

**Children's Trust Partnership Council  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at County Hall**

<b>Present:</b> Mary Nisbett (Chair), Debbie Pritchard, Judith Johnson, Will Fitzgerald, Mark Goodman, Lisa Rutter, Sue Parr, Bruce Pollit, Pené Prior, John Davey, Heather Colbeck, Tim Tod, Jim Meakin, Hazel Ball, Pam Barnard, Ian Simmins, Jennie Winslade, John Bunting, Becky Carmichael (for Steve Brown).	
<b>Apologies:</b> Anne Whiteley, Gina Skipwith, Tom McCulloch, James Hannaford, Gwen Pearson, Steve Brown, Karen Nolan, Miles Hapgood, Jeanette Kemlo, Dave Strudwick, Marguerite Shapland, David Lowes	
<b>In Attendance:</b> Heidi Watson-Jones,	
	<b>Action</b>
<b>Themed Discussion on Reducing Child Poverty</b> See notes below	
<b>1. Boundary Committee</b> Hazel Ball updated the group on the latest position. Single Unitary Devon has been recommended for Devon. Consultation period has now begun.	
<b>2. Achieve Economic Wellbeing</b> MARS report circulated. Noted pilot project at Wonford has been successful in engaging young people in FE work. 14-19 strategy has been rated as amber/green with progress in areas across the county. This has links to Stepping Stones, raising the participation age, and skills centres using rural reform funding. Raising the Participation age work will engage pre-16 (young apprenticeships etc) and post 16 (Activity Agreements).  DVD showed experiences of young people involved in the Activity Agreement. Some key projects are supported by short term funding and this creates risks. Noted that over the past 12 months, approximately 400 young people have left employment opportunities and moved back to full time education. New Leaf programme has engaged approximately 300 people. Prospects programme has engaged 70 young parents.  NEET figures are expected to show a decrease on 2008 and 2007, as young people's engagement is increasing despite the current recession.  Additional short term funding to be released for entry to employment programme. Risks exist on a number of fronts related to future funding.  The group discussed how Connexions are working with disengaged young people, but considered if prevention work would be more beneficial if addressed at an earlier stage.  Noted that there is a close correlation between eligibility for free school meals, attainment and NEETs. Statutory requirement to engage all young people is expected by 2015.  It was felt that Educational Maintenance Allowance would be a useful indicator, although confidentiality limits the use of the data to provide a picture of need. Foundation Learning Programmes introduction may lead	

<p>to FE colleges targeting 14 year olds for vocational training courses.</p> <p><b>Action - LCTs to have copies of the IYSDS plan for better understanding of post-16 issues.</b> Noted range of difficulties experienced by young people who are NEET and struggling to engage.</p> <p>Some discussion on E to E provision. Barnardos working on a project in Cornwall. Partner organisations are encouraged to provide work experience opportunities for young people alongside claiming benefits. Noted example of South Hams project to enable this to take place, with a view to roll-out across Devon. Noted 18-24 year old job seekers allowance claims have increased significantly, currently 3,070. Work placements, skills training and other initiatives are being pursued. Employers must be engaged and on board to carry out these initiatives, which can be difficult in the current economic climate, although Devon has a good take-up compared to other areas.</p> <p><b>Action – focused discussion on AEW at future meeting</b></p>	<p>John Davey to circulate to LCT Chairs</p>
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DASH &amp; DAPH have agreed that three representatives will attend the Partnership Council, covering different areas. Arrangements to be finalised.</li> <li>• Jennie Winslade and Brian Greenslade still to meet.</li> <li>• Quality Matters details to be circulated with minutes.</li> <li>• Further information on training to be circulated by Rory</li> </ul>	<p>HWJ RM</p>
<p><b>4. Statutory Guidance on Children’s Trusts</b> Paper circulated, along with full document. Further discussion at January meeting.</p>	
<p><b>5. Achievement through Collaboration</b> Some interesting feedback from the events, which reflected spectrum of understanding and engagement. Further feedback from the events to Debbie Pritchard. Thanks extended to LCT chairs for their commitment to the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted that lack of knowledge was profound in some areas,</li> <li>• Wider CT Partnership representation would have been useful.</li> <li>• Noted National College funded majority of cost: needed to be publicized as concerns expressed on cost / time fit.</li> <li>• Useful to engage with Heads and help to move on the discussions. Feedback through Torrington Area review indicated AtC event had helped the thought processes.</li> <li>• Noted that this year’s events focused on relationship building and conversation across agencies, rather than motivation and inspiration. Expecting feedback from National College on outcomes, with clear direction about further progress and action.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Local Children’s Trusts Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teignbridge:</b> LCT tender process has not been as smooth as</li> </ul>	

