



Staffordshire Children's Trust
Working together to improve the lives of children and young people

Staffordshire Children's Trust Executive (ISG)
Thursday 14th April 2011
White Room, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford

Present:

Mike Allen (rep Phil Pusey)	Helen Jarvie	Anna Halliday
County Councillor Mike Lawrence	Nigel Manning	Sally Rowe (Chair)
Jan Wakefield	Joan Wilson	Paul Woodcock

Minute Taker: Cate Crawford

* Chair Staffordshire Children's Trust Board

Apologies:

Martyn Baggaley	Charlotte Bailey	Roger Graham
Vonni Gordon	Pat Merrick	Phil Pusey
Deborah Ramsdale	Emma Rodgers	Tracey Redpath
Kate Sharratt (stood down as a member)		Cheryl Sherratt

[For a summary of Action Points arising from this meeting, please click here or turn to last page of Minutes](#)

1. **Welcome & Introductions** (S Rowe)

Sally welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that the aim of the meeting was discuss the way forward for the Trust and future partnership working; following the recommendations made at the Children's Trust Board on 28 March 2011.

A round of introductions were made:

- Nigel Manning introduced Helen Jarvie who is the new Force Partnerships Manager for Staffordshire Police under the new structure. Helen will be initially shadowing Nigel and they will be working closely together until his compulsorily retirement Oct/Nov time.
- Jan Wakefield, Children's Workforce Manager, confirmed that Adrian Gough has now retired, and she will attend the Executive to represent Workforce Development.
- Mike Allen confirmed that Barry Halls has also retired, and the Third Sector would thus be represented by Phil Pusey, however on this occasion Phil had sent his apologies, so Mike was their representative.
- County Councillor Lawrence introduced himself and explained that he was in attendance as the Chair of the Children's Trust Board and as the Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing.

2. **Minutes, matters arising and actions from previous meeting (17.02.11)** (S Rowe)

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record; all matters arising were on the meeting's agenda; Action One to be carried forward; all other actions were confirmed as completed.

3. **Way Forward for the Children's Trust**

3.1 **Where Are We Now?** (S Rowe)

Sally Rowe gave a brief presentation as a reminder of issues that need to be considered when discussing and agreeing the future of the Children's Trust Executive. Key points raised were:

- The landscape of Children's Trust arrangements changed in October 2010 with removal of requirement to have a Children's Trust, a children and young people's plan, and removing

schools duty to cooperate in Children's Trust arrangements.

- Emphasis was placed on local areas to take forward partnership planning in a way that suits their local need. An example of good partnership working, thanks to the Children's Trust, in Staffordshire was then discussed.
- There are many organisational changes ongoing across partner organisations: Communities First; Families First; and the Staffordshire and Stoke Partnership Trust (which is just one example of the changes ongoing in health).
- Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper sets out the requirement for local authorities to have Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Health and Social Care Bill is currently in a 2 month 'listening stage', however it is felt that a move towards a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) will still be developed in Staffordshire.
- The HWB and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are just two of the future Staffordshire partnership boards that will feed into the overarching Staffordshire Strategic Partnership.
- The Children's Trust Board are keen to ensure the focus on children and young people's issues are maintained at the HWB. At their 28 March meeting the Children's Trust Board made a recommendation that they (the Children's Trust Board) would no longer meet; however the current Children's Trust Executive would evolve and: "would be a be a 'doing group' that would include commissioners and providers under the Health and Wellbeing Board". A structure agreed by the Children's Trust Board was then explained.
- There was then a short discussion about the future structure including the following points:
 - 'Education' may sit outside of the arrangements shown in the diagram (which had been kept to a minimum), but the 16-19 Partnership will still be a key delivery partner due to their work fitting into the 'wellbeing' element of the HWB and the LEP.
 - The political and accountability process: noting that the LEP is not accountable – so how much can be delegated to them may be questionable and partners need to be aware of this and the restrictions it may 'impose'.
 - Continuing schools' engagement with the Trust; and commissioner and provider representation at meetings (i.e. that both should continue to attend to ensure the harmonious relationships which have developed, continue).

3.2 The Next Steps (S Rowe)

The Executive were then asked to discuss the short, medium and long term considerations including: ownership; membership; function, and how the Executive will sit in the broader partnership picture:

- Constituent membership of the HWB is beginning to emerge, with some surprises on membership and omissions. It was agreed, by Executive members present, that there is a need to maintain partnership relationships, and confidence so that we can continue to move forward with issues for children and young people, particularly until the HWB is fully established.
- Members felt that the Trust has become very process driven:
 - too much energy had be put into the process of the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), as opposed to doing the work it sets out to achieve and improving outcomes for children and young people; and
 - too much emphasis had been placed on recording partners' contributions towards achieving the CYPP (to enable them to be held to account by partners), rather than them working in partnership to add value to existing work and address any gaps.
- It was questioned as to whether the needs assessment (JSNA) will feed into/dictate the meeting (agenda) planning process: it was felt that the HWB will give direction and the Executive will respond to by looking at the issues and how they should be tackled.
- Members stated they were pleased to see schools introduced as a statutory partner and feel this relationships was beginning to develop and grow, and would like to see it maintained in the future way of working. A possible solution to ensure continued schools' engagement is the need to ensure they are aware of children's issues and the 'knock on' effects on their education they will have. Schools need to be aware of their valued and relevant contribution towards overcoming these issues, and vice versa how other partners can help them; i.e. the 'so what' factor, which will become more apparent with momentum and partners input. It was noted that

schools already have partnerships in place, and so it may be better to approach them with issues, as opposed to asking them to come to us. i.e. make use of school forums to demonstrate the 'so what' factor, where many issues including community issues are raised.

