

**CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD**  
**29 JULY 2011**  
**Chester, HQ Building**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Gerald Meehan	Director of CWaC Strategic Director Children and Young People's Service (Chair for the meeting)
John Stephens	CWaC, Deputy Director of Children & Young People's Services
Jane Middleton	CWaC, Head of Service, Integrated Strategic Commissioning
Paul Boyce	CWaC Head of Service, Safeguarding
Dr Huw Charles-Jones	Chair, West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Moira Chapman	Engagement Lead Member, Cheshire Police Authority
Pauline Ruth	VCFS Hub
Julie Webster	Director of Public Health, NHS Western Cheshire
Lizzie Wiffen	Non-Executive Adviser, Cheshire/Wirral Partnership
Penny Sharland	Head of Cheshire Youth Offending Service
Norma Guest	Chief Executive Connexions Cheshire & Warrington
Jane Dawson	Non Executive Adviser NHS Western Cheshire
Audrey Williamson	Chair, LSCB
Marie Orell	Assistant Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation
Sheila Hillhouse	Associate Director of Nursing, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership
Liz Davenport	CwaC Service Manager, Children in Care
Gwynn Dodd	Detective Inspector, Cheshire Constabulary
Denise Tideswell	Communications Officer, CWaC
Isabel Noonan	CWaC, Policy Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate

**1. Apologies**

Moira Swann	Independent Chair
Ann Moore	CWaC, Head of Service, Achievement and Well-being
Yolanda Corden	CWaC Interim Head of Service, Children and Families
Colin Billingsley	External Relations Manager, Job Centre Plus
Nick Evans	Group Manager, Community Fire Safety
Sarah Lee	Headteacher, Tarporley High School, CWASH
Sara Mogel	West Cheshire College, FE & SFC
Avril Devaney	Director of Nursing, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership
Dr Martin Carey	Hope House Gateway

**2. Minutes and Actions**

The Minutes of 4 May 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

**3. Approval of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-12**

Gerald Meehan thanked all the organisations who had contributed to the development of the Plan. The detail of the Plan would be discussed at the Executive but members were asked to offer high level strategic comments.

Section 1, page 13

Under the governance diagram the Health and Well-being Board should be at the top to oversee the Plan.

#### Section 4 – Setting the Scene

Gerald Meehan liked the format with the data informing what we do. Page 28 makes reference to a specific school which should be removed.

Page 30 – the data referring to 90% of Speech and Language cases are said to be due to environmental factors is at odds with the Data contained in the SEN document.

**ACTION: Jane Middleton to cross check the data.**

Huw Charles-Jones pointed out that some health data is missing. Julie Webster explained that Sarah Clein is working on this, mainly to include in the three year plan but agreed that it could be referenced in this one year plan.

**ACTION: Jane Middleton and Julie Webster to action the health data input.**

Page 41 onwards – Moira Chapman pointed out that positive contributions from young people should also be included in this section e.g. volunteers through uniform services, participation in youth activities, D of E, Princes Trust.

**ACTION: Norma Guest and Pauline Ruth were asked to supply data.**

Page 44 – remove fourth bullet point and **Penny Sharland to draft replacement wording**

Page 45 – Village of 100 children – **move to the front of the data section and try to insert representative figures for youth offending.**

#### Section 5 What can we do better together quickly to improve outcomes for children – Strategic Priorities for 2011-12

Page 50 - text in bubble is too small and difficult to read in yellow.

Page 53 – **remove reference to form 40 and replace with ‘continue to work positively with police colleagues in referrals to Social Care’.**

Page 54 – **Requires a statement on joint approach to offending (Penny Sharland and Audrey Williamson). Last bullet under commissioning level 4 child protection, substitute ‘strengthen’ for ‘inadequate’ and under the bullet point for Workforce Development remove ‘including the Police’.**

#### Section 7 Prevention, Early Help and Family Support

Gerald Meehan asked that the locality pilot in Ellesmere Port be moved to the beginning of the Section.

Page 56 – Penny Sharland and Norma Guest felt that this section was too social care focussed and **agreed to provide some wording to set a broader context such as positive outcome of youth work and diversionary activities.**

Page 58 – the Family Nurse Partnership project is not just in Ellesmere Port.

Page 59 – first bullet point – explain the HENRY programme. Last bullet point ‘Develop the Chlamydia screening programme targeting at risk young men and women’. In the table, 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point to read ‘Positivity rate of Chlamydia screening programme’.