<p>hoped. Teenage Pregnancy actions are highlighting some operational difficulties. PCT and Integrated Services working to resolve the situation through an agreed action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>East:</b> Police &amp; social care representation now secured. Working on workforce mapping, and engaging young people in decision making. Noted commitment of partners locally and meetings being held separately to drive forward priorities.</li> <li>• <b>Exeter:</b> CAF following the child through different agencies; concerns that obtaining parental consent may be a barrier to effective transfer of information about the child.</li> <li>• <b>Northern Devon:</b> meeting with Local Strategic Partnership to discuss shared priorities, e.g. childcare sufficiency. IYSDS is a standing item and sub group is working on Teenage Pregnancy. Ilfracombe Narrowing the Gap discussed regularly.</li> <li>• <b>County Committees</b> Lisa Rutter and Melissa Filby have been invited to attend local County Committees. Member training planned for LCT Member representatives in the new year. Debbie Pritchard to follow up.</li> </ul>	<p>Debbie Pritchard</p>
<p><b>7. Funding for the Children’s Trust and CYPP</b>  Noted resources statement within CYPP refresh. Further detailed work to be undertaken. Felt that Total Place might provide a useful methodology. Further detail would be useful, Nicky Allen to be invited to future meeting.</p>	<p>Debbie Pritchard</p>
<p><b>8. Making a Positive Contribution</b>  Dillon Hughes outlined key aspects of the Activity plan (circulated). Noted that Education Business Partnership works with school settings. Suggested that development of enterprise skills though youth settings and voluntary organisations could provide some key life skills.</p> <p>Noted that there has been an increase in self employment in Devon, reflecting the real need for development of enterprise skills. Safer School Partnerships to be included in the action plan. Would be useful to include reference to hearing the voice of children and young people, although noted that Participation is a cross-cutting theme with a separate reporting mechanism.</p> <p>Play strategy has been overtaken by a range of initiatives including Playbuilder. Assessment panel has considered project bids, although funding to be confirmed by DCSF.</p> <p>Some clarification sought on further provision of youth services in North Devon. Noted that a significant amount of resourcing is directed to very local organisations and not through the local authority. Discussed responsibilities upon the Local Children’s Trusts.</p> <p>Include Don’t Judge Us til you know us in plan.</p>	<p>Dillon Hughes</p> <p>Dillon Hughes</p>
<p><b>9. Youth Offending Service – inspection</b>  Anticipating an overall judgement of ‘minimum intervention required’ (which</p>	

