

# Devon Children's Trust Board

**Chairman: Councillor Christine Channon**

**Minutes 11 October 2011**

County Hall  
Exeter

## Members Present

Cllr Christine Channon, Chairman (DCC Cabinet), Councillor Baverstock (District Councils), Jayne Carroll (NHS Devon/Devon County Council), Karen Hooper (Job Centre Plus), Rory McCallum (head of Child and Adult Protection), Virginia Pearson (NHS Devon), Jenny Rudge (SW Careers), Lisa Rutter (LCT East), Jennie Stephens (Strategic Director People), Steve Swani (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Tim Tod (Young Devon), and Alan Wooderson (Devon Safeguarding Children Board)

## In Attendance

Calendula Bowen (LCT Mid Devon), Steve Brown (NHS Devon), Cllr Kathy Cuthbert (South Hams), Cllr Andrea Davis (Cabinet Member), Philippa Court (DCC Commissioning); Cllr Vanessa Newcombe (Scrutiny Chairman) and Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat), John Shaw (Children with Additional Needs DCC)

## Apologies

Richard Atkins (FE Colleges), John Bunting (LCT Exeter), Charlotte Coker (Devon and Cornwall Probation Area), David Fitzsimmons (Devon Association of Secondary Heads), Brian Grady (Commissioning and Procurement), Lynette Grimshaw (LCT Mid Devon), David Percival (Police Authority), Mary Nisbett (Partnership Council), Ann James (NHS Devon), Tom McCulloch (LCT Northern) and John Peart (Learning and Skills) and Jacqui Warne (SHAD),

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

<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Presenter Christine Channon</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2011 were signed as a correct record.	

<b>3</b>	<b>People's: New Structure and Heads of Service (Devon County Council)</b>	<b>Presenter Jennie Stephens</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	Jennie Stephens reported on the new County Council organisational structure (link to diagram attached) and her role as the Strategic lead for 'People' covering services for children and adults. The Heads of Services under the People Strategic Director were Tim Golby (Head of Social Care Commissioning), Rory McCallum (Head of Child and Adult	

	Protection), Sally Slade (Head of Integrated Children's Services and Adult Care Management), Sue Clarke (Head of Education and Learning) and there was a vacancy for Social Care Provision and the responsibilities in this area were currently covered by her and Rory McCallum. Their key accountabilities and roles working across the County Council and with partner agencies and bodies were outlined and Rory McCallum outlined his key responsibilities.
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board noted the update by the Strategic Director.

<b>4</b>	<b>Future Partnership Arrangements including Health and Well-Being Boards</b>	<b>Presenter Virginia Pearson</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received an update from Virginia Pearson on the proposed establishment of Health and Well-Being Boards (as a Committee of the Local Authority) under the Health and Social Care Bill currently proceeding through Parliament. The new Boards subject to local discretion about functions were expected to include oversight of complex and varied commissioning arrangements for key services relating to children, adult and health services and relating to a detailed local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The new Board was expected to absorb the duties and function of the Children's Trust Board. Membership was expected to comprise senior representations from County Council members and officers, local commissioners (including GP consortia) and Director of Public Health and lay people.</p> <p>Draft Shadow Boards were expected to be established next year with implementation in April 2013. Further clarification and guidance was expected about their powers and abilities to devolve responsibilities and functions.</p> <p>Discussion points included the need for effective mechanisms for local networks so that their views were not lost including the valued contribution of the local children trusts. This local dimension would be addressed in part by the Head of Services for Communities within 'Place' involving local networks and bodies and which could also feed into the County Council's Locality Committees.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Chairman agreed that this remained 'work in progress' subject to guidance from government following the Bill when enacted in parliament. It was envisaged that there would be a continued need for local discussion and input from local groups including the LCTs.	
<b>Action Points:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>
A report on future arrangements in light of government legislation and guidance be submitted to the next meeting on 7 February 2012		Virginia Pearson
		<b>Deadline</b>
		27 January 2012

