

DEVON CHILDREN'S TRUST – BOARD MEETING

Thursday, 15 May 2008

Present

Board Members

Mary Nisbett (Independent Chair)
Cllr Hugo Barton (Executive Support member, Social Care)
Kathy Beechen (Voluntary Sector – Youth Services)
Nicola Bulbeck (Devon District Councils)
Councillor Alan Connett (District Councils)
Juliet Doswell (Faith Communities)
Dr Stella Imong (Clinician nominated by Devon PCT)
Jeannette Kemlo (Parent Carer)
Dr Virginia Pearson (Director of Public Health, Devon PCT)
Bruce Pollit (Parents of Early Years Children)
Debbie Pritchard (Children's Trust Programme Director)
Councillor Marguerite Shapland (Non-Executive Director, Devon PCT)
Tim Todd (vice Sarah Baker Voluntary Sector Early Years)
Jenny Rudge (Connexions SW)
George Setter (vice Gary Ferrand Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue)
Councillor Nick Way (Executive Support Member, Schools, DCC)
Nichola Winstanley (Parent Carers)
Eelke Zoestbergen (Devon and Cornwall Police Authority)

Also Present

George Coxon (Devon PCT)
Brian Grady (Joint Strategic Commissioning Team Manager, CYPS, DCC)
Penny Mathers (observer GOSW)
Sue McGrath (Devon Youth Offending Service)
Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat, DCC)
Alyson Sheldrake (CoE Diocese)
Claire Wright (CYPS)

Apologies

Sarah Baker (Voluntary Sector Youth Services)
Gary Ferrand (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service)
Phil Norrey (DCC Chief Executive)
Chris Roberts (Learning and Skills Council)
Councillor John Smith (Executive Member, CYPS, DCC)
Kevin Snee (PCT)
David Tall (Devon Association of Governors)
Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)
Anne Whiteley (Director of Children and Young People's Services, DCC)

43 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2008 were signed as a correct record.

44 Membership and Webcasting

The Chairman welcomed Alyson Sheldrake (Director of CoE Diocese) as an observer for today and who will represent the Faith Communities as a new Board member from the next meeting.

The Chairman also reported that Faith Butler had resigned as she was no longer eligible to serve as a parent governor and that she would be writing on behalf of the Board to thank her for her services.

Members noted that after today future meetings of the Board will be web cast (link from the CT Website to the DCC web cast site, at no additional cost for the Board).

45 Joint Strategic Review of Health and Social Care in Devon

The Board received the Joint Paper on 'the way ahead: a Framework for Health and Social Care' and Consultation Booklet produced jointly by the County Council and the Devon Primary Care Trust.

The Board also received a presentation introduced by Dr Virginia Pearson by George Coxon (Devon PCT) with Brian Grady (CYPS DCC) on the consultation exercise in respect of the proposed Framework. This covered shared intentions and expected achievements for the next five years covering the health and social care needs of adults and children in accordance with national priorities and detailed local assessments.

The one year consultation period was due to end on 30 May 2008 and the Board's views were sought particularly in respect of aspects relating to children and young people. The framework was developed in parallel to the Children's and Young People's Plan and now it was approaching the end of the consultation the authorities were committed to progress delivery.

Board Members' views included:

- more emphasis on the important role of the voluntary sector, indicating a commitment to work with and supporting this sector, relating to for examples transition from young people's to adult services and support for young carers
- implementation and project planning of the programmes was now key with proper investment 'on the ground' and marrying resources to the identified needs, as part of the strategic commissioning process
- there appeared to be gaps in the framework relating to provision for parent carers of young people with long term conditions

- Connexions was available to help inform the needs assessment process as it has good contacts and information about young people including those within the hard to reach groups
- consideration to more emphasis on social care
- the important links between health/wellbeing and education and economic achievement.

The Board welcomed the clarity and presentation of the document which should be read as a whole and not just within discrete sections.

Mr Coxon thanked the Board for its feedback.

