

Devon Children's Trust Board

Chairman: Councillor Christine Channon

Minutes 21 July 2010

County hall
Exeter

Members Present

Cllr Christine Channon, Chairman (Cabinet Member for Schools and Skills), Richard Atkins (FE Colleges), Councillor Baverstock (District Councils), Steve Beety (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Karen Hooper (Job Centre Plus), Mary Nisbett (Independent Chair CT Partnership Council), John Peart (CYPS Head of Learning and Skills), Virginia Pearson (NHS Devon), David Percival (Devon and Cornwall Police Authority), Jenny Rudge (SW Careers) and Alan Wooderson (Independent Chair of the Devon Safeguarding Children Board)

Observer

Adrian Wells GOSW

In Attendance

Julie Mitchell (DSCB), Cllr Vanessa Newcombe (Chairman CYPS Scrutiny Committee), Debbie Pritchard (CYPS), Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat)

Apologies

Keith Bennett (Special Headteachers Association), Nicola Bulbeck (District Councils), Jayne Carroll (NHS Devon/Devon County Council), Charlotte Coker (Devon and Cornwall Probation Area), David Fitzsimmons (Devon Association of Secondary Heads), Brian Grady (CYPS), Ann James (Vice Chairman NHS Devon), Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Paul Walker (Devon Association of Primary Schools) and Anne Whiteley (CYPS)

Agenda Item 1	Welcome and Introductions	Presenter Christine Channon
Discussion	The Chairman welcomed Mr Wells to his first meeting as an observer for the GOSW. No declarations of interest or conflicts were advised by Board members.	

Agenda Item 2	Devon Safeguarding Children's Boars Annual Report	Presenter Alan Wooderson
Discussion	Alan Wooderson presented the draft Annual report 2009-10 on the assessment of local safeguarding arrangements in Devon. He detailed the challenges identified in the report for all partner agencies. This was the second annual report and the first to scrutinise the extent to which children and young people were kept safe and their well being was promoted in accordance with the former DCSF guidance. The report described the national and local safeguarding priority achievements and highlighted challenges with expected outcomes and progress measures for the Children's Trust to consider as part of	

	<p>the next CYPP. Members' discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how judgements were made using various methods for e.g. ofsted descriptors and findings and the difficulties involved in many areas • suggested various minor changes to the draft which would be included prior to publication • ways in which the District Councils and other agencies could present evidence based improvements for future reference in reports for example the improved working arrangements to address young people's homelessness following the Southwark judgement • the future risks relating to the proposed abolition of the PCTs and SHA and transfer of functions to GP practices • approval to greater alignment of the work of sub-groups of the DSCB with the Children's Trust • reference to how there could be greater alignment of methods used to hear the voice of children and young people in Devon as demonstrated through the draft report on the messages heard and as previously discussed • the availability of the Annual Report on the DSCB web-site following approval. 								
Conclusion	The Board commended the draft as a very useful and positive tool and guide for continued improvement.								
Action Points	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1031 864 1321 893">Action Owner</th> <th data-bbox="1321 864 1513 893">Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1031 893 1321 1061">Julie Mitchell</td> <td data-bbox="1321 893 1513 1061">Immediate</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1031 1061 1321 1196">Debbie Pritchard</td> <td data-bbox="1321 1061 1513 1196">September 2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1031 1196 1321 1330">Debbie Pritchard</td> <td data-bbox="1321 1196 1513 1330">September 2010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Action Owner	Deadline	Julie Mitchell	Immediate	Debbie Pritchard	September 2010	Debbie Pritchard	September 2010
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<p>AGREED (a) that the draft annual report be circulated to all members for a second read and that any comments be fed back to the Chairman and/or Alan Wooderson prior to sign-off by the Chairman on behalf of the Board;</p>									
<p>(b) that a scoping paper be presented to the next Board meeting on CT Board proposals in respect of the Annual Report's findings and recommendations;</p>									
<p>(c) that an update be provided on Government proposals relating to children's services which are still subject to clarification and guidance.</p>									

Agenda Item 3	Policy Changes and In Year Reductions to Area Based Grants	Presenter Debbie Pritchard
Discussion	<p>The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) (CY/10/70) considered by the Council's Cabinet on 14 July 2010. The paper detailed proposed in-year cuts to children's services following the an in-year reduction to Area Based Grants of 24%. The impact of the cuts included partner organisations. The proposal as detailed in the paper had been approved by the Cabinet. Members referred also to the potential longer term implications for younger people as a result of these centrally enforced short term budget cuts.</p> <p>Debbie Pritchard further reported on recent widespread Government proposals relating to health, social care, education and youth services. Trust members discussed the implications and uncertainties relating to their service areas and the need for further clarification and guidance from government and Mr Wells also relayed the uncertainties relating to the future of GOSW functions. The Chairman referred to the need to achieve best value through partnership work and drive for continued efficiencies.</p>	
Conclusion	The position and uncertainties were noted along with the need for further guidance from	

	government.		
Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline	
That the following be circulated to the CTB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • briefing note for schools on the academy proposals • the final version of the review of the CYPP for 2010 	Gerry Rufolo	Immediate	

Agenda Item	Dates of Meetings	
4	Tuesday, 14 September; Thursday, 23 September: Development Seminar 1pm – 5.30pm Tuesday, 14 December; Tuesday, 15 February 2011; and Tuesday, 3 May 2011;	

The meeting started at 10 am and finished at 12.10 pm