<b>5</b>	<b>Devon Children's Trust Partnership Business Plan: Productivity, Impact and Outcomes</b>	<b>Presenter Steve Brown</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board considered a report on an updated Business Plan following feedback from partners on an action plan to record individual agency actions to support the delivery of the strategic plan, which covered three identified key priorities: (a) Integrated Working, (b) Safeguarding, and (c) Pre-Birth, Birth and Early Parenting. The Task Group would need to be re-convened with new members to develop the plan to completion and sign off by the Chairman.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for more information relating to 'outcomes' and benefits to address the needs of vulnerable children and families to help inform commissioners</li> <li>• More reference to addressing the inequalities gap and information relating to deployment of resources against targets/objectives</li> <li>• the need to outline the continuing progress across such areas of teenage pregnancy, and breast feeding for example</li> <li>• reference to the MASH and other examples of improved service provision and use of CAF as another referral mechanism</li> <li>• the need to use the document in helping individual agencies involved with the Children's Trust to be held to account for their actions in meeting agreed priorities and objections</li> <li>• Input from the local level about priorities and needs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	Redraft of the Document to include the above and circulation by Christmas to the Chairman and Board for partners input	
<b>Action Points:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Reconvene the Task Group comprising Steve Brown, Steve Swani, Julie Mitchell (on behalf of DSCB) and with input from Virginia Pearson, re-draft of the Strategic Plan and circulation to the Board for report to the next meeting on 7 February 2012	Steve Brown and Task Group	By Christmas and final report by 27 January 2012

<b>6</b>	<b>Integrated Children's Services and Transforming Community Services (TCS)</b>	<b>Presenter</b> <b>Jayne Carroll</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a paper from NHS Devon on transforming Community Services and the programme for the re-commissioning of Integrated Children's Services to independent long-term providers by March 2013. The service was currently managed (from April 2011) by the County Council on behalf of NHS Devon. The report detailed the joint programme of work between NHS Devon and the County Council to achieve a safe transfer in 2013 with the aim of re-commissioning of services as whole (DCC and NHS commissioned or provided services) to a single accountable provider.</p> <p>Discussion points included the complexities and issues involved in setting up 'staff social care enterprises' and the experiences in neighbouring and other authorities.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	AGREED that the programme of work be noted	
<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>

<b>7</b>	<b>SEN Pathfinder Project</b>	<b>Presenter</b> <b>John Shaw</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a report from (NHS Devon) on Devon's successful bid as a Pathfinder (one of 30 nationally) in furtherance of the 2011 Green Paper – "Support and Aspiration: A new approach to Special Educational needs". The pathfinder project's aim was to develop a Single Plan and Personal Budgets, Banded Funding, Age Range and Employment, Support for Parents and Young People and Support for Vulnerable Children. In addition Devon was asked to work on Support for Vulnerable Children including Children in Care, Support for Parents/Carers and Young People, Personal Budgets to potentially include Direct Payments for all DCC and NHS services, and to deliver the Devon Local Offer of information for parents carers and other stakeholders of all services available.</p>	

	<p>The report outlined the objectives and scope of the project and success in gaining grant support for 2011/12 and 2012/13 with a possibility of a further two years.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the objective of developing a single assessment and plan for children and young people 0 - 25 by 2014 and improving outcomes more effectively and efficiently (in a climate of budgetary constraints)</li> <li>the interdependency with partners who have signed up and supportive of the project and its aims and objectives</li> <li>the numbers identified in Devon in need of this support</li> <li>government guidance and the likely need for legislative changes in the future relating to for example statementing</li> <li>reference within the plan (which there was) to help young people with additional needs to achieve employment and not be dependent on state benefits.</li> </ul>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board congratulated the County Council in gaining pathfinder status and commended the project, its aims and objectives and noted the paper.		
<b>Action Points:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	

<b>8</b>	<b>Community Budget for Families with Complex and Multiple Needs</b>	<b>Presenter Philippa Court</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a briefing paper on the County Council confirmation of interest as part of a government initiative for the roll out of community budgets for families with complex and multiple problems. The Devon Strategic Partnership had identified 1370 families and the aim in respect of these 'troubled families' was to help them address their problems.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cashable savings would not be easily achieved but improved longer term benefits with resulting savings across the board should be evidenced</li> <li>targeted approach in respect of these most vulnerable families combined with good standards of basic universal services for all families.</li> </ul>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board and commended the aims and objectives and noted the paper.		
<b>Action Points:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	

