

Children's Trust Statutory Board Report to Statutory Board Meeting	
Section 1 – General	
Date of CTSB Meeting	14 th September 2010
Title of Report /Agenda Item	Executive Director's Children & Young People's Services Overview Report of Matters of Interest to Devon Children's Trust
Author	Anne Whiteley
Presenter	Anne Whiteley
Section 2 – Report Detail	
Report is for:	
Info <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendations:	
That the Board notes the findings of Ofsted's Annual Unannounced Inspection of Devon Children's Services Contact, Referral and Assessment service; (ii) notes the latest national policy directives; (iii) shares information across the system of relevance to Children's Trust partnership work likely to impact on CYPP outcomes/progress; (iv) considers any immediate impact on CYPP priorities for 2011/12; (v) CTB uses its planning event on the 23 September to determine potential models for radical change opportunities.	
Summary:	
All areas are changing and the partnership needs to position itself to safeguard the interests of the most vulnerable.	
Report :	

Executive Director's Children & Young People's Services Overview Report of Matters of Interest to Devon Children's Trust

Recommendations: that the Board

- (i) notes the findings of Ofsted's Annual Unannounced Inspection of Devon Children's Services Contact, Referral and Assessment service;
- (ii) notes the latest national policy directives;
- (iii) shares information across the system of relevance to Children's Trust partnership work likely to impact on CYPP outcomes/progress;
- (iv) considers any immediate impact on CYPP priorities for 2011/12;
- (v) CTB uses its planning event on the 23 September to determine potential models for radical change opportunities.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since our last Board a range of "quick fire" policy and funding arrangements have been made. The 'fizz in the system continues to bubble' while we all endeavour to get to grips with new directions and grapple with understanding all these changes, as well as put in place plans to respond to reducing the public purse. Of significance:

- abolition of Government Office
- LSCB communications abolished
- decommissioning of ContactPoint (locally we are developing 'Clearcore')
- introduction of pupil premium and school funding (consultation)
- diplomas
- 16-19 funding changes (YPLA will have the money to allocate)
- Early years Single Funding formula introduced
- TAMHS (Targetted Mental Health in Schools)
- Academies legislation enacted
- 'Liberating the NHS' - White Paper launched
- Transforming Community Services moving apace (transfer for Devon NHS by 31.3.11)
- Audit Commission to be phased out
- Playbuilder scheme - grants frozen: we await news of a number of Devon schemes caught up in this
- Child Poverty Act 2010 - Part 2 duties of LAs and other bodies: confirmation that duties remain in place but no statutory guidance to be issued
- Curtailment of Building Schools for the Future.

1.2 A whole series of reviews are underway with Calls for Evidence and task and finish groups established. See Annex 1 for details.

1.3 Meanwhile, locally the Ofsted Annual Unannounced Inspection of Devon Children's Contact, Referral and Assessment service has happened and reported.

1.4 The impact of in-year Area Based Grant reductions will begin to be felt during the Autumn. One of the most significant areas of service reduction will be the time afforded to individual schools through the Connexions Service. The detail of these were agreed by Cabinet on the 14 July 2010 as per Annex 3.

2.0 NATIONAL DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

2.1 A Ministerial Advisory Group on the role of the Local Authority in relation to Education and Children's Services has been launched. It includes representation of Directors of Children's Services and is an opportunity to influence the White Paper on Education and Children's Services expected in the Autumn. Two of our local officers have been invited to participate in the Ministerial task and finish groups on the role of the LA in the commissioning of school places

2.2 As with the wider role of the LA it is envisaged that our role in children's services will primarily be a commissioner (rather than direct provider, with new providers entering the market), and as a champion for children and parents, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

2.3 A series of national Pathfinder Mutuals have been announced, a number of health proposals and some children's services, e.g. Westminster City Council working with employees in Children's Services and neighbouring local authorities to move towards creating an arm's-length mutual organisation. These are being supported/mentored by business leaders to help develop a range of sustainable, efficient and pioneering employee-led services. Watch this space!

3.0 LOCAL ISSUES AND MATTERS OF INTEREST

3.1 The Ofsted Unannounced Inspection of Devon's Children's Services Contact, Referral and Assessment took place on the 28 and 29 June 2010. The published letter and findings from Ofsted dated 28 July can be found at Annex 2 attached to this report. This is being reported together with the Action Plan to the DSCB on the 10 September for information/discussion. It is pleasing to note the improvements since the full Ofsted Inspection in 2009 and that there are no priority actions for the LA which is the benchmark! As colleagues will note the MASH has been recognised as an area of strength even though in the very early stages of development.

3.2 NHS Devon and DCC have invited the Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health National Support Team (NST) to visit Devon. The purpose of this visit is to review what is working well and areas for development: recently a combination of factors have led to considerable service pressures and affected the ability to respond to need. The NST will look at the range of services from peri-natal care through childhood transition and into adult services and across the spectrum of early intervention and prevention - core CAMHS - specialist CAMHS. A number of stakeholders will

be invited to participate. The dates for the visit are 5 - 7 October, with a closing plenary on the 18 October 2010.

3.3 NHS Devon and DCC are closely engaged in the preparatory work for Transforming Community Services. The national process applies to NHS services delivered by Devon Provider Services. NHS Devon is required to divest itself of these services by 31.3.11 in readiness for the transfer of commissioning responsibilities to GPs. We are working together given the high level of existing integration between our adult and children's services. For children's services the scope is the Integrated Children's Services (delivering early response and further response for children with additional needs, including disability). A stakeholder event is planned for the 15 September 2010.

3.4 Careers South West (Connexions) recently hosted a meeting with a senior civil servant from the DfE and cross peninsula LAs to explore coalition thinking on the future of the service. Key points:

- new minister (John Hayes) straddles two departments (DfE, DBIS)
- Careers will continue to be important area
- Government will not put barriers in way of people working together for common objectives
- Market development
- Role of schools as commissioners

Still much unknown and timeframe for further clarity as yet uncertain. The completion of the Spending Review and anticipated announcement on the 20 October should shed further light.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CYPP PRIORITIES

4.1 The partnership has already agreed to a 'reduced' set of key priorities which can only be delivered in partnership.

4.2 During this considerable period of 'flux', change and resource reduction the importance of maintaining our collective safeguarding responsibilities and prioritised actions arising from the DSCB Annual Report cannot be overstated.

4.3 What do we want to do to ensure that we achieve the 'more for less' story rather than the 'less for less' scenario?

Anne Whiteley
Executive Director of Children & Young People's Services

ANNEX 1

Name of Review	Commentary
Munroe review of Child Protection	Call for Evidence closed. DSCB coordinated and responded on behalf of DCT; response also from Devon's CiC Council
Vetting and Barring Scheme	ToR awaited
Ofsted Review	Call for Evidence
Early Years Foundation Stage	Chaired by Dame Clare Tickell Final report Spring 2011 Call for Evidence: Devon Early Years Partnership to respond
Capital Funding (Schools)	Call for Evidence being coordinated by Vic Ebdon for DCC.