

**Children's Trust Partnership Council
Tuesday 15th June 2010 at County Hall**

Present: Mary Nisbett (Chair), Debbie Pritchard, Cllr Vanessa Newcombe, John Shaw, Kate Sandel (item 2), Lynette Grimshaw, John Davey, Tim Tod, Sue Parr, Becky Carmichael, Melissa Filby, Jayne Carroll (item 5), Will Fitzgerald, Rory McCallum, Gina Skipwith, David Atton (for Veronica Matthews), James Hannaford, Lisa Rutter, Anne Ladbrooke. Dillon Hughes (item 7), Ian Stewart-Watson (item 8), Brian Grady (item 9)	
Apologies: Anne Whiteley, Judith Johnson, Bruce Pollit, Pene Prior, Wendy Johnson, Tom McCulloch, Nick Payne, Ian Simmins, Karen Nolan, Jenny Winslade, Hazel Ball, Pam Barnard, Bruce Pollit, Jacqui Warne, Mark Goodman, Pene Prior, John Bunting, Veronica Matthews	
In Attendance: Heidi Watson-Jones, Babs Tolley,	
	Action
1. Mary Nisbett welcomed the group and introductions were made.	
<p>2. Transitions (John Shaw & Kate Sandel) Paper tabled. Following Transitions Steering Group, outcomes update presented. National Transitions Support Programme, which attracts additional support funding, which has enabled several areas of work. Integrated commissioning strategy has focused on transitions across a wide range of need, not just those who will be eligible for adult services.</p> <p>Devon is a national leader, although there are a number of issues which require ongoing development. Kate highlighted the key areas for consideration, where children and young people are vulnerable, but not eligible for services such as behavioural difficulties, SEN and Children leaving care.</p> <p>Discussed how the Partnership can facilitate service transition not only for children with complex needs, but also a wider group who do receive some children's services, who will not be eligible for adult services, and for whom this may cause difficulties in later life. Agreed that the remit for the steering group should be broad.</p> <p>Young Devon works with young people to 25 years, but few services do. Housing is the main area where particular consideration is given to young adults. Focus is needed on the 18-25 age range, as many services end on the individual's 18th birthday.</p> <p>Agreed that Jenny Stephens, Adult Services is invited to attend future PC meeting for wider discussion. Earlier intervention could reduce the need for transition. Targeting evidence based intervention that makes a real difference will be key during the economic difficulties.</p> <p>Sub working groups will be providing initial outcomes in the Autumn to feed into the strategy for transitions. Noted that significant budgetary difficulties are developing and possibly only the essential services will prevail. Pathways for vulnerable children will be the key focus.</p>	Debbie Pritchard
<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting. These were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>Matters Arising <u>Schools Surveys</u> – Lynette Grimshaw to provide copies of school surveys to DAP.</p>	
<p>4. National Overview (Debbie Pritchard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable pace of change with unclear communication routes. • SureStart and Schools funding are protected for 2010/11. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Based Grants are subject to 24% cut in-year, which equates to £3.1m for CYPs, which is currently being considered. • Government priorities include 'the most vulnerable'. • Quangos will be cut or disbanded, and the implications of this are still to be evaluated. • ContactPoint will not continue in its current form. • Children's Trust statutory guidance to be repealed. • National Indicators to end (some concerns about national comparators being lost, although focus on the quality of work rather than process will be more meaningful). • Comprehensive Area Assessment is stopped. • Inspection frameworks will be re-written. • Reducing poverty will be a key driver. • Eileen Munroe to review social care, reducing bureaucracy for social workers and supporting them to spend more time with families. Expecting to feed in MASH as an example of good practice. • all schools are now eligible to apply for Academy status, with automatic eligibility for 'outstanding' schools. Many considerations for 14-19 partnerships, exclusions, children with Special Educational Needs, pay structures, and the most vulnerable children. National school funding review this summer. Special Schools may also request Academy status from September 2011. Academy would become its own admissions authority. <p>There were concerns about the perception of Local Children's Trusts, and it is felt that a decision will need to be taken on how Devon will take this forward. Felt that there are huge benefits in partnership working at local level to support the most vulnerable, and ensuring well structured pathways for children and young people. Confusion remains about local accountability. Clear that the landscape will change in the future.