

**Children's Trust Board**  
**14 January 2010**  
**2.00 pm, Police Headquarters**

**Present:**

Steve Robinson	Chief Executive, CWaC, (Chair)
John Stephens	Director of Children & Young People's Services
Cllr Arthur Harada	Lead Member for Children and Young People
Lizzie Wiffen	Non-Executive Director, NHS Western Cheshire
Julie Westgate	Chief Inspector, Area Leadership Team, Cheshire Constabulary
Moira Chapman	Engagement Lead Member, Cheshire Police Authority
Sarah Lee	Headteacher, School Forum
Nancy Palmer	Independent Chair, LSCB
Steve Hoy	Chief Executive, Connexions Cheshire & Warrington
Nick Evans	Fire Service
Dr Huw Charles-Jones	Clinical Champion for Children & Young People
Sara Mogel	West Cheshire College, FE & SFC
Ann Moore	Head of Service, Achievement and Well-being
Paul Boyce	Head of Service, Safeguarding
Jane Middleton	Head of Service, Integrated Strategic Commissioning
Isabel Noonan	Policy Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate
Ian Kirby	Performance Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate
Jon Amos	Corporate Policy Manager, CWaC

**1. Apologies**

Alison Navarro	VCFS Hub
Julie Webster	Director of Public Health, NHS Western Cheshire
Jon Betts	Superintendent Neighbourhood Policing, Cheshire Constabulary

**2. Minutes and Actions**

The Minutes of 7 October 2009 and of the extra ordinary meeting on 8 December 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

Actions from 7 October 2009 meeting:

Item 3 Third Sector Report – a membership list of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Hub was distributed to Board members.

Item 4 Integrated Workforce Development – An extract from Professor Richard Barkers publication on Integrated Working was distributed to Board members.

Item 5 Outcome Leads – an update on progress to date was given for the following Outcome areas:

Stay Safe – Paul Boyce referred to the two LSCB Performance documents that had been circulated with the agenda. The Monthly Report Card will track performance across the multi-agency network and will monitor key indicators. The relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust still requires some clarification and in the interim the Board accepted the information provided by the LSCB.

Positive Contribution – Steve Hoy identified two key pieces of work – ‘Hear by right’ standards relating to young people’s involvement and the celebration and awareness raising event that had taken place in January and the UK Youth parliament selection process that is currently underway.

Enjoy and Achieve – Ann Moore reported that the post of Headteacher for the Virtual School has been advertised with interviews planned for 4 February 2010.

### 3. Local Area Agreement and Comprehensive Area Assessment Summary

Jon Amos, Corporate Policy Manager introduced the summary paper, whilst Ian Kirby, Performance Manager for Children and Young people’s Directorate asked members to consider the LAA indicators and the non-designated LAA local indicators, around Looked After Children.

The Board considered the questions posed in the summary report as follows:

Has the CAA process been helpful?

- Steve Robinson felt that the process had been good in terms of outcomes but optimistic in terms of where we are at as a Council. The self-assessment was a good process to go through.
- Sarah Mogel questioned what appeared to be contradictions in what CWaC and the Audit commission were reporting. John Stephens explained that the findings need to be read in context as they are a desk top distillation of Ofsted findings which are potentially limiting. **ACTION: ensure the Performance Sub-group monitors the areas for improvement and what actions are being taken or if actions are not being taken forward to be clear about why not.**
- Sarah Lee referred to the misrepresentation of the performance of school sixth forms and asked if any action could be taken to rectify this. **ACTION: Steve Robinson agreed to write to Peter Forrester from the Audit commission and to raise the issue when he meets him.**

Do the LAA indicators measure the right things?

- Lizzie Wiffen raised concerns that there were no targets for younger children. Steve Robinson explained that these were inherited targets for a three year period; the third year commencing on 1 April 2010. Ian Kirby explained that the top six indicators are set for another year but that the other six indicators could be changed now. John Stephens pointed out that as a thematic partnership of the Local Strategic Partnership the Trust has to be careful about becoming too children focussed in isolation because of the inter-dependencies e.g. children born into poverty households. Therefore there is a need to focus on how we impact upon outcomes and the next steps. Steve Robinson referred to the Total Place Project in Ellesmere Port, whereby a Project Manager has been appointed to work across agencies to address child poverty. **ACTION: invite Maria O’Brien, Project Manager of the Total Place Project to the next meeting of the Trust.**
- Paul Boyce pointed out that 5 out of the 6 indicators were about negative outcomes for children and suggested that when the opportunity arises they should be re-framed to look at positive outcomes.

- Nancy Palmer broadly supported the cross cutting themes but pointed to the massive increase in the number of referrals to Social Care and asked whether this should be reflected in the indicators.

**ACTION: Ian Kirby to e-mail Board members to canvass views and seek comments on the non-designated Local Area Agreement (LAA) Performance indicators for Children and Young People to inform how these indicators are taken forward during the final year of the current LAA.**

Are there any new potential green or red flags?

- Domestic Violence work, NEET Strategy and first time entrants to the Youth Justice Service were suggested as possible green flag areas.

**ACTION: Jon Amos to send Board members examples of where green flags have been awarded to try and help identify possible areas.**

#### **4. Future Development of the Children's Trust**

Jane Middleton referred to the extra ordinary meeting of the Trust that had taken place on 8 December to look at the future working arrangements of the Trust in the light of new statutory guidance and Cipfa document. A paper was then presented on moving the Cheshire West and Chester Children's Trust forward. The key areas are as follows:

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The work of the Board meetings will be to primarily drive the production and monitoring of the Children and Young People Plan. The Board will have Sub-groups to ensure each outcome area is met.

##### Proposed Sub-groups

The proposal for the establishment of Sub-groups is to base them around outcome areas but to try and utilise some already established groups to drive the work forward. Each outcome area would have both a commissioning and provider lead. The purpose of the Sub-groups will be to undertake the detailed work on their outcome area for the CYP Plan, and to provide regular update reports to the Children's Trust Board. In an annual cycle, the sub-groups would:

- Explore needs, based on current performance data and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Produce a map of current provision, and explore service user's views
- Recommend ways in which services can be delivered
- Work with the Integrated Commissioning Team to produce commissioning plans
- Monitor the effectiveness of the plan

In addition there would be two overarching sub-groups to cover Performance and Workforce Development

Feedback from Board members on the proposals:

Moira Chapman felt comfortable with the outcome areas but was unsure how the work could be taken forward through existing strategic groups, particularly the work of the CAMHS Board. The scope of the JSNA was also questioned to cover such areas as youth offending.

Nancy Palmer explained that the LSCB could not be a sub-group of the Children's Trust because a potential conflict of interest and the need to retain its independence in the area of safeguarding.

Under the education, training and recreation outcome area it was pointed out the focus is wider than just schools to capture the 0-19 agenda. Paul Boyce asked what mandate these existing groups would have to make decisions?

**ACTION: Steve Robinson requested that some of the proposed outcome leads meet with Jane Middleton to discuss a way forward either through using existing groups or to look at using specific Task and Finish groups.**

**ACTION: JSNA be an agenda item for the next meeting**

**ACTION: Attach the 'Moving Forward' paper to the minutes**

#### **5. Future Meetings:**

11 March 2010 - 2:00 pm, Committee Room 1, County Hall

**ACTION: to produce a schedule of Trust Board meetings for the forthcoming year.**