

# Devon Children's Trust Board

Chairman: Councillor Christine Channon

**Minutes** 25 May 2011

County Hall  
Exeter

## Members Present

Cllr Christine Channon, Chairman (DCC Cabinet), Councillor Baverstock (District Councils), Charlotte Coker (Devon and Cornwall Probation Area Steve Brown (for Virginia Pearson, NHS Devon), Jayne Carroll (NHS Devon/Devon County Council), David Fitzsimmons (Devon Association of Secondary Heads), Lynette Grimshaw (LCT Mid Devon), Sue Parr (Job Centre Plus), John Laramy (for Richard Atkins, Exeter College), Tom McCulloch (LCT Northern), John Peart (Learning and Skills), Jenny Rudge (SW Careers), Jennie Stephens (Strategic Director People), Steve Swani (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary), Jacqui Warne (for Keith Bennett SHAD), Anne Whiteley (Executive Director CYPS) and Alan Wooderson (Devon Safeguarding Children Board)

## In Attendance

Cllr Andrea Davis (Cabinet Member), Dillon Hughes (Youth Service), Cllr Vanessa Newcombe (Scrutiny Chairman), Gerry Rufolo (Committee Secretariat) and Tim Tod (Young Devon)

## Apologies

Richard Atkins (FE Colleges), Keith Bennett (Special Headteachers Association Devon), John Bunting (LCT Exeter), Karen Hooper (Job Centre Plus), Ann James (NHS Devon), Karen Nolan (LCT West), Mary Nisbett (Partnership Council), David Percival (Police Authority), Virginia Pearson (NHS Devon), Lisa Rutter (LCT East) and Paul Walker (Devon Association of Primary Schools),

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

<b>Agenda Item</b> 2	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Presenter</b> Christine Channon
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2011 were signed as a correct record.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that this was Anne Whiteley's last meeting of the Board as she was retiring from the County Council. Members extended their thanks to Anne for her dedicated service for Children and Young People and passed on their best wishes for the future.</p>	

<b>Agenda Items 3</b>	<b>Matters of Interest to the Board</b>	<b>Presenter Anne Whiteley</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	The Board received the report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on a synopsis of significant achievements since the formation of the County Council's Children and Young People's Directorate. These included the many examples of effective partnership working with the Trust partners and others, recognised by OFSTED, and the associated benefits with improved outcomes for children, young people and families. The report also referred to the development of national policies across children's services; and an update on the number of Devon schools changing to academy status; and transition arrangements and next steps.	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board noted the report	

<b>Agenda Item 3b</b>	<b>Standing Item Future Partnership Arrangements including Health and Well-Being Boards</b>	<b>Presenters Steve</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	The Board received an update from Steve Brown on the proposed establishment of Health and Well-Being Boards (as a Committee of the Local Authority) under the Health and Social Care Bill and on the ongoing consultation and further review by Government of the proposals.		
<b>Conclusion</b>	A paper on the outcome of the current consultations and the County Council's proposals be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on 11 October 2011		
<b>Action Points:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
A report on future arrangements in light of government guidance be submitted to the next meeting on 11 October 2011		Steve Brown	3 October 2011

<b>Agenda Item 4a</b>	<b>Strategy FE Strategy (Exeter) to tackle NEETS</b>	<b>Presenters John Laramy, Sarah O'Shea, Chris Petheram</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a presentation from Mr Laramy, Ms O'Shea and Mr Petheram from Exeter College on its strategy to address the educational needs of young people at risk of being Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEETS). The presentation explained the pathways to opportunities, early engagement, support and mentoring projects offered by the College and their work with PETROCKS College Tiverton which was taking a lead within Devon. The College also referred to the recognition of OFSTED for the College's good work in this area. The presentation also detailed the numbers of young people involved and factors for the relatively high numbers within the City and its environs.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the support available within the College for young people who are the subject of Court Orders under the auspices of the Youth Offending Team to access and engage effectively</li> <li>the potential for improved partnership working with other agencies for example Careers SW the County Council to address the needs of the NEETS; and the potential to access additional funding such as the 'Youth in Focus' lottery funding for children leaving care, and the current work by the College with Children Centres and with students with children at the College with use of its crèche</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the potential impact on the numbers of NEETS in the future with the removal of Education Maintenance Allowances and increased tuition fees in higher Education</li> <li>the current emphasis on funding relating to formal qualifications and new emerging policy (with the Wolf proposals) which would allow for more flexibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Chairman thanked the College for their feedback on this important area.
<b>ACTION</b>	Further update on NEET position to be reported at subsequent Board.