</p> <p>Children's Trust Board Task group is currently working on the implications of the statutory guidance, and will arrive at recommendations for what this will look like in Devon.</p> <p>Noted planning now in place for Achievement through Collaboration conferences, with LCTs and LLCs working together. Long term role of LCT required swift resolution as concerns being raised.</p> <p>Schools are struggling to cope with the capacity of work and engagement with LLCs and LCTs is affected. Ofsted regime is extremely time consuming.</p> <p>Health guidance changing on a regular basis, with heavy emphasis on local responsibility, and greater powers to GPs as commissioners. Strategic Health Authorities to go by September 2011, and approximately 30% reduction in management. Effective collaboration is the key to move forward.</p> <p>Noted that Fire Service is keen to engage with Children's Trusts wherever possible to limit duplication.</p> <p>National focus for JobcentrePlus is developing a work ethic, and breaking down the cultural ethos of generational worklessness. Expecting that the service will be cut considerably, with concerns for continued outreach work in children's centres and increased demand.</p> <p>During this time there is a significant risk of losing good things that have been achieved. Increased localism focus will provide an opportunity for future development, but also increased local variation in service provision.</p> <p>Need to be mindful of the ripple effect of reduction in grant funding for the voluntary sector. Proposed mapping of this through the commissioning team.</p>	<p>DAP</p> <p>DAP</p>
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<p>5. Post Ofsted Action Plan: NHS funding (Jayne Carroll) NHS Devon are currently looking at the whole portfolio for children's services, to provide a baseline context to services provided. Funding is allocated according to an ethical framework. Additional investment during 2010/11 within children's services for : Aiming High, therapy services, autistic spectrum support, development of sexual abuse treatment services, CAMHS and public health nursing.</p> <p>Clarification on the baseline spend on children's services would be welcomed, along with a breakdown of the investment in specific services.</p>	<p>JC to provide for Scrutiny cttee 16/6.</p>
<p>6. Review of the Children & Young People's Plan Updates are currently being prepared, for consideration by the Children's Trust Board on 29/6. Specific queries around :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peri-natal mental health care. Noted this is included within the public health nursing review. Emotional Health & wellbeing framework covers this, and a strategy has been prepared. To be discussed at Scrutiny Committee 16/6, • impact on the service of the increase in referrals and contacts within child protection, • county-wide coverage of MASH, • concern about the quality of provision in schools post-16. • Concern that funding devolved to Devon CC is targeted appropriately to provide good services for vulnerable people locally. Concern that local variation may increase with 'Big Society'. • Offer of learning for children and young people who are excluded which some do not take up. <p>Group endorsed the current version.</p>	
<p>7. Integrated Youth Support & Development Services (Dillon Hughes) Noted that achievement for the youth service, and accredited outcomes are both significantly above targets, and both regional and national averages. Addendum to papers giving updated statistics to be circulated to the group.</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy discussed. Noted that some schools experience difficulty in signing up to providing contraception services individually, and an area agreement is being sought in some areas to provide support.</p> <p>Reference made to 'Big Society', and community partnership approach to providing services and facilities for young people. Noted that decision made recently that youth workers are now considered 'front line' and able to recruit during the Devon County Council vacancy management period.</p> <p>Budget pressures will have implications for young people who have been offered learning and employment packages to keep them engaged which may be affected by budget cuts.</p>	<p>D Hughes</p>
<p>8. Care 2 Work presentation (Ian Stewart-Watson) Local Authorities have an ongoing responsibility for young people who have been in care which goes beyond their 16th birthday.</p> <p>Southwark judgement has had a significant impact on the number of care leavers. Devon has a good record of care leavers staying with their foster families beyond age 18, which has a positive impact on the number of care leavers entering HE and their ongoing life chances. Devon tracks young people in care well, and works closely with Connexions to</p>	

