



Halton Childrens Trust
Minutes of Board Meeting held on 26th November 2008
9.00am – 12.00pm, Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes

Present:

David Parr	Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
Councillor Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services
Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services (Chair)
Ged Flynn	Chair, 3 rd Sector Forum
Tony Crane	Organisational Development Manager, HBC
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Planning & Resources, CYPD
Kieran Gordon	Chief Executive, Greater Merseyside Connexions
Gus Van Cauwelaert	Head Teacher, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic College
Kevin Mothersdale	Partnership Director for Halton, Learning & Skills Council
Cleo Pollard	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
Tilly Heigh	Children's Trust Manager, CYPD
Eugene Lavan	Halton & St Helens PCT
Supt Craig Guildford	Superintendent, Cheshire Police
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)

Apologies

Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area
Pat Grunwell	Principal, Riverside College Halton
Councillor Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority Representative
Audrey Williamson	Operational Director, Adults of Working Age, HBC

Item		Action
	TM updated the meeting on the new legal guidance regarding Children's Trusts. Directors will now be legally responsible for all children's services. The message being given from the Government is that everyone is responsible for the welfare of children. The next Children's Trust meeting will look at performance. All organisations who receive Government funding will be audited to see that money allocated for Children's services is spent appropriately.	
1.	Matters Arising	
1.1	Item 2.1, Local Area Agreement – The board have been asked to complete an action plan for the LAA, this is now complete. Exceptions will be looked at during the next Board meeting.	
1.2	Item 2.2, Government Children's Plan – Audit now complete, results will be fed back at Away Day	
1.3	Item 2.3, LSC – Report will go to Executive Board on 4 th December with	

<p>1.4</p> <p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p>	<p>recommendation to cluster with Greater Merseyside for post 16 arrangements. Report for members awaiting approval on 4th December. Due to migration of learners to neighbouring authorities it is important to keep close links.</p> <p>Item 3.7, Children’s Trust Structures – amendments are now complete</p> <p>Item 3.15, Children’s Trust Young Person representation – TH met with Vanessa Shaw from Youth Service, but Youth Cabinet are currently in transition and we are now awaiting their response.</p> <p>Item 5, JAR Improvement Plan – this was presented to the Executive group, and process issues are now being updated.</p>	
<p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p>2. Current national initiatives and their potential impact on Halton</p> <p>Are We There Yet Report – GM and TM attended the report launch with Beverley Hughes in Liverpool. The document contains an audit toolkit to check how Children’s Trusts are progressing. The report was not presented in a balanced way, however we are in line with Audit Commission requirements. It is important to stress that Children’s Trusts will be made to work. Outcomes are a priority for the Children’s Trust, and it is vital to set action plans and implement them. It is also important to establish purpose and illustrate what the Children’s Trust has done so far. The PPB will be looking at attendance of Children’s Trust meetings, and all members should be clear on their role within the Trust and feed back to their organisations. TC suggested simple guidance on what is a Children’s Trust in Halton, as a means of raising awareness of what we do and how we function, to be presented in a positive way.</p> <p>Feedback from the Second Children’s Plan Conference – GM gave feedback from the conference which was held last Tuesday. 2 documents were presented, the first of which was around the role of the Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member, which clarifies accountability. The second document is statutory guidance on Children’s Trusts, which will make the Children’s Trust a Statutory Body, with recommendations of relevant partners. This will include schools and Job Centre Plus. The report is outcomes focussed, and a summary report will be issued at the Away Day. The Board will be asked to read both reports</p> <p>Implications of Baby P case post Laming – The Government have completed an audit of Haringey Children’s Services and a report will be issues soon. Also Lord Laming has been commissioned to do a review of his recommendations post Climbié report. There will also be a review of Safeguarding Boards and Children’s Trusts.</p> <p>In Halton we have a strong relationship with the Police and Health bodies. Proposed areas for improvement are to create a virtual safeguarding unit of senior police, senior health staff and Paula St Aubyn. GM would like to consider this. The LGA have asked GM to do</p>	<p>TH</p>

