

Children's Trust Statutory Board Report to Statutory Board Meeting	
Section 1 – General	
Date of CTSB Meeting	Tuesday 14 th September
Title of Report /Agenda Item	Development of Children and Young People's Plan and Children's Trust Governance
Author	Debbie Pritchard
Presenter	Debbie Pritchard
Section 2 – Report Detail	
Report is for:	
Info <input type="checkbox"/> Decision: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendations:	
The board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree the framework for the development of the Children and Young People's Plan - agree in principle that future governance will be developed in order to deliver the Children and Young Peoples Plan which may not be based on current arrangements. 	
Summary:	
The Children and Young Peoples Plan for 2011 onwards is proposed to develop as a plan focussed on the most vulnerable and the processes to develop it are outlined.	
Report :	

Development of Children and Young People's Plan 2011 and Children's Trust Governance

1. Recommendations:

The Children's Trust Board

- agree the framework for the development of the Children and Young People's Plan
- agree in principle that future governance will be developed in order to deliver the 2011 Children and Young Peoples Plan which may not be based on current arrangements.
- review options and make recommendations for future strategic partnership arrangements.

2. Introduction

In responding to the Coalition Government's budget deficit reduction strategy and policy direction changes partners are being required to implement significant budget reductions and/or changes in priorities. The Board has agreed that the "The business of the Children's Trust in Devon is to safeguard and improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people. Particular focus will be in achieving a single view of the child and ensuring effective transitions for the vulnerable".

We anticipate the removal of the statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust or a Children and Young People's Plan in the Education and Children Bill. Devon's Children's Trust has made a commitment to have a simplified plan focussed on a few areas where:

- a real change in partnership working will make a real positive difference to the lives of the most vulnerable.
- the weight of the Board is required to make this happen.

We also anticipate that Devon's Children's Trust Board will adopt a more singular role centred on the production, monitoring and review of a focussed CYPP.

3. Background

Our evidence base comes from national research on what works and our local intelligence including:

- Devon Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010
- Children and Young People Needs Assessment 2010
- Review of Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 10
- Annual Public Health Report 2008 – 2009
- Messages from the voices of Children and Young People 2010

At our strategic planning seminar 18 May 2010 we considered an 'offer' for the new Children and Young People's Plan with priority areas of:

- Early Years
- Strengthening Families
- Reducing Child Poverty
- 14 – 19+
- Safeguarding
- Workforce
- Leadership

There was broad consensus. Now we need to define and refine further. Each partner will need to commit within its own planning so the development of the Children and Young People's Plan and partner planning and budgetary align.

4. Process

18 May	-	Introductory 'offer'
23 September	-	Board develop draft Children and Young People's Plan
Oct – November	-	consultation including local conference
14 December	-	Board sign off draft plan
Jan – Feb	-	Partners Boards sign off plan
April	-	Plan commences

5. Developing the Plan - Principles of approach

The assumptions below are proposed as the underpinning principles to our planning:

- Focus entirely on vulnerable
- 25% less resource over the next few years
- early intervention (good parents, great kids and better citizens or Think child, Think family, Think community) saves costs and improves outcomes
- place based budgeting (total place approach)
- achievable and costed plans (be real)
- Governance form follows function of the plan.

6. Governance and Performance Management of the Children and Young People's Plan

Given the Children's Trust Board's role will be primarily CYPP focussed, it is proposed that the future governance arrangements should be determined by the scope and content of the plan, combined with the principle that delivery is with the partners, either individual or collectively.

Board will hold partners to account individually for the delivery and effectiveness of the plan with performance reporting to the Board in two ways.

- (a) Where CYPP priority is a single partner delivery, that agency will report progress and performance to the Board.
- (b) Where a CYPP is delivered by two or more partners, a lead partner is agreed who will as an agency take responsibility of co-ordinating the reporting of progress and performance to the Board.

Work is currently in progress to implement streamlined performance reporting for the Children's Trust Board alongside the Devon Safeguarding Children Board incorporating the above principles and including a common data set approach.

Reports on progress will be public and available to Boards of partners, Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee and Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board.

7. Risks and challenges

As capacity partners experience changes and reductions there remains less capacity. Devon County Council has contributed the majority of the Children's Trust infrastructure at strategic level; this level of commitment can no longer be sustained. The priority will be to ensure no duplication of processes, systems and resources between partners and in partnership governance arrangements ensuring maximum value at minimum cost.

Furthermore partners will need to consider going forward what new partnership and governance arrangements will fit the future policy and economic environment e.g. the development of 'health and wellbeing boards' as part of the Government's plans to strengthen local democratic legitimacy of the NHS and enabling local authorities to take a strategic approach and promote integration across health, adult social care, and children's services including safeguarding.

This will in particular affect arrangements for:

- Planning
- Governance
- Communication
- Performance monitoring

Within this challenging environment there is the potential risk that partners may be drawn to be inward facing in dealing with policy changes and budget reductions. This is a risk for the Partnership if individual agencies adopt 'silo thinking' approaches and solutions in strategy, planning, commissioning and delivery. It will be important that partners ensure effective alignment in these areas.

It is therefore proposed that:

- Partnership council meets in November only in order to consult on Children and Young People's Plan and
- the Monitoring and Analysis Reporting Schedule (MARS) on existing Children and Young People's Plan is suspended. Any high risk concerns in Children and Young People's Plan to be reported direct to Board by lead officers.
- Arrangements post Christmas 2010 are agreed by the Board at its December meeting based on the scope and content of the 2011 plan and the implementation of a streamlined performance management system and risk register aligned with the DSCB.
- The Board review options and make recommendations for future strategic partnership arrangements

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