<p>provide education or training opportunities for them.</p> <p>Good examples of partnership working with Devon: good pathways in place as a result of Southwark judgement; 'staying put' support for foster families continuing to house young people through District Council contributions; close working with FE and HE, young people involved in developing training for foster carers, and in developing policy around sexual health for young people, involvement with police in missing children processes.</p> <p>Care2work encourages employment opportunities for care leavers. Devon County Council providing apprenticeship opportunities, and support through Central Placements Unit. A variety of skills are obtained by care leavers. Partners could consider providing open days, or workforce visits, taster sessions, work experience / placements, apprenticeships or employment.</p> <p>JobCentrePlus has secured funding to provide support for vulnerable people, which could include care leavers. Work is underway to support young people to complete benefit claim processes prior to their 18th birthday to smooth the transition. Care workers continue to support the young person with interviews and employment application.</p> <p>Fire Service keen to become engaged in the care leavers developments. Children's Centres can provide key areas of support and these are taken up on individual basis for young parents. Noted that Devon Youth Service, Torbay and CWDC is setting up a series of apprenticeships (Lisa Rutter to provide details).</p> <p>Early communication about what a care leaver might be particularly interested in will aid the process of providing a positive experience for both the yp and the employer.</p> <p>Developing links with District Councils is a particular area of interest. Debbie Pritchard to discuss potential Children's Trust directory for opportunities with Ian S-W. Letter to partners to be drafted to circulate, and encourage provision of opportunities for care leavers.</p>	<p>Lisa Rutter</p> <p>Debbie Pritchard</p>
<p>9. Joint Commissioning (Brian Grady)</p> <p>Noted that there have been significant national changes since paper was written. Some critical actions to be implemented as matter of urgency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task & Finish group looking at needs assessment and priority setting involving Police, NHS Devon & DCC. • Commissioning for the whole family rather than children and adults separately. <p>Good progress being made, however pace of change needs to be accelerated. Further knowledge about the impact of services on individuals is required. Organisations are separately measuring outcomes, and joint planning and evaluation is not quite there.</p> <p>Concerns raised about cumulative effect of budget reduction for small and medium sized voluntary organisations: QUAD board (Quality Assurance & Development) discussing commissioning strategy for the third sector and links to 'Big Society' which reinforces development of third sector, and community resilience. Capacity building for communities taking on further responsibility essential.</p> <p>Discussed links and relationships between Local Learning Communities and Federations which can cross LLC boundaries. Noted that a number of schools work across Health authority boundaries, and likewise across various LLC boundaries.</p> <p>Noted Achievement through Collaboration has been very successful in encouraging schools to work well together. Efficiencies agenda will enable focus on what is achievable and what is a priority.</p>	

<p>10. Voice of Children and Young People (Debbie Pritchard) Collating messages from the children and young people in Devon. Will be discussed at CT Board on 29/9. Usefulness of Tellus survey system should be accurately represented.</p>	
<p>11. Children's Trust Resourcing Need to use the information. Noted the number of volunteers too low. Breakdowns to be circulated. Nicky Allen supported in continuing the work.</p>	NA
<p>Local Children's Trust updates Northern Devon Integrated services team have received multi agency training. Don't Stop me Now funding to be used to purchase services identified in TAC meetings. Public Health nursing is a current issue. AtC conference priority is a local concern. East Devon Concerns about provision of services across the area, given further budget reductions. Local discussions on integrated working protocols and meeting the core needs of children and young people. Interlinking between child, school and parent working very well, however concerns over short term funding. Teignbrige Chair roles now agreed. Considering best use of funding for AtC conferences in current climate. CAF regularly considered: issues between schools with children in need of a CAF and supply of trained staff. Issues around Play; meeting with Tepee. Consideration to be given to appropriation of conferences in current climate</p>	DAP
<p>Next meetings: 9.30am – 1pm 13 July 2010 - Committee Suite, County Hall 7 September 2010 – Committee Suite, County Hall 12 October 2010 – Committee Suite, County Hall 9 November 2010 – Committee Suite, County Hall 7 December 2010 – Committee Suite, County Hall</p>	