

Devon Children's Trust Board

Chairman: Councillor Christine Channon

Minutes 2 February 2011

County Hall
Exeter

Members Present

Cllr Christine Channon, Chairman (DCC Cabinet), Councillor Baverstock (District Councils), Steve Beety (for Steve Swani Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Steve Brown (for Virginia Pearson, NHS Devon), David Fitzsimmons (Devon Association of Secondary Heads), Karen Hooper (Job Centre Plus), Ann James (NHS Devon), Mary Nisbett (Partnership Council), John Peart (CYPS Learning and Skills), David Percival (Police Authority), Jenny Rudge (SW Careers), Anne Whiteley (Executive Director CYPS) and Alan Wooderson (Devon Safeguarding Children Board)

In Attendance

Brian Grady (CYPS), Debbie Pritchard (CYPS), Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat) and Sarah Skinner (CYPS)

Apologies

Richard Atkins (FE Colleges), Keith Bennett (Special Headteachers Association Devon), Jayne Carroll (NHS Devon/Devon County Council), Charlotte Coker (Devon and Cornwall Probation Area), Virginia Pearson (NHS Devon) and Steve Swani (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary) and Paul Walker (Devon Association of Primary Schools),

Agenda Item 1	Welcome and Introductions	Presenter Christine Channon
Discussion	No declarations of interest or conflicts were advised by Board members.	

Agenda Item 2	Minutes	Presenter Christine Channon
Discussion	The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2010 were signed as a correct record.	

Agenda Items 3	Matters of Interest to the Board	Presenter Anne Whiteley
Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on a synopsis of key policy changes emanating from Government relating to education, health, youth offending, foundation years and early intervention, and localism.</p> <p>Discussion included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National focus on pre-birth, infancy and early childhood, and early intervention and prevention • Public Health focus on starting well and developing well 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to 15 hours per week free day care for all 2 year olds from deprived families the Local Authority with its partners was echoing these themes with retention of all 43 Children Centres in Devon and protection of front-line services for the most vulnerable, despite the budgetary pressures 'No Health without Mental Health' national strategies integration of services through for example co-location, (e.g. MASH), the common assessment framework, and the team working around the child and the family; improvements and developments within the CAMHS importance and challenge of investment into preventative policies and integrated working during stringent budgetary times risks associated with the change process with GP consortia commissioning and the interconnection of the different services particularly early years. There would be a meeting soon with GPs on current joint working arrangements including the role of Children's Centres and the Local Learning Communities the innovative work at the West of England School for Visually Impaired children the proposed split for commissioning arrangements for Health Visitor Services in Children's Centres for 0-5 (by Public Health England, national commissioning board) and for school nurses for 5 -19 year olds by the local authorities. The split would not facilitate improved integration
Conclusion	The Board noted the report and the changing policies and implications for all partners
Action Points	Action Owner Deadline

Agenda Item 3b	Standing Item Future Partnership Arrangements including Health and Well-Being Boards	Presenters Steve Brown and Debbie Pritchard
Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) and NHS (Devon) on the main requirements of the Health and Social Care Bill including establishment of Health and Well-Being Boards (as a Committee of the Local Authority) encompassing health and social care partners and on its functions, including the preparation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). A 'Health Watch' organisation would also be established to act as a consumer champion across health and care. The report also outlined the role of the local authorities' scrutiny committees in this area and provided an outline action plan for early implementation of the Bill when enacted.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an event on 18 February organised by the Strategic Health Authority and NHS Devon on the implications proposed strengthened role for local Safeguarding Children Boards and the new Health & Wellbeing Board which are anticipated to 'host' the children's system 'business' in future the role of this Board, the CT Partnership Council and the Local Children's Trusts, the valuable local working through the LCTs and the Local Learning Communities, capacity issues with the need for support for the LCTs and the Partnership Council and the future monitoring of the CYP Plan and the impact of the Healthier Stronger Partnership agenda; and the need to include reference to these questions within the Board's Business Plan the critical role of local relationships through the valued work of the Youth Offending Service for example and local initiatives in Ilfracombe the need for school academies to adopt a strategic vision and not to work in isolation 	
Conclusion	the need for clarity of the organisational structures during and following this period of transition	
Action Points:	Action Owner	Deadline

A report on future arrangements be submitted to the next meeting	Steve Brown/DAP	

Agenda Item 4a	Strategy Children and Young's People Business Plan 2011 – 2012	Presenters Debbie Pritchard
Discussion	<p>The Board considered the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) and NHS Devon on the Children and Young People's draft Business Plan on the key objectives of the Board for the next year. The draft plan supported the aim to safeguard and improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people, with particular focus on achieving a single view of the child and ensuring effective transitions. The plan set out the vision and identified a set of principles and three priority areas for 2011 -12:</p> <p>Priority Area 1 – Integrated Working Priority Area 2 – Safeguarding Priority Area 3 – Pre-birth, birth and early parenting</p> <p>The Board formed three groups to discuss one priority area each to assist with the production of a 12 month Action Plan.</p>	
Conclusion	<p>The groups' conclusions included:</p> <p>Integration: the objectives were accepted. More reference should be made to strategic policy and operational practice; and emphasis on value for money in respect of early intervention.</p> <p>Safeguarding: the objective was endorsed; each organisation should develop an action plans individually and the collective responsibility of all partners in safeguarding should also be emphasised; and the particular reference to disability should be deleted. Reference should also be made to the importance of good quality supervision of staff.</p> <p>Pre birth, birth and early parenting: potentially named 'Foundation Years' as per Field report, reinforce the importance and awareness of evidenced based strategies and operational practice (highlight what works) target risk families and the emphasise the value of early intervention and early years education. Further reference also to the signs of risk within the rest of the population (not easily identified as at risk), the value of health visitors and close working with GPs; and the 'uncompromising mission' to address issues at this key stage.</p> <p>Generally reference also to the Healthy Lives Healthy People white paper and the role of the Devon Children Safeguarding Board; and consideration to further examination at a stake holders event.</p>	
Action Points		Action Owner
Comments to be taken on board within the document as part of the key actions that the Board Members be requested to forward any further comments so that the CYPP Business Plan can be adopted for April 2011		Steve Brown All
		Deadline End February