46 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2008 – 11

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on the launch of the CYPP at special media events on Friday 23 May in Chestnut Avenue, Exeter at 10 am, Ilfracombe at 11 am and Ivybridge Primary School at 2pm. The report outlined the development of delivery plans and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Schedule (MARS). These would be discussed by the Trust at its development day on 10 June 2008 and should be agreed by the end of July and in hand for September onwards.

The Board commended Debbie Pritchard on the preparation of this wide ranging and far reaching Plan, for its clarity and presentation and noted that there remained a few mistakes for example relating to perceived low aspirations by parents for children. A child friendly version was also being drafted.

The Board also supported the naming of accountable officers, which would assist the monitoring of progress. The Chairman indicated that this was a key document to assist the Board's remit to manage performance and help ensure effective delivery.

47 Devon Local Area Agreement

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on the development of the Local Area Agreement, proposed future steps and draft delivery plans.

The paper referred to the national programme of which Devon was a member to 'narrow the gap' in opportunities and outcomes between most young people and children and those who were most vulnerable or underachieving. In addition there would be an action research pilot, currently in its early stages but potentially centre on Ilfracombe.

The paper also outlined the next steps and progress in agreeing national indicators with the Government Officer South West (GOSW) and developing associated delivery plans to be approved by the County Council Executive in June.

The Board noted that the LAA aligned with the CYPP and the Health and Social Care Strategy to provide a comprehensive, holistic and joined-up approach.

48 First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs) in Devon

The Board received a paper and presentation by the Sue McGrath of the Youth Offending Team on a detailed analysis of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs) in Devon. The Board commended the achievement of a reduction of 10.6% against a target of 5% (from a 2005/6 baseline). This successful outcome reflected the effective partnership working between the statutory and voluntary sectors. The report detailed ongoing work through 'Children First' Devon's integrated Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2008 – 2011, which would build on existing good practice. The report also outlined the prevention programmes and projects, funding for 2008 onwards and detailed statistical analysis and emerging trends. This data would inform targeted activity and the commissioning process, to be overseen and monitored by the Devon Youth Crime Prevention Steering Group reporting to the Safer Devon Partnership and the Children's Trust.

Members referred to crime prevention programmes to distract children from anti social behaviour, the work of the Early Intervention Team and its work with schools and education welfare to develop the successful strategies to prevent permanent exclusion from schools.

Penny Mathers outlined the Government's support through the Every Child Matters agenda, the CYPP and ASBO Support Plans, with the objective to lessen offending.

The Government had also produced its own Children's Plan and a summary booklet available on the Net at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/downloads/Childrens_Plan_Executive_Summary.pdf

The Chairman thanked Sue McGrath for the informative and interesting presentation on an important area within the Children's Trust's remit.

49 Annual Performance Update

Debbie Pritchard reported on the self assessment Day held on 6 May 2008 as part of the Annual Performance Assessment process. Information gaps had been identified and progress was being made. The self-assessment had to be provided by 26 June, inspectors would consider in the autumn and a final judgement would be published in December 2008.

50 Children's Trust Governance

The Board considered the report by Anne Whiteley on the national and Devon review of governance arrangements for the Children's Trust including the proposed composition of Local Planning and Implementation Partnerships (CTLPIP). The proposals could be affected by the outcome of the current review of local government in Devon and the arrangements may change as a result. Members acknowledged the need for some local flexibility, the importance of parent representation and noted that these would be accountable bodies.

A development day was being arranged for 10 June at the Isca Centre at 9.30 am for the Board and the CT Executive to discuss inter alia national guidance and more detailed governance and local arrangements.

AGREED

(a) that the national guidance be discussed on the development day on 10 June 2008;

(b) that the proposals for local governance be agreed and that each partner identifies the capacity for at least one chair to lead each CTLPIP.

51 Meetings during 2008

The Board noted that meetings will be held on the following dates:

10 June Development Day (9.30 am Isca Centre, Exeter);

10 July, 25 September, 13 November (Thursdays from 11.30am – 1.30pm at County Hall followed by lunch)

The meeting started at 11.30 am and finished at 1.30 pm