

RESHAPING CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **17th April 2012**

From: **Adrian Loades, Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To propose revised operating arrangements for Cambridgeshire's Children's Trust**

Recommendation: **Cabinet is asked to:**

- a) Consider proposals to reshape Children's Trust arrangements**
- b) Consider the responses received from stakeholders in relation to these proposals**
- c) Approve the proposed Children's Trust arrangements set out in section 2 of the report.**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire Children's Trust is a partnership which brings together all of the organisations that work with children, young people and families in a shared commitment to improving children's lives. The Trust came into being December 2009 and developed from the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, which had been in operation since 2002.
- 1.2 Since the inception of the Trust, there have been a number of changes to the legislation and regulations surrounding Children's Trusts, for example, whilst it is still statutory for a Local Authority to establish a Children's Trust, statutory guidance on the way they need to function was revoked in 2010. The overall intention of these changes is to allow local areas the freedom to establish partnership structures that best suit local needs and circumstances. Whilst specific guidance has been removed, the 'duty to cooperate', as defined in the Children Act 2004, has been maintained, with an expectation that Local Authorities continue to lead Children's Trust arrangements at a local level.
- 1.3 In addition to the changes set out above, the formation of Cambridgeshire's shadow Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has necessitated consideration of the role of the Children's Trust and its relationship with the HWB.
- 1.4 In light of these changes, it is considered timely to review and refresh the purpose and operating arrangements of Cambridgeshire's Children's Trust to ensure that arrangements are fit for purpose and are well placed to link with Health and Well Being Board developments.
- 1.5 On this basis, proposals have been developed to reshape Cambridgeshire's Children's Trust arrangements. These proposals have been issued to the following stakeholders and groups for their comments:
 - Children's Trust Board members
 - Members of the Trust Planning and Commissioning Group
 - Chief Executives partner organisations, including health, District Councils and the Voluntary and Community Sector
 - The shadow Health and Well Being Board
 - The Local Safeguarding Children Board
 - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Below is a summary of the key features of the proposals. The original consultation paper is available on request (see Source Documents).
- 2.2 **Proposed role and function of the Children's Trust**
 - To set the strategic direction for improving outcomes for children and young people across Cambridgeshire
 - To undertake an annual assessment of the needs of children and young people in Cambridgeshire, with a view to identifying strategic

priorities for the Trust and informing the needs assessment undertaken by the Health and Well Being Board.

- To inform and respond to the priorities emerging from the Health and Wellbeing Board
- To develop a high level strategic plan for the Trust, which identifies areas where partners need to work together to make progress against priorities, including consideration of where joint commissioning would be appropriate.
- To oversee progress against the delivery of the Plan
- To provide a forum in which to raise and discuss areas of collective interest or concern relating to children, young people and families
- To champion the Children's agenda in the wider partnership network

2.3 Proposed structure and membership of reshaped Trust

2.3.1 The current Children's Trust Board consists of 35 members and meets twice a year. One of the key aims in reshaping the Trust is to strengthen its commissioning function and enable it to become a forum in which operational decisions can be taken. To enable the Trust to fulfil this role, a smaller, more focussed model is needed.

2.3.2 It is therefore proposed that the current Board is disbanded and replaced by a smaller partnership group that includes all key partners. This group would meet bi-monthly, either side of the Health and Well Being Board, and be chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services. Proposed membership of the revised Board is set out below.

Proposed members of the Trust Board

Statutory Member	Representative
Elected Members	Lead Member for Children's Services (Chairman) One District Councillor – to be nominated
Children and Young People's Services	Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services <i>(also represented on the Health and Well Being Board)</i>
District Councils	One officer and one Elected Member – see above
Primary Care Trust	One representative
Police	One representative
Probation	One representative
Jobcentre Plus	One representative
Other relevant partners	
Local Safeguarding Children Board	LSCB Chair
General Practitioners	One representative from Clinical Commissioning
Voluntary and Community Sector	Two representatives – one from Young Lives (as the second tier infrastructure

	organisation) and 1 operational organisation
Secondary Schools	Chair of Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads
Primary Schools	Chair of Cambridgeshire Primary Heads
Special Schools	One representative to be sought from Special School Heads
Further Education & Sixth Form Colleges	One representative to be sought from FE Principals
Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent sector	One representative to be sought from sector
Area Partnership – East Cambs and Fenland	One representative
Area Partnership – South Cambs and City	One representative
Area Partnership – Hunts	One representative

2.3.3 In proposing a reduced membership at Board level, it is recognised that there are other key partners working on the children's agenda who want to be involved and informed of the work of the Trust. It is therefore proposed that the following organisations are Associate Members of the Board. These members will be sent the papers and forward agenda plan for all Trust meetings and will be able to attend meetings for relevant items:

- Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

2.3.4 It is also proposed to continue to maintain a professional network for the Children's Trust, which would consist of all stakeholders working to deliver services for children, young people and families, including Elected Members. This network of stakeholders would be informed of and engaged in the work of the Trust through a Children's Trust Monthly briefing and an annual conference which would involve all partners of the Children's Trust. The conference would focus on priorities for the coming year, with particular focus on a theme of collective interest.

