

# Children's Trust Statutory Board

23 March 2010

## Present

Cllr Christine Channon (Chairman) (Cabinet Member for Schools and Skills, DCC), Richard Atkins (FE Colleges), Cllr John Baverstock (Devon District Councils), Keith Bennett (Shad), Nicola Bulbeck (Devon District Councils), Karen Hooper (Job Centre Plus), Ann James (NHS Devon), Jim Meakin (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Mary Nisbett (Partnership Council), Virginia Pearson (Director of Public Health), David Percival (Police Authority), Jenny Rudge (Careers South West), Paul Walker (DAPH), Anne Whiteley (Executive Director CYPS) and Alan Wooderson (Independent Chair - Devon Local Safeguarding Children Board)

## In Attendance

Nicky Allen (CYPS - Finance)  
Debbie Pritchard (Assistant Director CYPS)  
Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat)

## Apologies

Jayne Carroll (NHS Devon)  
Carolyn Elliot (DCC - Adult and Community Services)  
David Fitzsimmons (DASH)  
Penny Mathers (Observer - Government Office South West)  
Anne Proctor (Probation Service)  
Jo Tennant (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary)

## 71 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2010 were signed as a correct record.

## 72 Executive Director's Overview 10.05

Anne Whiteley congratulated Jenny Rudge (Careers SW) on their national award as a top performing public sector company.

The Board considered the paper by Anne Whiteley on national policy and new publications including guidance on Working Together, the role and function of Children's Trusts and Safeguarding Boards. The report also outlined the implementation of the Devon Play Strategy; the 14-19 Transition process; and developments relating to Children in Care and the new duty for placements; and other cross cutting policy work.

Mr Meakin indicated that he would endeavour to ensure Devon and Cornwall Constabulary representation at the Play Shaper event on 28 April 2010 and Councillor Baverstock indicated that similarly he would encourage District Officer representation.

In terms of 14 -19 transition on which a presentation would be made to the next meeting Mr Percival enquired about the provision for young people with additional needs (ASD). Further information would be forwarded to him in respect of the Stepping Stones programme.

#### RESOLVED

(a) that the significant publications and implementation of national guidance in relation to safeguarding, the role and function of Children's Trust Boards and Safeguarding Boards be noted;

(b) that a report be submitted for 29 June meeting regarding Devon's response to the governance implementation and revised national requirements;

(c) that the inclusion of the Devon exemplar in the Laming One Year On report regarding Information Sharing be welcomed;

(d) that the Play Shaper event for Strategic leaders in Devon be noted and that the relevant partner agencies of the Children's Trust nominate senior officer representation;

(e) that the mapping of current activities and services which support positive outcomes for children in care be agreed and that nominated senior officers from the Children's Trust partners to support delivery be agreed.

#### 73 Children's Trust Governance

(a) The Board received a report by Debbie Pritchard on interim funding for Local Children's Trusts which would be subject to review for 2011.

(b) Councillor John Baverstock reported on ideas to improve district council engagements in the work of the Children's Trust with for example initiatives relating to NEETS; free swimming for all young people; and Young Greenies (beaching cleaning initiatives). The Chairman also referred to the work and engagement with the Youth Parliament and Mary Nisbett on the current 'Don't Judge till you Know Us' campaign about perceptions of young people.

Richard Atkins referred to the NEETs and FE College requirements for qualifications and the problems this caused for this group and that he would welcome initiatives for them relating to for example new apprenticeships. Job Centre Plus was also promoting engagement with local employers for 16 - 17 year olds in collaboration with Careers SW. Anne Whiteley referred also to County Council and national initiatives for care leavers and the need for flexibility and engagement of local employers and that she would welcome a wider conversation in this area. She would discuss this with her Director Colleagues in Torbay and Plymouth as part of the 14 -19 agenda. Mr Bennett also referred to the particular problems for children from special schools in accessing FE Education and the impact of the qualifications framework including foundation learning.

RESOLVED that a wide-ranging scoping paper for consideration by the Board to be drafted to include:

(i) a mapping exercise of apprenticeships and employer engagement; and

(ii) learning provision and issues and on local/national initiatives for NEETS, children with additional needs and Care Leavers.