<p>is highest possible outcome) subject to recalculation of safeguarding element. Congratulations to Sue McGrath and her team. Report indicates a clear sense of travel. The inspection included scrutiny of closed case files, subject to a different set of standards.</p>	
<p><b>10. Building Schools for the Future</b> Devon has been successful in its bid for first wave of funding. Marland, Tiverton, Ilfracombe, Chulmleigh and Dartmouth secondary schools will be re-built and opportunities for the Children's Trust were there to be developed.</p>	
<p><b>11. Achievement through Enjoyment</b> Judith Johnson reported that David Lowes has revised action plan following the last Children's Trust Partnership Council. There has been improvement across all key stages and progress is being maintained. However, do not appear to be improving against statistical neighbours, although the gap is being narrowed. Good progress with 2009 results, (unvalidated at this stage) to be circulated to CTPC when available.</p> <p>LDP (Learning and Development Partnership) now fully established, bringing together the previously separate services to schools and school improvement.</p> <p>Currently looking at the responsibilities resting with Local Learning Communities and Local Children's Trusts. Accredited Schools Group is bringing together best practitioners in the county to effect change. Noted that school improvement will in future be channeled through National Leaders in Education (NLEs). Local Leaders in Education (LLEs) to be identified in Devon.</p> <p>Will need to ensure that the cultural and wider learning experience aspects will be included in the new CYPP. These are currently non-statutory, and are likely to be reduced in order to protect statutory services such as Safeguarding. Promotion of the wider agenda to be taken up by LLCs and LCTs.</p> <p>Consultation processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) National Challenge Trust School status at St James, Exeter.</li> <li>ii) Dartmouth: proposing Devon's first all-through Academy. Formal sponsors to be attracted. Noted that Devon currently has no funding formula for an All-through school.</li> </ul> <p>There is some concern about schools falling into Ofsted categories (notice to improve, special measures).</p> <p>Children in Care data: OC2 return data is now available and showed fall in 5+ A*-C including English and Maths. Noted that cohort has 60 - 100% turnover, which can provide some confusing data.</p>	<p>JJ</p>

<p><b>12. Any other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Place Report (CAA) to be issued 9/12/09. Felt that the Audit Commission had engaged well in the process; Ofsted had provided information related to Children and young people with strong focus on inspection outcomes rather than data. Noted narrow definition of vulnerable children.</li> <li>• TellUs survey – Devon have not been able to secure support from sufficient secondary schools to register on survey.</li> <li>• March / April meeting – theme discussion on ‘Think before you do anything’ document.</li> </ul>	<p>HWJ</p>
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**Theme discussion: Reducing Child Poverty**

**Present:** Mary Nisbett, Debbie Pritchard, Judith Johnson, Rory McCallum, John Bunting, Will Fitzgerald, Mark Goodman, Colin Mackenzie, Deborah Booth, Lisa Rutter, Sue Parr, Melissa Filby, Bruce Pollit, Ian Hobbs, Pene Prior, John Davey, Heather Colbeck, Tim Tod, Jim Meakin, Philippa Court, Jon Richards, Gemma Hobson, Jonathan Rogers, Hazel Ball, Pam Barnard, Paul Jones, Ian Simmins, Keith Lewis, Andrew Lightfoot, Jenny Winslade, Becky Carmichael.

**Apologies:** Sue Turner, Brian Grady, Roland Pyle, Sue Clarke, Nora Corkery

‘Rural Share of Deprivation in Devon’ document circulated

Debbie Pritchard introduced the discussion and explained that poverty can be described in a variety of ways: poverty of opportunity, aspiration and economic circumstances. Some stark statistics can highlight the difficulties: children on free school meals are 21% likely to achieve 5 A-C GCSEs against 52% of their peers. Children in poverty are 37 times more likely to die as a result of a fire.

Much work is going on across the county looking at improving the situation for families in poverty. Increasing the economic situation, and providing opportunities for them. A needs assessment has been produced, however there are pockets of ‘hidden’ poverty in areas of perceived affluence.

**Jonathan Rogers – GOSW – regional perspective**

New Act expected in the new year with Local Authorities leading on reducing child poverty, with support from Government Office. Beacon authorities to provide additional support and expertise. Regional reference group to be considered for sharing of good practice. Timescales to be confirmed in the new year.

**Ian Hobbs – Corporate Community Support Officer**

Devon has good track record for encouraging benefit entitlement take-up. Focus has been on families with children with special needs. Figures show that out of a possible 3,500 eligible families, 1,800 families have been contacted, and approx 950 families have an identified entitlement of up to £4,500. Working to encourage changes to central government systems for evaluating entitlement, which can be upsetting for families as they focus heavily on the

child's disability. Total Place initiative will track life events models; critical points where families fall into need, and address a range of issues at one time, through a partnership approach. Reducing child poverty will remain at the heart of this initiative.

