

**Children's Trust Board**  
**08 December 2009**  
**2.00 pm, CR1, County Hall**

**Present:**

John Stephens	Director of Children & Young People's Services (Chair)
Cllr Arthur Harada	Lead Member for Children
Lizzie Wiffen	Non-Executive Director, NHS Western Cheshire
Julie Webster	Director of Public Health, NHS Western Cheshire
Jon Betts	Superintendent Neighbourhood Policing, Cheshire Constabulary
Moira Chapman	Engagement Lead Member, Cheshire Police Authority
Sarah Lee	Headteacher, School Forum
Pauline Ruth	VCFS HUB
Christine Troughton	Senior Officer, Learning Skills Council
Nancy Palmer	Independent Chair, LSCB
Steve Hoy	Chief Executive, Connexions Cheshire & Warrington
Ann Moore	Head of Service, Achievement
Paul Boyce	Head of Service, Safeguarding
Jane Middleton	Head of Service, Integrated Strategic Commissioning
Richard Selwyn	Commissioning Support Programme
Sara Mogul	West Cheshire College, FE & SFC
Isabel Noonan	Policy Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate
Ian Kirby	Performance Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate
Anne Wood	Administrative Officer, Children & Young People's Directorate

**1. Apologies**

Steve Robinson, Chief Executive, CWaC  
Alison Navarro, VCFS Hub  
Dr Huw Charles-Jones, Clinical Champion for Children & Young People

**2. Minutes and Actions**

As this was an extra ordinary meeting to discuss the structure and work of the Children's Trust the minutes and actions from the previous meeting would be considered at the next scheduled meeting on 14 January 2010.

**3. Future Developments of the Children's Trust**

Presentation

Isabel Noonan gave a presentation on the Children's Trust Consultation Statutory Guidance – Key Terms and what has changed.

Moira Chapman referred to page 6 of the Cipfa document on Children's Trusts showing 'local function should lead to partnership form' and recommended that this was a very good model to follow. For some services such as Police, Children's Trust co-operation arrangements would be about aligning existing services rather than pooling budgets.

Jon Betts raised the issue of the relationship between the Children's Trust Board and the LSCB. This does seem to be a 'grey area' and needs careful consideration.

#### Development paper

Jane Middleton introduced a paper on the development of CWaC Children's Trust which included a summary of the current situation with regard to the Trust's work:

- The current Trust Board arrangements are not working
- Two timely guiding documents have recently been issued – Consultation on Statutory Guidance and the Cipfa document
- Commissioning – there is currently no clear strategic framework within which partners may commission services together. The current membership of the Children's Trust Board includes both strategic and commissioning partners; it is possible to run a mixed Trust but care must be taken when services are being commissioned. There is an important link to be made when commissioning services with the work of the APBs.
- In order to meet local needs the work of the Trust needs to be organised differently with locally defined priorities, actions and outcomes.

Key questions for group work – Jane Middleton summarised the key questions for consideration in groups

#### How do the Trust want to take forward the pooling and aligning of budgets and is a Trust Executive required.

Jane Middleton explained that commissioning is putting money together dedicated to a purpose to buy services. Moira Chapman felt that commissioning could be the purchasing/contracting or the aligning of services.

#### Children and Young People Plan

How does the Plan become an active document with identified priorities. Once overall priorities are determined how do partners share data and performance?

#### Membership of the Trust Board

How should all schools be represented on the Children's Trust Board and who do we include as non statutory 'relevant partners'?

#### Sub-groups

How should sub-groups be organised?

The Trust members broke into groups to consider the questions and reported the following findings to the whole Trust.

#### Pooled/aligned budgets and the role of the Trust Executive

- The Board needs to agree a common understanding of the overarching vision for children and young people - one possible suggestion is tackling inequalities
- Key priorities should fall out of the vision to inform the CYPP

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) should inform the identification of the priorities including the identification of the key priorities the Trust want to impact on.
- Once cross cutting priorities have been agreed, a commissioning plan could be developed by an **Executive of the Board** (engine house) using pooled or aligned budgets/aligned agendas.
- The Trust to put ambition and challenge into the system.

#### Children and Young People's Plan

- The Plan should draw on consistent data sources, such as the JSNA, and be very much evidence based
- Its production and development should be a consultative process using established forums such as ChYPIG
- It should draw on and align with other strategies, visions etc such as Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework
- It should agree mutual accountability with those responsible for the delivery of outcomes within those strategies
- It should not necessarily mean an all new plan, delivery or approach, but should draw and build upon the successes and best of the past
- It should provide a number of collective priorities whilst at the same time allowing for more locally determined priorities to be identified and included
- It is **proposed to establish a Children's Plan Sub-group** which would in effect serve as the performance group as well, following the plan-do-review-revise performance management framework and managing both the production and performance managed delivery of it.

#### Membership of the Trust Board

Essential members as per guidance and discussion:

- Lead Member
- Director of Children and Young People's Services
- CWASH – Cheshire West Association of Secondary Headteachers
- CWAPH – Cheshire West Association of Primary Headteachers
- CWASS – Cheshire West Association of Special Schools
- Pupil Referral Unit
- Police
- PCT
- Colleges
- Job Centre Plus
- Youth Offending Service
- General Practitioners
- Children Centre Representative
- Voluntary sector
- Housing
- Connexions

Advisory/Desirables

- Strategic Commissioner
- Head of Achievement and Wellbeing

- Head of Safeguarding

Richard Selwyn explained in more detail the membership options of the Trust Board along with the Trust itself.

The points coming from the discussion were as follows:

- The Board is statutory and therefore is accountable for the decisions made. The role of each Board member needs to be defined and must benefit the Trust.
- A clear statement of purpose for membership of the Trust is required; identification of levels of accountability should then follow.
- Trust members considered themselves to 'give a voice' for children and young people but did not 'talk on their behalf'.

Richard Selwyn offered some suggestions as to how sub groups could be organised to support the work of the Board:

ECM sub-groups – although these seem to be the least favoured

Age/family based sub-groups

Priority sub-groups

Jane Middleton summarised the focus for the next meeting:

- Vision
- Resources
- Children and Young People Plan
- Terms of Reference
- Membership/Structure – Sub-groups, Executive (Engine Room) – who and why

Other areas for consideration were the:

- Relationship between the Trust and the LSCB
- Additional members to be invited: School Association representatives, Job Centre Plus and Youth Offending; and how to update them on the process so far
- Need to prioritise engagement with schools that is not 'totalistic'
- Links with other strategies e.g. sustainable Community Strategy
- Possibility of involving the Youth Parliament and wider issues of how to include and engage with children and young people.

#### **4. Future Meetings:**

14 January 2010 - 2:00 pm at Cheshire Police HQ, Winsford

11 March 2010 - 2:00 pm at a rural West venue TBC