(c) Resource questionnaire

Nicky Allen reported on a draft questionnaire for CT Partners and other agencies on a resource statement covering the spend on children and young people and safeguarding across Devon. This would inform needs assessment, priorities, the DSCB Annual report and help align resources with agreed priorities. The proposed questionnaire was supported by the Children's Trust Partnership Council and Mary Nisbett commended it as a major piece of work. The Skills Funding Agency was suggested in addition to the diverse organisations listed as consultees and it was agreed that discussion would take place with regard to Further Education.

The Board supported the questionnaire noting that it would be distributed shortly with responses expected by mid/late April.

(d) Partnership Council feedback

Mary Nisbett reported on the work of the Partnership Council which had met twice since the last meeting of the Board. Items considered included the resource statement, a paper on child poverty for the Devon Strategic Partnership; and the setting up of a Needs Assessment Task Group. In regard to the Monitoring and Report Schedule (MARS) relating to access pathways, access, transport, participation and Children Centres all had been delivered in accordance with the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and that there were no exceptions to bring to the Board. In terms of the Post Ofsted Action Plan Action 7 relating to the NHS Devon deployment of dedicated budget allocations for children with additional needs Mary Nisbett indicated that there had been no NHS Devon representation at the last two Partnership Council meetings and requested their attendance at the next meeting for an update.

Anne Whiteley referred to the importance of needs assessment which was an important mechanism for a strategic approach.

The next meeting of the Council would be asked to comment on the DCSF consultation on the new proposed Schools Funding Formula which was a very important issue for Devon particularly in terms of rural deprivation/population sparsity.

#### 74 Transforming Community Services

Ann James reported on Department of Health and Strategic Health Authority requirements relating to separation of commissioning and provider services within NHS Devon by April 2011 and the opportunities and challenges this

presented within this tight time frame. A stakeholders meeting had been held on 10 March with County Council representation which included discussion about the provision of specialist services, joint provision and different pathways. A report would be presented to the NHS Devon Board on 24 March where options would be presented and that a paper would be submitted to this Board at its next meeting.

Anne Whiteley welcomed the opportunity for Children's Trust engagement in this complex and major initiative and suggested the involvement of the Young Commissioners in the process.

Board members referred to the opportunities for efficiency savings and improved joint working leading to improved outcomes.

#### 75 Infant Feeding Strategy

The Board received a NHS Devon strategy paper to promote sound infant feeding practice for babies and infants in the 0-1 year range that enabled best advice for pregnant women, parents and carers. Virginia Pearson referred to the benefits of breast feeding in giving babies/infants a healthy start and referred to an excellent Audit Commission paper, *Giving Children a Healthy Start*.

Board Members discussion points included:

- the legal context/issues for women wanting to breast feed in public areas, which would need further research
- the cultural and social pressures involved
- as commissioners of public transport the assistance the County Council could provide together with other local authorities as part of their licensing conditions
- a proposal to produce a public information (myth busting) leaflet in this area
- the excellent work of a care leaver under graduate art student undertaking a dissertation project about women's body image, who could be approached in relation to the Strategy
- local geographical deprivation data and the relationship to the poor take up of breast feeding and other associated wider issues
- the need to address this area within the PHSE curriculum in schools;
- presentation of the strategy to the Teenage Pregnancy Board.

Virginia Pearson indicated that she would discuss the above points with the author for further consideration.

#### 76 Children and Young People's Voice and Hear by Right

Anne Whiteley reported on this paper about the development of a draft User Engagement Strategy which was circulated to the Board. The strategy built on the existing strengths to develop a coherent approach with partners (Adult and Community Services, NHS Devon and Young Devon, Fusion and Link). The Strategy was subject to further consultation with all partner organisations and Members were invited to circulate it to their organisations for comment. The

Board discussed the benefits of the insight provided by young people in respect the BSF Programme for example.

RESOLVED

(a) that the draft user engagement strategy be approved for a period of a 3 month consultation and a further report be made to the Board;

(b) that a report/position statement be submitted on the partners' achievement towards level 3 of the Hear by Right Standards

Mary Nisbett also reported on the Hear by Right initiative and the valuable work of the 'Get their Voice Heard Group' supported by participation workers. There was good progress towards the development of a set of standards for the involvement of children and young people across the partner organisations and that the national evaluation of Devon was also encouraging. She outlined the work with the Local Children's Trusts (LCTs), the use of web links for young people's views to be heard, the Don't Judge Us till you Know Us Campaign, development of best practice guidance for primary schools, meetings with the senior council with young people and engagement with county and district members and other initiatives. She also emphasised the need for continuing financial support for this important area of work

Keith Bennett, as an example of low cost involvement of young people, referred to their value and insight in the selection process for the appointment of key posts.