<b>Agenda Item 4 b</b>	<b>Strategy Emergent Youth Policy</b>	<b>Presenter Tom Tod, Dillon Hughes</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a report of the Executive Director (CYPS) on the move from the Connexions Service to an all through careers service and proposed new Youth policy Statement by government and the development in Devon of the National Citizens Service (NCS) for young people. The NCS was being piloted nationally in 12 consortia teams including one in Devon led by Young Devon. It aimed to develop young people's confidence, skills and sense of belonging in society and deliver useful projects to benefit local communities.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the various ways to engage vulnerable young people in the NCS initiative such as Children in Care, from special schools and via youth workers and adult and community services (in respect of parents with mental health issues) and the secondary schools (some of which did not appear to support the initiative particularly during the period leading to the student examinations)</li> <li>ways to remove barriers and ensure wide geographical access across Devon the publication of discussion documents and Government Youth policy on the web.</li> </ul>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	AGREED that a press release be prepared to promulgate the benefits of the National Citizens Service pilot for all young people in Devon		
<b>Action Points</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
that a press release be prepared with the Council's Media and Public Relations Office for approval by the Chairman that all Board members identify key opportunities for Young Devon to spread the word		Dillon Hughes, Tim Tod	immediately

<b>Agenda Item 4 c</b>	<b>Strategy Child-Centred System: Munro Report</b>	<b>Presenter Alan Wooderson</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received the report of the Independent Chairman of the Devon Safeguarding Children Board on the publication of the Munro report (commissioned by Government) into the child protection system. The report had been welcomed by Government and it established an implementation panel to make a detailed response to all of its 15 recommendations. Mr Wooderson in his report detailed these recommendations and his commentary on them and implications for partners from his perspective as the independent Chair of the DSCB.</p> <p>In general the recommendations were supported, many of which already reflected current good practice in Devon with emphasis on child centred early intervention, prevention and support for the family with good professional partnership working and exchange of information to improve protection and outcomes for children. Devon was also well placed to make further improvements (as detailed in the draft DSCB Annual Report 2010/11).</p>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Munro report which was a well written and accessible report should be considered by		

	<p>all partner agencies.</p> <p>The DSCB Chairman would write formally to the partner agencies and other relevant organisations to request that they consider the implications of the Munro Report and responses would be reported to his Board to feed back to Government.</p> <p>Discussion points included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for continued investment in Early Intervention (as part of the Early Intervention strategy) approved by partners and use of the Early Intervention Grant which was given priority within the current County Council budget</li> <li>• the bureaucratic nature of the Common Assessment Form (CAF) and that a new design and process had been recently promulgated by the Executive Director</li> <li>• the need to reduce the increasing number of formal investigations in CAF resulting in 'no further action' and the need for better targeted help and support as required to improve outcomes for children young people and families and improve efficiency and capacity</li> <li>• the need for less emphasis on the 'process' (as it appeared to be the case with former OFSTED inspections) and more on 'outcomes'.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Points:</b> .	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
The outcome of consultation with partners to be reported to the next meeting of this Board on 11 October 2011	Alan Wooderson	3 October 2011

Agenda Item 4 d	Strategy Transferring Community Services: Re-commissioning	Presenter Jenny Connelly NHS Devon
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received a report of Jenny Connelly (NHS Devon) on the progress of the Transforming Community Services process. As part of the programme from 1 April 2011 Integrated Children's Services in Devon would be managed by the County Council for an interim period of up to 2 years. These services would then be re-commissioned following identification of long term providers and safe transfer by 31 March 2013. A joint programme of work had been put in place to achieve this which was detailed in the paper.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the well managed stake holder events which were informative and addressed parents' and other's concerns</li> <li>• concerns about the maturity and ability of the market in Devon to respond as safe and effective providers of these services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The report was noted.	