<b>9</b>	<b>Targeted Early Help Strategy</b>	<b>Presenter Philippa Court</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board considered a paper on a joint DCC/NHS draft Early Help Strategy on how services working alongside families could improve the life chances of children and young people particularly those living in families experiencing complex and multiple difficulties.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the need for further reference to teenage and young people</li> <li>the need for clarification of the numbers cited in the strategy</li> <li>reference to 'how the system works' and how it operates from a family's perspective</li> <li>emphasis on early identification of problems/issues, assessments and analysis of outcomes irrespective of age</li> <li>reference to the need to help empower and enable families to access support</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reference to the need for proper training, supervision and support for staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Conclusion</b>	AGREED that the vision detailed in page 5 of the Strategy and the Principles, Aims and Objectives detailed in pages 13 -16 be endorsed by this Board.
<b>Action Points:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b> <b>Deadline</b>

<b>10</b>	<b>Strategy</b> <b>Child-Centred System: Munro Report</b>	<b>Presenter</b> <b>Alan Wooderson</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received the report of the Independent Chairman of the Devon Safeguarding Children Board on the government's detailed response to the Munro report (commissioned by Government) into the child protection system. The 15 recommendations had been broadly accepted (9 in full and 5 in principle with 1 being considered further). The response also laid out the timetable for implementation. There was intent on reducing national prescription and placing greater trust in local authorities and frontline professionals. The response detailed how changes currently underway in the key agencies would not lead to a reduction in priority of safeguarding children rather a sharper focus with new targeted investment. The paper also included the implications for Devon and partners which had been recently considered the DSCB.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>AGREED</p> <p>(a) that the Government's response to the final report from Professor Eileen Munro into the child protection system in England be noted and the attached report of implications which was recently considered by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board be received;</p> <p>(b) that the recommendations contained in the report to the DSCB be endorsed by this Board;</p> <p>(c) that a further report on the timetable of implementation of the Munro recommendations and the revisions to the Ofsted Inspection regime and the Statutory Guidance on the roles of Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services be made to the next meeting of this Board.</p>	
<b>Action Points.</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Report to the next meeting as above	Alan Wooderson	27 January 2012

<b>11</b>	<b>Devon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/2011</b>	<b>Presenter</b> <b>Alan Wooderson</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board considered the report of the Chairman of the DSCB on publication of the final report and distribution in July 2011.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in the report for the next year (2011/12) and future years reference would be made to the child's and family perspective of the impact of intervention and their outcomes</li> <li>many of the identified impediments to improvement (in page 12 of the report) had been or were being addressed by the County Council and partners</li> <li>the plans and arrangements being made for a Safeguarding Week in November of which further information would be made available in due course</li> <li>reflection in future reports of peer group reviews by DSCB members of partner safeguarding arrangements and including staff surveys about their work and views about the effectiveness and deployment of resources for example.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	AGREED	

	<p>(a) that the Annual Report of the Devon Safeguarding Children Board be received and the improvements identified in Section 3 of the report and the achievements of the Children's Trust identified in Section 4 of the report in responding to the 10 'Challenges' be welcomed;</p> <p>(b) that the issues noted on page 12 of the report which limit the progress made during 2010/11 be prioritised within the various single agency and joint agency governance and accountability arrangements so that they do not become an impediment to future judgements;</p> <p>(c) that the Children's Trust note the proposals in Professor Munro's final report to Government regarding the future annual reports of LSCBs being made to the Leader and Chief Executive of Councils, the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Police and Crime Commissioners;</p> <p>(d) that the Children's Trust endorse the proposal from the DSCB to formulate the Annual Report for 2011-12 as a report of the 'child's journey' in Devon</p>		
<b>Action Points</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
As above		Alan Wooderson	27 January 2012

<b>12</b>	<b>Legal Higs</b>	<b>Presenter Steve Swani</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Steve Swani reported on a new Government initiative to identify risks associated with the sale of these 'off the shelf' products. Police officers would take samples of products where it was suspected that illegal substances were present in the ingredients. At the point of taking a sample the vendor would be requested to withdraw the product from sale and if he/she agreed and it transpired (after proper forensic analysis) illegal ingredients were present the vendor would not be prosecuted. If the vendor refused to withdraw the product from sale and illegal ingredients were subsequently found he would then be prosecuted.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board noted the update.	

<b>12</b>	<b>Forward Plan</b>	
	<p>a) Future arrangements and Health and Well Being Boards – Virginia Pearson  b) Partnership Business Plan – S Brown  c) Update on implementation of Munro recommendations - A Wooderson</p>	

<b>13</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	
	Tuesday, 7 February 2012	

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 1.00pm