### **Andrew Lightfoot – Economy & Environment**

Looking at securing better employment opportunities for families in Devon. Working closely with Young Devon and other agencies to help adults and young people improve skills and employability. Economic development in the County will give the best possible chance of securing employment through the new developments and initiatives.

Discussion included:

- Early Years & Childcare service looking at awareness raising to apply for child tax credits using the established model. Focusing on disseminating information.
- Pockets of severe urban deprivation (in Teignbridge area for example) will require further statistical information and cooperation to address.
- Suggested that each LCT identify pockets of particular need and focus on working together to address. Noted that Cornwall have established a model of identifying families in need, which can be replicated.
- Local Authority is working very closely with the third sector and funding initiatives.
- Noted that there can be families in need in areas which are not identified as 'hot spots' and who will rely on professionals such as Health Visitors and Children's Centre staff to be sensitised to the indicators.
- LAA 15a sub group looking at third sector coordination of workforce development to ensure that front line workers are better able to provide expertise and advice to families. Group includes voluntary sector agencies offering advice to families particularly on financial issues.
- Free School Meals – there are many families in poverty living in affluent areas who do not take up FSM. Feel that the repeated requests for details of family circumstances discourage engagement.
- Felt that further information on the comparison of progress of children at primary and secondary stages, and related support at each stage would be useful. Primary stage knowledge base of families is very detailed, and need to ensure that information is passed on to secondary schools in the best possible way. Further discussion with DAPH and DASH.
- Child Poverty vs. Parent Poverty definition
- Extended Services deprivation subsidy "Don't stop me now" pilot now underway. Subsidy provides entitlement for eligible children (FSM entitlement, or children in care) to participate in after school and holiday activities regardless of economic circumstances. Five LLCs in Devon have taken part in the pilot. Some good feedback from parents and children about pleasure and achievement in taking part in activities they otherwise couldn't. 13,000 children in Devon eligible. Parent Support Advisers are key to delivering this subsidy. Evaluating the impact on outcomes for children. Need to look further at engaging with third sector and a wide range of providers. Noted that take up is predominantly in primary sector.
- Impact of domestic abuse and violence – ADVA – looking at hidden issues of financial and domestic abuse. Groups of asylum seekers. Data and accessibility of data.
- Noted that Free School Meal entitlement is only in place during term time. There is good information based from children's workers in local areas and difficult decisions to be made to target resources. Early intervention and preventative work should be protected.

- Need clearer, more targeted working in a time where we are likely to become more resource-challenged. Ilfracombe Narrowing the Gap, Community Engagement with Peninsula Medical School and family intervention projects are well targeted locally and develop links with the community to ensure longer-term sustainability.
- Need to have buildings and local places where people will feel comfortable.
- Noted Key Stage 2 attainment has shown an increase in performance of children on FSM of 5.5% following some intensive focus.
- Poverty of aspiration is a key factor of parental expectations and educational stretch for children and young people.
- Delivery mechanisms TAC and CAF are in place to focus on the children. Need to look at how this translates to front line staff practice and assess what response is necessary. Early intervention services need to be able to plug the gaps before they arise.
- Exeter social health and inclusion project have agreed local focus. Priorities and targets to be considered at LCT. Poverty of aspiration will be a key driver.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub being developed through Police, along with statutory partners and voluntary sector. Locality based working with partners is difficult to achieve without access to full data and intelligence. CT partners are invited to take part in the Hub. Looking to act in proactive way, rather than await a referral. Considering looking at a similar model for CAF. Safeguarding Board will be circulating further information on this in due course.
- ContactPoint group is established. Tim Leishman is lead officer, and can provide update on information sharing.

**Agreed Working Group to be set up to consider :**

- closer work with GOSW
- Focus on geographical areas
- FSM take up initiative
- Circulate availability of training provision
- Use of CAF
- MASH – (to discuss progress at next CTPC meeting **RM**)

Group membership to include:

Ian Hobbs, Andrew Lightfoot, Will Fitzgerald, Philippa Court, Becky Carmichael, Paul Jones, Debbie Pritchard, Sue Turner

**Action – Debbie Pritchard**