- Jobcentre Plus stated they feel they too are key to the delivery of the CYPP as often the work they do with parents has an impact on the whole family.
- Following the review and a reduction of partnerships across the county it was agreed, by Executive members present, that this group will continue to be the key partnership focussing on children's issues: so there will continue to be an element of 'core work' to be completed by the group. However there will be an additional function for the group of 'problem identification' and 'problem solving':
 - It was suggested that members will flag up particular issues they are encountering, which they feel require an indepth look at (and support) from a partnership 'task to finish' approach.
 - A core group of standing members will manage and steer the problem identification/solving arrangements (but will not to take sole responsibility for delivery for them) with extra agencies drawn in to the task and finish groups. Therefore correct membership of the group is essential and there is a need to identify key link officers in each partner organisation to ensure that there is the capacity in place/available to support the work of Executive (for example confirmed links and support from the Staffordshire Observatory).
- 'Self harm' and 'first time entrance into the Youth Justice System'(which are often linked), were given as a suggested first discrete piece of work for the next meeting to look at and formulate a task to finish group to further work on. Agreed, by Executive members present.

Agreed, by Executive members present:

Short Term:

- Group to be called Children's Partnership with a 'core' agenda, followed by a problem identification and problem solving workshop.
- Membership to be made up of commissioners and providers of services: core group membership with additional members to represent organisations not already represented; plus those who can provide specialist knowledge/skills towards the problem identification and solving workshop element of meeting.
- Agenda for next meeting to consist of a practical example of potential future meeting:
 - Core business: national updates; approval of partnership strategies/pieces of work; workstream issues (by exception); feedback from Health & Wellbeing Board; future agenda items (including workshop subject).
 - Presentation of the future vision, structure, membership (including Chair) for this group (and what it is not going to be i.e. prescriptive, bureaucratic etc) and challenges hope to sign upto for the coming months.
 - Outcome Based Accountability workshop to look at 'self harm' and 'first time entrance into the Youth Justice System':
 - What is the data telling us, are occurrences on the increase; if so why?
 - Which partners do we need to involve: who does it have an impact on; who can contribute towards achieving a downward trend; and what actions need to be taken?
 - How will we measure our success? What will be the timescales?

Action:

- Presentation of the future Children's Partnership to allow further discussion at next meeting. (Nigel Manning)
- Outcome Based Accountability approach 'overview'. (Jan Wakefield)
- Partners to bring 'hard' and 'soft' evidence to support Outcome Based Accountability 'self harm' and 'first time entrance into the Youth Justice System' workshop. (All)
- Establish if a Children's Trust Shadow Trust Board is still in place to feed issues to and from the Children's Partnership (Sally Rowe)
- Members of the Executive to bring their thoughts on the way forward for the Trust to the next meeting. (All)

Medium & Long Term:

- It was agreed that the medium and long term for the group will be dependant on the passage of the Health Bill, and the development of the role and membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board

4. Any other Business

No further items were raised.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24th May 2011

Time: 10.00am – 12 midday

Venue: Room 3 Corporate Reception, St Chad's Place, Stafford, ST16 2LR

**** The meeting concluded at 3:45pm ****

“These minutes are agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held. Any decisions, events, dates or timings etc. stated herein are subject to change without notice as partners endeavor to remain responsive to changing circumstances.”

Actions arising from meeting:

	Meeting	Action	Assigned to	Completed
1.	17.02.11 (3.1)	Forward concerns (and suggested possible solutions) regarding PCT commissioning safeguarding priorities from 2013 onwards to Vonni Gordon to enable her to raise them at the multi agency 'Working Together' Review group.	Cheryl Sherratt	✓
2.	14.04.11 (3.2)	Presentation of the future Children's Partnership to be given at next Executive meeting (24.05.11) to allow further discussion.	Nigel Manning	✓
3.	14.04.11 (3.2)	Outcome Based Accountability approach 'overview' to be given at next Executive meeting (24.05.11)	Jan Wakefield	✓
4.	14.04.11 (3.2)	Partners to bring 'hard' and 'soft' evidence to next Executive meeting (24.05.11), to support Outcome Based Accountability 'self harm' and 'first time entrance into the Youth Justice System' workshop.	All	✓
5.	14.04.11 (3.2)	Members of the Executive to bring their thoughts on the way forward for the Trust to the next meeting (24.05.11).	All	✓
6.	14.04.11 (3.2)	Establish if a Children's Trust Shadow Trust Board is still in place to feed issues to and from the Children's Partnership	Sally Rowe	Allocated to Paul Woodcock