77 Post Ofsted Action Plan

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on the Action Plan, progress and on areas of ongoing scrutiny.

Virginia Pearson referred to requirements of the Care Quality Commission with regard to identification of health budgets which repeated the recommendation from Ofsted which had not met the action plan deadlines and would need further discussion.

RESOLVED

(a) that a further report be submitted on the ongoing issues including embedding of the electronic records system;

(b) that a further report be submitted by NHS Devon with regard to the outstanding action of the Post-Ofsted Action Plan relating to health budgets and preventative work within families (A7).

78 Children and Young People's Plan: Performance against Indicators

The Board received a paper by Debbie Pritchard on the CYPP and performance against indicators. The report outlined the National indicator Set and local indicators and their uses and flaws and referred to the Ofsted

process and their use of the Local Area Children's Services Performance Profile. The Board noted the implications of the tougher Ofsted inspection regime.

#### RESOLVED

(a) that the information around performance indicators and the issues related to them be noted;

(b) that the 'dashboard' and performance profile be reviewed on a quarterly basis;

(c) that colour copies of the dashboard are made available.

#### 79 Think Inspector: feedback from Children's Trust Self-assessment Day

The Board received the Paper by Debbie Pritchard on the Children's Trust performance framework based on Ofsted criteria for safeguarding and looked after children. The Board noted that a Task Group had been set up to review the evidence and propose judgments against the Ofsted criteria and recommend the next steps.

#### 80 Devon Safeguarding Children's Board Overview of Production of Annual Report and Related matters

The Board received a paper from Alan Wooderson on Section 11 Audits across the peninsula using a common methodology which were now being analysed, progress of the draft of the annual DSCB annual report which would be submitted to the next meeting, the commissioning of a joint Strategic Needs Assessment of children safeguarding across Devon, the progress of the MASH project, launch of the DSCB website; and work on the production of the safeguarding Resource Statement.

#### 81 Matters For Information

The Board received updates on the following

(a) BSF - Update paper attached

(b) Child Poverty proposal to DSP

(c) CYPP review letter attached

(d) Summary of annual performance framework

(e) Web Links to Working Together / Every Child Matters statutory guidance below:

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/workingtogether/workingtogethertosafeguardchildren/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/workingtogether/workingtogethertosafeguardchildren/)

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/\\_download/?id=8153](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=8153)

82 Dates of Meetings 2010

RESOLVED

Tuesday, 29 June  
 Tuesday, 14 September;  
 Tuesday, 14 December;  
 Tuesday, 15 February 2011; and  
 Tuesday, 3 May 2011;

at 10 am at County Hall, Exeter

83 Forward Plan

<b>Standing Items</b>	
Executive Director's Overview	<b>AW</b>
Devon Safeguarding Children's Board	<b>A Wooderson</b>
Report from Partnership Council	<b>M Nisbett</b>
<b>29 June</b>	
DSCB: Funding and Annual Report	<b>A Wooderson</b>
Governance: National Guidance/Implementation	<b>DP</b>
Achievement Through Collaboration	<b>DP</b>
Drugs and Alcohol Team	<b>VP NHS Devon</b>
14 - 19 and Transfer of LSC Functions	
Workforce Strategy	<b>AW</b>
Local Services to address Violence against Women and Girls	<b>Jo Tennant</b>
Information Sharing and Single View of the Child	<b>AW</b>
Young People's Voice: Strategy	<b>AW</b>
Transforming Community Services	<b>AJ</b>
Review of the CYPP	<b>DAP</b>
Needs Assessment	<b>DAP</b>
POAP Progress on Action 7: health budgets/prevention	<b>NHS Devon</b>
Children in Care	<b>D Booth</b>
<b>22 September</b>	
Economic Climate: Issues for Young People/NEETS/Care Leavers and children with additional needs	<b>DP/JR</b>
Update on the Way Ahead: Joint Health + Social Care Strategy	<b>Jayne Carroll</b>
CYPP Review/Indicators	<b>DP</b>
POAP Update	<b>DP</b>
Funding of LCTs	<b>DP</b>
<b>December</b>	
<b>February 2011</b>	
<b>12 April</b>	

The meeting started at 10 am and finished at 1.05 pm