Agenda Item 4 b	Strategy Early Intervention & Prevention Strategy	Presenter Brian Grady

Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on the this draft Strategy to build coherent investment plans to support the development of early intervention and prevention, to promote integrated working and help develop joint action and investment plans.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reference to the Munroe Inquiry (second interim report recently published) which reinforced the value of early intervention, with a total place model with a proposed single partners' budget to drive shared/agreed outcomes; the need to recognise the value of prevention and not concentrate resources on crisis management 		
Conclusion	that the Strategy be endorsed and that Board Members be requested to submit any views back to Brian Grady and that the draft be forwarded to the CT Partnership Council		
Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline	
Brian Grady to receive any Board members' views and forward to the Partnership Council	All and Brian Grady	Mid February	

Agenda Item 4 c	Strategy Child Poverty Strategy and Draft Strategy and National Consultation	Presenter Debbie Pritchard	
Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on the Child Poverty Act 2010 and duties for government, local authorities and parents. The report detailed the Devon context with the formation of a Devon Strategic Partnership Child Poverty Steering Group to develop a needs assessment and a draft strategy setting out measures for the LA and the other duty to cooperate partners.</p> <p>Members discussed the role of the Devon Strategic Partnership in 'owning' the strategy in view of all the partners and agencies involved and the role of the Health and Well Being Boards and public health.</p>		
Conclusion	<p>Resolved:</p> <p>(a) the draft strategy and consultation response be endorsed</p> <p>(b) that the Strategy be discussed further with the Chairman of the DSP with a view to progressing matters</p> <p>(c) it also be referred to NHS Devon.</p>		
Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline	
Discussions with the Chairman of the DSP and the Director of Public Health	Debbie Pritchard and Steve Brown		

Agenda Item 5	Performance Annual Rating of Children's Services	Presenter Sarah Skinner	
Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS). Sarah Skinner summarised the outcome of the Annual Rating of Children's Services undertaken by OFSTED for 2010. Overall OFSTED's view was that Council was performing 'well'. OFSTED had acknowledged that the very large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected were good or better and that there had been improvements in most aspects of provision since the previous year, particularly in secondary schools and pupil referral units. The overall quality of day care for very young children was regarded as outstanding as was the local authority's adoption service. Primary schools, secondary schools, pupil referral units and further education colleges were good but special schools only adequate and school sixth forms poor. The Council's fostering service was felt to be</p>		

	<p>good and overall Safeguarding services were adequate but for children in care they were good.</p> <p>OFSTED had recognised that the Council's front-line child protection services had a broad balance of strengths and areas for improvement and further identified two areas of key development for Devon namely the need to improve the quality of school sixth forms and narrow the gap between the educational performance of young people from low-income families and others at the age of 16.</p> <p>The Board referred to the need to be inspection ready in respect of unannounced inspections and to the good work in the Directorate with its partners of the Inspection Ready Task Force. Reference was also made to the changing OFSTED regime and data which would be required in future on which further detail from Government was awaited.</p>
Conclusion	The report and the successful outcomes of the OFSTED Annual Rating for Children's Services and the good work of all staff and partners was welcomed by the Board.

Agenda Item 6 a)	Information Care Planning, Placement & Case Review Regulations 2010	Presenter Anne Whiteley
Discussion	The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on the Care Planning and Case Review Regulations 2010 and statutory guidance. All partner agencies would need to recognise and commit to supporting care plans and the role of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs). There was a need to review the role of the IROs in Devon and their workloads in view of the new guidance.	

Agenda Item 6 b)	Information Health Services for Children in Care Annual Report	
Discussion	The Board received the first annual report from NHS Devon on the health services provided for children in care. The report covered roles and responsibilities, management arrangements, numbers of children in care, performance indicators, training and non clinical and clinical activity. .	
Conclusion	The report represented an important area of work and warranted further consideration by the Board	
Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
The Report to be discussed at the Corporate Parenting Forum The report be presented to the next meeting of the Board	Steve Brown	

Agenda Item 7	Dates of Meetings	
	Tuesday, 17 May; (Note: subsequently changed after consultation with Chairman to Wednesday, 25 May at 10 am) Tuesday, 5 July; Tuesday, 11 October; and Tuesday, 7 February 2012	

Agenda Item 8	Information	
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Discussion	Forward Plan a) Police Blue Print – S Swani b) Update: Legal Highs – S Swani c) Health Services for Children in Care – Steve Brown
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Agenda Item 8	Information – Debbie Pritchard	Presenters
Discussion	<u>Debbie Pritchard</u> The Chairman reported that this was Debbie Pritchard's last meeting and on behalf of all Members thanked her for valued and dedicated service and wished her well for the future.	

The meeting started at 10 am and finished at 1.00 pm