	<p>a video link to talk about work being done in Halton, as it has been nationally recognised. TM and GM thanked all partners for their good work. IdeA have also approached us to work with other local authorities as a beacon to support them and learn from us, however the Children's Trust is taking a measured approach and working with colleagues to spread the message and support front line staff. Partners were asked to give similar support within their own organisations. It is also important to acknowledge schools.</p> <p>NS raised concern regarding information sharing for Halton Housing Trust and would welcome additional training for staff and collaborative working.</p> <p>AP raised concern that her organisation was having difficulty in accessing low-level support, though it was highlighted that we have the Common Assessment Framework in place to address this, and this system is dependent on engagement by individual agencies.</p> <p>CP felt that it should be the business of the Board to support parents also.</p>	
3.	<p>Priority Planning</p> <p>AM discussed priorities with the Children's Trust Board which have been identified for SMT to address. There are 8 priorities with key performance and key process measures identified. These are to be taken to the Away Day to decide which will be taken forward. Model to be produced via OBA process for addressing these issues. Wider outcomes and process issues to be identified as a collective. KG suggested that organisations will need to look at EDRs to see if they allow us to deal with working to new processes and address, as this will be necessary in order for us to do business as a virtual organisation. Further information requests or comments to be sent to TH by the 28th November.</p>	<p>TH</p> <p>ALL</p>
4.	<p>Specific Information</p> <p>4.1 <u>Children's Trust Executive</u> Positive meeting, though need to involve schools.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Parent Carer's Forum</u> Now targeting group outside children's centres. Aim is for parents to sit within Service Delivery Partnerships, though would need to keep universal aim. The group would like to contribute to consultation in priority setting. Representative parents from Parent Carer Forum to be invited to Away Day</p> <p>4.2 <u>Children & Young People's 3rd Sector Partnership (3SP)</u> Regarding representation it has been beneficial to appoint a Lead Engagement Officer, as there is a large proportion of 3rd Sector within Halton. 4 key points emerged from the last 3SP meeting; funding/commissioning, poverty, debts and how we embrace OBA, and</p>	<p>CP/AON</p>

	<p>Business planning beyond end of funding. 50 key providers are interested in skills development. 3rd sector are seeing themselves now as key partners. TM raised that from a council perspective the 3rd sector partnership is hugely important and a valued partner, with a large amount of funding given from the council. 3rd Sector partners will need to look at merging and ways of becoming sustainable.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Health Board</u> PCT are currently developing a 5-year health strategy, and consultation is taking place to identify priorities. Children and families are key to this. Early years, risk taking behaviour in young people and service development are 3 key areas. This will give clear direction, which will link into LAA priorities and CYP Plan. New focus in strategic plan is investing in improving people's health and healthy lifestyles, and detecting illness earlier. This will account for 8% of overall budget. Children and young people will be at the heart of the plan. This is to go out to consultation on the website. TM expressed that he was pleased with progress.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Joint Intelligence & Commissioning Unit (JICU)</u> JICU developed as a result of JAR feedback. Main priority is how we best join up to function on core priorities. 5 key priorities have been identified and a function of how the JICU should look has been completed. Other partners have said they will co lead on the groups. Looking at possibility of key worker to act as lead on co-ordination of JICU, will come back to next Board meeting with some firm proposals.</p> <p>4.5 <u>Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) presented by GM</u> Anti Bullying Conference was held on the 21st November. Very successful, positive day which dealt with issues in the community. Thai Kickboxing not supported by HSCB as this is unregulated. Child death panel – no near misses to report. Scrutiny and Performance Subgroup – increase in exclusions from school. E-safety – issue regarding internet safety in school, to be looked at. Safer Recruitment working group set up within the Council. Information Sharing report – child protection plans and poor attendance being looked at. LADO – to be discussed with head teachers. Unborn children to be given case conferences.</p> <p>4.6 <u>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Report</u> Children's Trust new structure has now been accepted by the LSP, GM will be representative. 34 out of 78 care leavers are currently NEET, Young Person representative gave talk to LSP to urge organisations to take on young people as part of workforce, and GM underlined this. Agencies have committed to 3 placements for care leavers. Also Local Authority has given commitment to 100 apprenticeships. KG raised the issue of LDD young people as they are not proportionally represented, and there are insufficient opportunities. Council now has policy in place to commit to care leavers and LDD employment opportunities.</p>	
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5.	Information Sharing	
5.1	GM is now Youth Offending Team representative for Children's Trust Board	
5.2	APA results – 4 out of 6 categories 'outstanding' (embargo on this information until 17 th December)	
5.3	LSC have published priorities for 2009/10. Commissioning plan to follow.	
5.4	Representation from all faiths for the Children's Trust Board was raised. JK will be following up with schools, as agreed at Board meeting on 03/09/08. John Devine is representative at GONW for inter-faith. GF will approach him to see who might be the best person for Children's Trust Board representation. GF to update TH on this.	JK GF