



Future arrangements of the Children's Trust – Revised paper Following the Children's Trust Board meeting held on 29 April 2015

Agenda Item No: 6

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1. Purpose / recommendation

This paper has been updated to reflect the agreed changes made by the Children's Trust Board members present at the meeting held on 29 April 2015

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 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 met twice and draft proposals were discussed at the Board meeting on 29 April. The model proposed at this meeting is outlined below



3. Future model

The future model will consist of:

- A small Executive Group
- Annual meeting
- All three Area Partnerships

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 (CTEG)

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

Membership: Five members comprising the Chair of each Area Partnership (3), Executive Director, Children, Families and Adults Services, Cambs County Council; Lead Member for Children's Services Cambs County Council. Other partners may attend by invitation as work programme dictates.

Support Required:

- Democratic support to arrange and minute these meetings (Democratic Services CCC)
- Additional support for organising annual meeting (CCC to identify)

Role / function:

- Share learning and good practice
- Support the Area Partnerships
- Identify new ways of working
- Identifying further needs, issues and new opportunities
- Report annual progress of the Area Partnerships and how they contribute to priority 1 of the Health and Wellbeing strategy.
- Co-ordinating key pieces of work
- A report to be received from other key work areas on how priority 1 is being delivered by other partners and partnerships. (CCC to lead)
- Hosting the Children's Trust Annual meeting, to involve all statutory organisations. This meeting will focus on shared priorities between partners

Reporting Line: Health and Wellbeing Board, Area Partnerships

Costs: CCC to provide support for the annual meeting and the co-ordination of the work areas relating to priority 1 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.



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 Required:

- Administrative support for meetings (individual partnerships to make arrangements)
- Area Partnership Manager - developing projects (funded to 31 August 2015)

Role / function:

- Develop partnership work 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*)

Children's Trust Relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board:

It has been agreed that the Children's Trust Executive Group will oversee the co-ordination of the key work areas which contribute to Priority 1, 'Ensuring a positive start to life for children, young people and their families' of the Health and Wellbeing Board which includes:

- The Children's Trust Executive Group will report annual progress of the Area Partnerships work in relation to priority 1 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - The Children's Trust Executive Group will co-ordinate annual progress of other key work areas that contribute to priority 1 of the Health and Wellbeing strategy (*co-ordination of this will be provided by CCC*)
 - Delegated responsibility to respond to items, within the priority 1 remit, as directed by the Health and Wellbeing Board
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Children's Trust relationship with the LSCB

This will be fulfilled by the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Adult Services who sits on the LSCB and CTEG.

4. Implications for partners

CCC contributions to the functioning of the Children's Trust will be reduced but some limited funding and support will continue

CCC will provide

- democratic officer support to the Children's Trust Executive Group
- additional support for the annual meeting
- an annual report on progress towards Priority 1 of the Health and Well Being Board Action Plan

Emphasis will need to focus on partners working together to lead or undertake work on behalf of the Area Partnerships.

5. Decisions required:

At the Children's Trust Board meeting held on 29 April 2015, the following decisions were made.

- The proposed model was agreed, subject to an updated paper being reissued to all Board members electronically (CCC)
 - A briefing note should be developed for the Health and Wellbeing Board (CCC)
 - The first meeting of the Children's Trust Executive Group will take place on 8 July 2015 to discuss:
 - Terms of reference
 - Detailed working arrangements
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Appendix 1 – Governance Arrangements for the Children’s Trust

