



Future arrangements of the Children's Trust

Wednesday 29 April 2015

Agenda item: 4

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1. Purpose / recommendation

To make a decision over the future arrangements of the Children's Trust.

2. Background

To comply with the Children's Act 2004 the Children's Trust have to evidence that they are improving the wellbeing of children in relation to:

- Physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Protection from harm and neglect
- Education, training and recreation
- Contribution by them to society
- Social and economic wellbeing

Work must have regard for the importance of parents and others caring for children.

Whilst the County Council has responsibility for reporting on this other statutory organisations have a duty to work in partnership to achieve positive outcomes.

As of 1 June 2015, Cambridgeshire County Council will cease the funding (currently £34k per annum) for the Children's Trust, which includes:

- Children's Trust Manager (0.65FTE) post
- Funding for the annual conference
- Annual funding support to Area Partnerships
- Resourcing costs associated to the Board meetings and development days eg: venues

In addition, Cambridgeshire County Council currently funds the Area Partnership Manager post which is due to end on 31 August 2015. This proposal refers to the changes to the current Children's Trust Board arrangements. It is proposed that the Area Partnerships will continue.

Following the last meeting in November 2014, the Board agreed that a working group should be established to discuss possible options for the future of the Children's Trust. The working group have met twice since then and have discussed the preferred future model, outlined below. In addition, opportunities have been given for all current Board Members to comment on these options.



3. Future model

The future model will consist of:

- A small Executive Group
- Annual conference
- All three Area Partnerships
- Commissioned work

The current Children's Trust Board should be disbanded in its current form. The following structure and functions will be established, which are shown in Appendix 1:

Children's Trust Executive Group

The Executive Group will meet twice a year to oversee the work of the Area Partnerships, work it commissions and to provide some synergy between common work areas.

Attendance: Each Chair of the Area Partnerships, CCC Children Services representative and open to other partners when work requires their contribution.

Support: Provided by Democratic Services, Area Partnership Manager (Additional support will be required for organising the conference)

Role / function:

- Share learning and good practice
- Support the Area Partnership work areas in developing priorities
- Facilitate synergy between different partners and local area partnerships plans
- Identify new ways of working
- Commission new work and facilitate task and finish groups
- Report annual progress of the Area Partnerships and commissioned work to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Hosting the Children's Trust Annual Conference for all statutory organisations to attend
 - Themed event
 - Compare common priorities between partners

Reporting Line: Health and Wellbeing Board

Costs:

- Conference costs (to be identified) and costs for additional executive support



Children Trust Area Partnerships:

The Area Partnerships will develop initiatives to be delivered locally to benefit children, young people and families within that geographical area.

Attendance: to remain the same in its current form with local representatives from various organisations

Support: Administrative support (for meetings) and Area Partnership Manager to develop key projects

Role / function:

- Develop area plans that enhances opportunities for children, young people and their families living within that area
- Develop and support key projects to be delivered locally
- Monitor progress and provide an annual report on progress and gaps to the Executive Group
- Escalate issues and barriers for resolution
- Highlight local trends and gaps within existing service provisions
- Facilitate networking and collaborative working within a local context

Reporting Line: Children's Trust Executive Group

Costs: Nil (*Although the Area Partnership Manager post will currently end on 31 August 2015*)

Relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board:

It was agreed in January 2014 that the Children's Trust would be the primary delivery mechanism for Priority 1 'Ensuring a positive start to life for children, young people and their families' of the Health and Wellbeing Board which includes:

- Reporting annual progress of all work areas within the remit of the Children's Trust eg: Area Partnerships, Together for Families, Child Poverty, Children's Mental Health and SEND
- Delegated responsibility to respond to items, within the priority 1 remit, as directed by the Health and Wellbeing Board

This will not change and the Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to receive progress reports on the work of the Children's Trust including the Area Partnerships and commissioned work, as set out in Appendix 1.

Support mechanisms:

It is envisaged that:

- **Democratic Services** will provide officer business support to the Children's Trust Executive Group, working alongside the Area Partnership Manager.



- **Area Partnership Manager** will concentrate more time and effort on identifying and developing projects for partners to lead on and take responsibility for within the Area Partnerships. This role will also ensure that area plans are developed and highlight issues, evidence and gaps to the Children's Trust Executive Group.
 - **Administrative support** for Area Partnerships to co-ordinate relevant meetings and each Area Partnership should consider who will undertake this
 - **Executive Support** – it has been suggested that executive support should be provided to support the development and delivery of annual conference
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4. Implications for partners

Cambridgeshire County Council will need to remove funding for the annual conference and the costs associated with its annual grant (i.e. currently £3333 per Area Partnership). Partners will need to consider funding opportunities to continue the future of the Area Partnerships and that of the Area Partnership Manager position (*Due to end in August 2015*).

With limited resources, more emphasis will be on partners to contribute, lead and undertake key work on behalf of the Area Partnerships.

Area Partnerships will need to determine their own administrative arrangements.

5. Questions / decisions required

- Are partners in agreement to the model of working as described in this paper?
 - What funding is available from partners for the annual conference, Area Partnership Manager role and potential executive support?
 - When would partners like the new arrangements to begin (*could the existing Board meetings be used for the Executive Group meetings*)?
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Appendix 1 – Governance Arrangements for the Children’s Trust