#### Section 10 Commissioning level 4 child protection services jointly (Jane Middleton to look at title)

**Audrey Williamson to provide wording for section on Actions from LSCB Delivery Plan.**

Section 14 Taking all this forward – reviewing actions and ensuring that our Plan is successful  
Executive to populate.

Glossary of Terms, page 86

Jane Middleton asked partners to contribute to the glossary of terms.

### **Commissioning Framework**

The Commissioning Framework would be duly amended in accordance with appropriate amendments made to the Plan.

### **Feedback from Outcome Change Groups**

Prevention, Early Help and Family Support, including Better Start, Better Health

Paul Boyce explained that the aim for the six month period left of 2011-12 is to focus on the infrastructure required to deliver prevention and early help as well as identifying what is really required to change the lives of children. To this end the Atkins Review has been completed, mechanisms have been established to accelerate the use of CAFs and a review of service delivery has been undertaken. Paul explained that there appears to be confusion at the moment over which is the 'front door', inconsistency of response, how to use the Continuum of Need and lack of clarity on when to share information. Currently a Multi-agency Steering Group is leading this work and Paul proposed that this Group become the Trust's Outcome Change Group to lead on identifying and implementing actions. In addition the Group would also take responsibility for overseeing the pilot on early help in Ellesmere Port. The new Group would need to review its Terms of Reference and its membership and the chair of the re-defined Group would need to come from the Board.

**ACTION: Paul Boyce to circulate the current Terms of Reference and membership of the Group to the Trust.**

Gerald Meehan pointed out that with regard to the pilot in Ellesmere Port it would be useful to have leaders from other localities so that there is learning from each other which will help to roll out the approach on early help across the Borough.

Pauline Ruth asked that the voluntary sector in Ellesmere Port is included in the Pilot and reported that the VCFS Hub has put a lottery bid together for funding to target families that need help but do not come forward. They have been successful in getting through to the next round and if finally successful would be able to draw down £900,000 of funding over a three year period.

Children in Care and Care Leavers

Liz Davenport referred to the Children in Care Strategy 2011-2013 which has been well circulated and asked that the Trust endorse it. The Children in Care Council has contributed to the Strategy and an Action Plan formulated. Penny Sharland asked if cared for children who offend are covered in the Strategy as this is an inspection item.

**ACTION: Progress on the Children in Care Strategy to be brought back to the Trust Board at a later date and a copy of the Strategy will be sent to Penny Sharland.**

Children and Young People with Disabilities and Special Education Needs (SEND)

Ann Moore was unable to attend the Board but had prepared a brief on the feedback from the SEN Green Paper Conference and next steps. Two papers were presented to the Board. The first outlining the three main areas of focus outlined in the Green Paper – Strategic Planning for Services, Securing a range of high quality provision and enabling families to make informed choices with feedback from the various groups consulted. The second paper was an Action Plan. Daphne Jones, Senior Manager Specialist Support will chair a partnership team that will rationalise, prioritise and implement the proposed actions. The role of the Children's Trust Board will be to monitor and evaluate progress at regular intervals.

**AGREED: The Board agreed the proposed way forward and the action planning format.**

**ACTION: An updated Action Plan be brought to the September meeting of the Children's Trust Board**

#### **4. Enabling Children and Young People's Participation**

Neil Massingham, Commissioner for CWaC explained that a multi-agency Participation Strategy Working Group has been developing a joint strategic approach to participation. In order that young people are at the heart of developing a strategy it is proposed that a Participation Workshop be held with Youth Parliament representatives for CWaC as joint hosts and young people as key participants. The proposed date is 7 October at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall with Baroness Hughes as opening speaker and Jake Manning as workshop facilitator.

Huw Charles-Jones asked for more health input into the strategy as this approach fits well with the aims and aspirations of health and a joint approach would be beneficial. Norma Guest felt the approach was good and there would be a clear link with the timing of the Youth Parliament elections. The use of social media should also be actively pursued. Moira Chapman fully endorsed the approach but pointed out that it is important that all agencies link into the Strategy in order that a common approach to participation can be adopted.

Lizzie Wiffen cautioned that care must be taken not to bombard teenagers with too much information. Penny Sharland asked that reference be made to the participation and involvement of young people in decision making that has already taken place.