3.0 SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED REGARDING PROPOSALS

3.1 During the consultation period, responses were received from a wide range of stakeholders. A full summary of the issues and themes emerging from the feedback is provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 In general, responses to the proposals were positive, with the majority respondents recognising the need to strengthen the function of the Trust, streamline existing arrangements and build the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust.

3.3 A number of specific comments were received in relation to particular elements of the proposals. In the main, these related to the membership of the Trust Board. Key issues and the proposed responses to these are summarised below.

3.4 Elected Member representation

3.4.1 The following issues were expressed in relation to Elected Member representation and also at the CYP overview and scrutiny committee:

- There were concerns about the reduction in Elected Members in the proposed membership arrangements (a significant proportion of the current Children's Trust Board are Elected Members and non-executive Directors).
- The need to ensure political buy-in from all the District Councils was highlighted. In relation to this, it was suggested by several parties that a District Councillor should be a member of the Trust, in addition to the County Council Member proposed.

3.4.2 The original proposal only included one Elected Member. However, in response to comments received, it is proposed that the Board includes two Elected Members: one from the County Council and one from a District Council. This is reflected in the membership arrangements set out in section 2.

3.4.3 A wider group of Elected Members will be invited to participate in an annual conference, which will look at priorities for the year ahead.

3.4.4 It should be noted that the Children's Trust Board is not intended to replace the democratic decision making processes of member organisations and nor could it do so. The Trust's Strategic Plan, which will stem out of the priority setting process, will be taken through the Council's democratic processes, as will any other significant decisions relating to the Trust.

3.4.5 It is also worth noting that the Children's Trust Board is only one part of the Children's Trust Network. The three Area Children and Young People's Partnerships, which are part of the Children's Trust network, include Elected Members.

3.5 Police representation

3.5.1 The Police Authority has requested consideration of how the new Police and Crime Commissioner could be involved in the partnership arrangements of the Children's Trust and Health and Wellbeing Board, as their remit will be to address crime, this will include commissioning services and initiatives. Under the proposed arrangements for the Children's Trust, Cambridgeshire Constabulary is represented, but not the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.5.2 It is suggested that police membership arrangements will need to be subject to review, given the advent of the Police and Crime Commissioner role.

3.6 National Health Service (NHS) representation

- 3.6.1 In relation to the membership of NHS organisations, it had been suggested by one party that the representative from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) could also represent the Primary Care Trust (PCT), on the basis that CCG would in time replace the PCT. However, a subsequent letter from NHS Cambridgeshire has asked that membership of NHS organisations be carefully considered to ensure representation from current and future commissioners. Specifically, it has been requested that there is representation from the PCT, whilst it continues to exist representation from the local arm of the NHS Commissioning Board once it is established.
- 3.6.2 The benefits of having representatives from both the PCT and CCG during the period of transition are recognised. In the longer term, we will aim to ensure that we have the right representative from the future commissioning groups as they evolve. Discussions will need to take place with the PCT about NHS representation.

4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

- 4.1.1 In reshaping the Children's Trust, the aim is to ensure that there is strong strategic direction for improving outcomes for children and young people across Cambridgeshire. This will include ensuring that children and young people in Cambridgeshire achieve good educational outcomes, and are well equipped to go on to further education, training or employment.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

- 4.2.1 In the drive to improve outcomes for children and young people, focus will be given to health outcomes and the Trust will seek to inform and respond to the commissioning intentions of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

- 4.3.1 Ensuring appropriate support and protection of vulnerable children, young people and families is of the utmost importance to the Trust.

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource and Performance Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no significant implications

5.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 There are no significant implications

5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.3.1 There are no significant implications

5.4 Engagement and Consultation

- 5.4.1 A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted about these proposals.
See paragraph 3.0

Source Documents	Location
Reshaping Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Arrangements Consultation Paper	Strategy, Performance and Partnerships Room C015 Castle Court

