

Subject:
Children's Trust arrangements in Lancashire

Status: For Publication

Report to Cabinet

Date: 23rd January 2008

Report of:
Head of People and Organisational Development

Portfolio
Holder: Health and Well Being

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to: Advise Members on the developments of the new Children's Trust arrangements across Lancashire. Agree in principle on the Statement of Commitment to the new arrangements and agree to delegate to the Head of People and Organisational Development in consultation with the Member Champion for Children and Young People the ability to agree to amendments to the Statement of Commitment. To note the performance management arrangements in relation to County and District Council partnership working regarding the Every Child Matters Agenda.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The capacity of individual partners to deliver the different work streams.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Children's Trust arrangements are a new way of working which bring together the planning and delivery of services for children and young people at a local level. It is anticipated that the benefits of the new arrangements will create closer working and communications between people and organisations that work directly with children and young people, and coordinated planning and delivery of services.
- 4.2 The model for Lancashire reflects the size and complexity of the County and is made up of:
A County Children and Young People's Strategic Trust and twelve District based local children's trust partnerships. Consultation has taken place with the Primary Care Trust and it is anticipated that commissioning arrangements will take place on the basis of the East Lancashire footprint.
- 4.3 The Lancashire and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has agreed this way forward which it is hoped will improve joint planning and commissioning of services. The partnership comprises: Health Trusts, District Councils, Schools and Colleges, Voluntary Community and Faith Sectors, Police, Youth Justice, Fire and Rescue, Connexions, Children's Fund and the Children's Services Authority.
- 4.4 The County Strategic Trust will be responsible for defining the strategy and vision for the County. The Local Children's Trust will contribute to the delivery of the vision and aims of the Trust, contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan, engage with Children, young people, parents and carers, and support the integration of front line delivery of service.
- 4.5 All parts of the County must have Children's Trust arrangements in place by April 2008 at the latest. In Lancashire, development and implementation will commence from January 2008. However, over the summer and autumn of 2007 there has been a range of activities on going, including consultation with the LSP in particular the Children and Young People's Theme Group. The Theme Group is currently discussing the implications of the proposals to establish a Local District Trust which would be required to define the strategy for Rossendale and in addition a Consortium of local practitioners which would inform and deliver the strategy.
- 4.6 In addition consultation is on going in relation to the Performance Management and Governance arrangements for the new Trusts, and the County Council has established a Strategic and Planning Research Team to support this activity.
- 4.7 It is proposed that the Council supports the following statement of commitment.
- 4.7 (i) Partners will contribute to and co-operate with the development of the governance arrangements as agreed by the Lancashire's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and will adopt, as a minimum, the vision,

functions and principles for the Children and Young People's Trust arrangements.

4.7 (ii) The members of the Trust Arrangements will work together to achieve the five Every Children Matters outcomes.

4.7 (iii) The County Trust Board will be the executive accountable body for the Children and Young People's Trust arrangements in Lancashire. It will be supported by the County Strategic Partnership that will act as strategic management partnership.

4.7 (iv) Locality arrangements will be through the Local Strategic Partnerships.

4.7 (v) District LSPs will establish arrangements that will enable organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people.

4.7 (vi) Partners will contribute to strategic planning and research.

4.7 (vii) Existing thematic groups which report to County Strategic Partnership will be linked with the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, or any subsequent review of the five outcomes.

4.7 (viii) Partners will take part in the integration of processes and front line delivery as described in the Every Child Matters statutory guidance.

4.8 Further key elements of the Lancashire Children's Trust arrangements are the introduction of a Common Assessment Framework, the delivery of a co-ordinated approach to Information Sharing, the establishment of Safeguarding Boards and a joint approach to workforce planning.

4.9 The Champion for Children and Young People and the Head of People and Organisational Development attend the Children and Young Persons Theme Group and Network Group of the Local Strategic Partnership. In addition, the Head of People and Organisational Development also attends the County Children and Young People's Steering Group. A further group of District Lead Officers has been established to consult with representatives from Lancashire to share learning and work together in responding to the different key elements of the new arrangements. Representation from the District in relation to the composition of the Board and the group of practitioners is currently being discussed at the LSP Theme Group.

4.10 At the last meeting of the Children and Young People Theme Group, the group confirmed its position as an interim Trust and it was agreed that all duty to co-operate partners would be invited to attend the next meeting. It is proposed that the Head of People and Organisational Development and the Member Champion for Children and Young People be the Council's Officer and Member representatives on the Trust.

4.11 The District Lead Officers group is also sharing good practice in relation to the Every Child Matters Agenda. A simple red/amber/green reporting system monitors the progress of the Council in relation to this Agenda on the following areas:

Strategic Engagement with the Every Child Matters Agenda.

Local Priority Setting, Action Planning and Performance Management.

Engagement with Children and Young People.

Safeguarding.

Information Sharing.

Workforce Development.

This has led to development and adoption of revised Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 There are no financial comments arising from the report at this time.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 There are no legal comments arising from the report at this time.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from the report at this time.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Cabinet will continue to be advised of the progress and development of the new Trust arrangements.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Agree to the Statement of Commitment and agree to delegate any changes to the Head of People and Organisational Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for A Well Managed Council.

9.2 Agree that the representation of the Council recommended to the Trust, be the Head of People and Organisational Development and Champion for Children and Young People

9.3 Note the arrangements in relation to the new Children's Trust arrangements.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 The Council was part of the consultation carried out by Lancashire County Council.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Background Papers: Draft guidance and Terms of Reference for Lancashire's Children and Young People's Trust Board Terms of Reference for Lancashire's Children and Young Person's Strategic Partnership Draft guidance terms of reference for a Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership	People and Organisational Development Office