**AGREED: The Board endorsed the approach to developing a Participation Strategy and asked that an update be brought back to the September Board meeting.**

**ACTION: Neil Massingham to circulate the Hear by Rights seven shared standards on participation to Board members.**

## **5. Partnership Working Issues:**

### Multi-Systemic Therapy Bid

Jane Middleton explained that a partnership bid comprising of Cheshire East and Cheshire West Councils, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership and the Youth offending Service aimed at intervening with children at the edge of care has been successful.

**ACTION: Embed a copy of the bid with the minutes (Isabel Noonan)**



Final DFE MST  
Bid.pdf

### LSCB Chairs Report

Audrey Williamson reported that three half day events have been organised for front line practitioners in Ellesmere Port, Winsford and Chester and rural areas. This will be an opportunity for staff to talk to each other and to look at the Munro report. The LSCB has been concentrating on performance and Audit and governance arrangements have been strengthened. The LSCB has agreed two priorities going forward – children on child protection plans have their needs met and parents across services are given help with parenting.

### Children's Trust Vision and Engagement of Children and Young People

John Stephens explained that representatives of the Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council had attended an event organised by Denise Tideswell, Communications Officer, CWaC to help understand what the Children's Trust is and to work on a brand and logo. A graphic designer is now working up the ideas from the event and once agreed by the young people will be brought back to the Board.

**ACTION: Present proposed brand and logo to September meeting of the Board (John Stephens)**

### Proposal from Chair of CWaC Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategic Management Group

Jane Middleton read a letter to the Board from the Chief Superintendent of the Cheshire Constabulary in his capacity as Chair of the CWaC Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategic Management Group. He raised the apparent lack of multi-agency early intervention activity in respect of children whose parents are discussed at MARAC. Detective Inspector Gwynn Dodd arrived at the meeting explaining that very few children have a CAF or any other intervention and asked that the Children's Trust explore the situation.

**ACTION: Paul Boyce to meet with Detective Inspector Gwynn Dodd on behalf of the Children's Trust**

John Stephens pointed out that the Council and partners has done a review around Domestic Abuse and this should form part of a review meeting. Moira Chapman pointed out that it is possible that this is a result of lack of understanding between the strategic and operational level. Huw Charles-Jones pointed out that GPs are under the impression that if a MARAC has taken place that children are being taken care of and if there are problems these need to be communicated to GPs as soon as possible.

**ACTION: Update members of the Board on the position at the next meeting**

**6. Any Other Business**

Children and Young People's Directorate re-structure

Gerald Meehan announced that Jane Middleton, Head of Strategic Commissioning is to undertake a secondment with the Connexions Service and he thanked Jane on behalf of the Trust for her work in supporting the Trust. Paul Boyce would be taking over the Strategic Commissioning role from September and a new Head of Children and Families (Safeguarding) would be advertised. Yolanda Corden will be assuming the role of Head of Safeguarding (Children and Families Services from 1 October 2011) prior to the appointment of a new Head of Service later this year. The whole re-structure of the Children and Young People's Directorate should provide a service that is fit for purpose and has a locality focus.

Children's Services Annual Assessment (CSA)

Gerald Meehan explained that a CSA Assessment will be undertaken by Ofsted which is an annual paper exercise which will use a wide range of indicators to give a total high level performance indicator. Gerald explained that there will be a limiting judgement due to the outcome of the November 2010 Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and CLA. The Council has written to Ofsted to explain all the measures and work that has been put in place since the Ofsted judgement and that the indicator heading is retrospective.

Future inspections include:

Department for Education – six monthly review in October 2011

Peer Review – 7 November 2011 – this will be undertaken by the Director of York Children's Services

Unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment in Autumn 2011

Announced Inspection before end of April 2012.

## 7. Dates of future meetings

A programme of dates for 2011-12 was distributed to the Trust Board as follows:

<b>Children's Trust Board</b>	<b>Children's Trust Executive</b>
	Friday 10 June 2011 – 10.00 am
Friday 29 July 2011 - 10.00 am	Friday 29 July 2011 – 1.00 pm
Friday 30 September 2011 –10.00 am	Friday 30 September 2011 – 1.00 pm
	Friday 28 October 2011 – 10.00 am
Friday 25 November 2011 – 10.00 am	Friday 25 November 2011 – 1.00 pm
	Wednesday 14 December 2011 – 10.00 am
Friday 27 January 2012 – 10.00 am	Friday 27 January 2012 – 1.00 pm