Agenda Item 5 a	Performance Devon Children's Trust Partnership Business Plan: Productivity, Impact & Outcomes	Presenter Steve Brown
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board considered the report by Steve Brown NHS Devon on the Business Plan which set out the key objectives of the Children's Trust for the next twelve months. The plan maintained a focus on the most vulnerable children and young people in Devon with all partners committed to secure quality services to meet the assessed needs of children and families. Appendix A of the report included the Trusts Action Plan for 2011-12 for the County Council (CYPS) identifying work activity, leads and outcomes, with associated risks.</p>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	AGREED that Steve Brown reconvene the Start and Finish Group to set out for partners,	

	including the Devon Partnership Trust, the process for contributing to the Business Plan in line with the Strategic Priorities for report back to the Board on progress		
<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
Report to 11 October meeting on progress	<b>S Brown</b>	3 October 2011	

<b>Agenda Item 5 b</b>	<b>Performance Health Services for Children in Care: Annual Report</b>	<b>Presenter Steve Brown NHS Devon</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board received the first Children in Care Annual Report by Dr Smith Consultant Paediatrician and Mrs Nightingale designated nurse for Children in Care (NHS Devon) covering roles and responsibilities, management arrangements, numbers of children in care, performance, training and clinical activity. Many of the actions had been carried out or superseded and that an updated report was being prepared.</li> </ul>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	The Board concluded that this was an excellent report which should be used by partners in their planning cycles and commissioning processes and which should also be promulgated to members of the County Council in their corporate parenting role.		
<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
Steve Brown to feedback to partners and refer the updated version for the next County Council's corporate parenting event	S Brown		

<b>Agenda Item 5 c</b>	<b>Performance DSCB Annual Report 2010/2011</b>	<b>Presenter Alan Wooderson</b>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The Board received the draft 3rd DSCB Annual Report 2010/11 for comment. The final version would be presented to the next meeting. The report outlined progress and issues for improvement in safeguarding children covering all partners involved and provided a comprehensive critique and assessment of the work of the DSCB and the assurance systems in place. Following consultation with this Board the Report would be subject to approval by the DSCB at its next meeting on 10 June.</p> <p>Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in the draft the overall assessment for Devon's safeguarding arrangements was 'good with adequate prospects for improvement'</li> <li>there were 9 areas detailed in the draft that restricted the judgement to good and adequate for prospects for improvement (detailed on page 12 of the draft)</li> <li>there had been significant improvements over the last year to raise the assessment from adequate to good</li> <li>the significant issues relating to 'cyber bullying' were referred to in the draft. The DASH representative reported that the police has been supportive in this area and that there was ongoing education and awareness raising by the schools for their students and for the protection of staff. There was however scope for a more active approach from the Internet Service Providers in removing offensive material.</li> </ul>		
<b>Conclusion</b>	The report would be submitted to the next meeting of the DSCB for approval subject to the views of this Board.		
<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
that any comments by Board members be submitted to Alan Wooderson by 3 June 2011	Alan Wooderson	3 June 2011	
That the final report be presented to the Children's Trust Board at its next meeting on 11 October 2011	Alan Wooderson	3 October 2011	

<b>Agenda Item 6</b>	<b>Information</b>	
	<p>Forward Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Police Blue Print - S Swani</li> <li>b) Update: Legal Highs - S Swani</li> <li>c) Future Partnership Arrangements - S Brown</li> <li>d) CT Partnership Business Plan – S Brown</li> <li>e) Update on Munro report - A Wooderson</li> <li>f) DSCB Annual report - A Wooderson</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	
	<p>Tuesday 11 October and Tuesday, 7 February 2012</p>	

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 1.00pm