by Debbie Pritchard and Anne Whiteley.

It was noted that:

- training to support integrated working had been undertaken in all of the 9 Pathfinder areas – practitioners/staff were now equipped with the tools to support integrated working including Information Sharing, Lead Professional and Common Assessment Framework;
- over 30 CAFs (single assessment meeting the holistic needs of the child/young person) performed by the appropriate Lead Professional had been started – in some cases with early access to funds (through the Budget Holding Lead Professional project) to meet immediate need;
- evaluation of integrated tools and processes to ascertain the "best fit" for Devon was underway;
- the pan Devon roll-out was under development;

- further progress reports to the Board would cover case studies demonstrating “in practice” integrated working, “best fit” and feedback from the network consultation.

4. Inspiration Aspiration Partnership

Liz Hill, Director, Devon Arts in Schools Initiative (DAISI) and Ruth Cohen, DAISI Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Inspiration Aspiration Partnership. They explained that:

- DAISI was an arts education partnership for Devon and Torbay, working with artists, arts and cultural organisations, teachers and young people to strengthen the relationship between the arts and education sectors;
- the Inspiration Aspiration Partnership was a pilot project in support of the Devon Children’s Trust involving arts, cultural organisations and schools working together to inspire creativity and to increase aspiration by developing young people’s pride in their local surroundings and resources.

The presentation covered: the need for the pilot project; the design process – from strategic aims to local objectives; what was involved in practical terms – activities to bring the young people into contact with inspirational, professional writers, artists and local cultural amenities; measurement of the outcomes - contribution to the “*Every Child Matters*” agenda, the CYPP and Extended Schools; case studies; the present position and the future.

During discussion, Liz Hill and Ruth Cohen commented on: embedding the project activities within the curriculums of participating schools; roll-out to other schools/areas; widening the project scope; evaluation and use of the evidence in tackling educational and wider social issues; and promotion of the project as an example of best practice.

The Board was very impressed by the initiative (noting the enthusiasm which had been expressed by participating pupils and teachers) and supported its continuation and further development.

5. Focus of Meetings/Plans and Inspections

Anne Whiteley:

- referred to the proposed “streamlining” of meetings of the Children’s Trust Board and Professional Executive to focus more closely on performance management/outcomes and vulnerable/special needs children;
- updated the Board on the monitoring of the Joint Area Review (JAR) Action Plan, the review/refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) and Annual Performance Assessment (APA), and the assessment/inspection processes involved.

Phil Norrey commented on the input relating to children and young people in the County Council’s over-arching Sustainable Community Strategy.

6. Healthy Schools

Professor Derek Colquhoun, Director of Research, Institute of Learning, University of Hull gave a presentation on his evaluation of the Devon Healthy Schools Award (DHSA) which was part of a national initiative (National Healthy Schools Programme) to help children and young people to reach their potential by building on a solid

foundation of health to do better in learning and in life. The Programme was not solely concerned with physical health, but also good health and happiness “inside and out” and involved not just pupils but the whole school community (parents, governors and school staff). To achieve Healthy School status, schools had to meet a range of criteria including a focus on healthy eating, physical activity, emotional health and well-being, reducing the misuse of drugs – including smoking and alcohol – and teenage pregnancy. The Devon Healthy Schools Programme was a key element of the Children and Young People’s Plan.

The presentation covered:

- the position regarding Healthy Schools in Devon before the introduction of the DHSA in January 2005 and progress since then;
- features of a revised DHSA model;
- the current position regarding achievement of, and schools working towards, Healthy School status (most secondary schools and schools in areas of high deprivation, and all PRUs and special schools);
- the DHSA evaluation framework, objectives and methods – the evaluation had included the impact of involvement in the DHSA on the health of the school community, school improvement plans and the Every Child Matters agenda;
- the findings, namely that there was a high degree of satisfaction with the rigour of the DHSA and that the Award needed to be developed “structurally and conceptually”.

In presenting his conclusions on the evaluation and the way forward, Professor Colquhoun referred to the significant progress made on Healthy Schools in Devon and commented that the Devon Healthy Schools Award was one of the best in the country, a particular strength being its link with School Improvement.

Professor Colquhoun and Annette Lyons, Adviser for Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship, who managed the DHSA, responded to comments and queries during discussion.

Board members:

- welcomed the progress made on Healthy Schools in Devon;
- felt that the national Healthy Schools initiative should include colleges;
- supported the promotion of a more holistic approach to Healthy Living generally.

7. Constitution

The Board endorsed proposals by the Chair to introduce:

- public participation at Board meetings;
- a system of declaration of interests for Board members, in line with the Nolan Committee principles adopted by the Board.

8. Other Business

(a) Liam McGrath

Anne Whiteley paid tribute to the work undertaken by Liam McGrath, Children’s Trust Programme Director, who was leaving to take up the post of Deputy Principal Educational Welfare Officer, Devon.

(b) Department for Children, Schools and Families

Anne Whiteley welcomed the recent establishment of a Government Department for Children, Schools and Families which should raise the profile of children and young people and facilitate work on the "*Every Child Matters*" agenda.

(c) Devon Youth Achievement Awards

Anne Whiteley reported on the first Devon Young People's Achievement Awards held at County Hall, Exeter on Saturday 7 July 2007. The event had celebrated the achievements of young people aged 13 – 19 and recognised their hard work and dedication in making themselves and their communities better. There were five awards based on the outcomes of "*Every Child Matters*". A total of 113 nominations had been received from which 27 finalists had been selected and invited to the ceremony. Anne commented that the event had been a great success.

(d) Honeylands Specialist Children's Centre

Nichola Winstanley expressed concern about the delay in the response to the report on the recent review of the Honeylands Children's Centre. Anne Whiteley and Virginia Pearson explained that this was partly due to the organisational changes involved in establishing the new Devon PCT and the need to clarify commissioning arrangements, but that the issues in the report were being addressed. Anne and the PCT were due to meet with representatives of the Honeylands Review shortly and agree next steps in the context of the Joint Strategic Review of Health and Social Care.

It was agreed that a progress report on the Honeylands Review should be made at the next Children's Trust Board meeting in September.

9. Next Board Meeting

Thursday 20 September 2007 (11.30am – 1.30pm) at County Hall, Exeter.

(The meeting started at 11.30am and finished at 1.40pm)