



## Halton Childrens Trust

### Minutes of Board Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

9.00am – 12.00pm, Conference Room 2, Municipal Building, Widnes

#### Present:

Councillor Tom McInerney	Lead Member for Children's Services (Chair)
David Parr	Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services
Tony Crane	Organisational Development Manager, HBC
Kieran Gordon	Chief Executive, Greater Merseyside Connexions
Cleo Pollard	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Adele O'Neill	Parent & Carers Forum representative
Noel Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
Tilly Heigh	Children's Trust Manager, CYPD
Eugene Lavan	Director of Strategic Development, NHS Halton & St Helens
Dympna Edwards	Deputy Director of Public Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Councillor Dave Cargill	Cheshire Police Authority Representative
Karen Hickey	Children's Trust Partnership Officer (minutes)
Norma Hornby	Representing 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum
John Pearce	Representing Business Support & Commissioning, CYPD
Lyn Rhodes	Representing Riverside College
Paula Edwards	Representing Learning & Skills Council

#### Apologies

Steve Collett	Chief Officer, Cheshire Probation Area
Mike Sheenan	Principal, Riverside College Halton
Ged Flynn	Chair, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Forum
Audrey Williamson	Operational Director, Adults of Working Age, HBC
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Business Support & Commissioning
Kevin Mothersdale	Partnership Director for Halton, Learning & Skills Council
Supt Craig Guildford	Superintendent, Cheshire Police
Gus Van Cauwelaert	Halton Association of Secondary Head teachers

Item		Action
1.	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM 26/11/2009</b>	
1.1	Item 1.5, Children's Trust young person representation – Amanda O'Brien has agreed to be the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector representative on the CPE group. Amanda to liaise with Norma Hornby. DP highlighted the need for young people to be able to represent the needs of their constituents to the Board.	AO'B/NH
1.2	Item 5.1, Youth Offending Team representative for Children's Trust Board – The Board were asked to note that a Youth Offending Team inspection is due, and they may be approached.	
1.3	Item 5.4, All faiths representation – there will be a meeting on the 27th April of the Cheshire wide inter faith group, and Steven Kingsnorth will discuss representation for the Children's Trust Board. TH has supplied information and terms of reference for the board to Steven.	

2.	<p><b>CURRENT NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HALTON</b></p>	
2.1	<p><b>Children and Young People’s Plan</b>  TC updated the Board on the progress to date of the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP). A draft copy was circulated to members, plus a guidance sheet for aspects of the Plan, which require comments or suggestions. TC outlined the document to the meeting. The following comments were made for each section:</p> <p><u>Forwards</u>  It was agreed that representation in this section would consist of TMcl, GM, Russell Jones for Halton Youth Forum and CP for the Parent/Carer Forum. TC to update.</p> <p><u>Vision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP asked for ‘employment’ to be included in the vision.</li> <li>• DC asked for worklessness to be addressed on vision page, as part of what we plan to do</li> </ul> <p><u>If Halton were a village of 100 children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EL offered to feed back information from PCT on how they plan to address some of the issues highlighted, eg dental health.</li> </ul> <p><u>Halton The Place</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TMcl asked for emphasis to be placed on positives of the borough and how we communicate them.</li> <li>• CP felt that it was important for negatives to be included as parents are already aware of them, as long as they are followed up by actions to correct them.</li> <li>• NH suggested case study, illustrating what happens after a CAF referral, showing progress and multi agency working.</li> </ul> <p><u>Our Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NS suggested wording should be changed from ‘we want’ to ‘we will’.</li> <li>• DP suggested that the plan needs to recognise that young people are not failures if they go into work at 16 and do ‘on the job’ training, this needs to be shown as a positive as much as academic achievement.</li> <li>• DP suggested that teenage pregnancy in some cases is a choice, and the plan needs to address how we plan to support this group.</li> <li>• KG suggested including ‘Halton values’ in priorities</li> </ul> <p><u>Section 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DE suggested case studies to be included here. DE and TC to discuss further</li> </ul> <p>Next draft to be produced by 24<sup>th</sup> April, and 8<sup>th</sup> May is cut off point for amendments.</p> <p>TMcl asked the Board to provide feedback/suggestions for the plan directly to TC.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>DE/TC</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>DP asked for all members to obtain endorsement from their respective organisations for the Plan. GM asked members to inform the Board of the date that the Plan will be submitted to their respective boards.</p>	ALL
	<p>GM emphasised the responsibility of Children's Trust partners to co-operate with the plan, and the statutory obligations.</p>	ALL
2.2	<p><b>Child Health Strategy</b> DE outlined the presentation on the strategy to the Board, and also the commissioning framework for Halton. The main developments were highlighted, as per the presentation slides which were circulated to the Board. TMcl commented that the documentation gave a good insight into what work is being done currently. NH queried work being done with young people around sexual health, DE confirmed that further work is being done in this area.</p>	
2.3	<p><b>Statutory Guidance on Children's Trusts</b> TH outlined the report on the revised Children's Trust statutory guidance to the Board. Legislative changes are to be made in the next few months, which Children's Trusts will be accountable for. Structural changes regarding the relationship between the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Board may need to be made. It is anticipated that new statutory partners will include schools and colleges, however GP's are still not included. Implications for the Board are that we will need an agreed business plan, and will need to follow consistent business processes, including ensuring that Board members abide by Board and Exec group membership agreements and terms of reference.</p> <p>The issue of attendance at meetings was raised and it was highlighted that some board members had not attended any meetings in over a year. TMcl highlighted that any occurrences of regular non-attendance will be addressed via letter from the Chair. Also membership agreements to be checked to ensure all partners have completed and returned them to the Children's Trust Team, and have included named deputies (KH). TC stressed that the Children's Trust Board will be held to account if procedures are not followed.</p> <p>EL offered to look at ways in which GP's could be represented on the Board, and will follow up with PCT</p> <p>KG highlighted the need for more commitment from members to JICU developments, as a number of meetings have been cancelled due to lack of commitment from partners.</p>	KH
2.4	<p><b>Lord Laming Report: The Protection of Children in England</b> GM outlined the main headlines from the report. In future the Safeguarding Board will be required to report to the Children's Trust Board on their progress, and vice versa. DP raised the issue that there may be a conflict of interest in that the Chair of the Safeguarding Board is also a member of the Children's Trust Board. GM to follow this up. Other headlines are that the focus is now on initial contact and assessment points between agencies, and also that police and</p>	GM

	<p>paediatric health needs greater representation within social work assessments. DP informed the meeting that more funding is to be committed to safeguarding, and the PCT have also invested in this area recently.</p>	
3.	<p><b>PRIORITY PLANNING</b></p>	
3.1	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Young People Are Successful When They Leave School</b></p> <p>Lorraine Butcher gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. Work currently being done with young people throughout the borough needs to be examined. The quality of careers guidance needs to be looked at, along with why some areas are more likely to produce young people who are NEET. LB asked the Board for representation on the strategy group to address this. NH queried tracking methods used for the 14 – 19 cohort, and how issues are analysed. LB outlined current methods used, but agreed that closer working is needed with external agencies to record this. LR requested for the College to be included in mapping/collating of data. TMCl stressed the need for closer working between organisations regarding data tracking for young people. KG suggested that Connexions could provide information for out of borough cohort in further education.</p>	
3.2	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Children and Young People Do Well Whatever Their Needs</b></p> <p>Judith Kirk gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. The priority has been looked at from a health, education and social housing aspect. The area of Children in Need has been focussed on, in particular children with compromised parenting. Work is still being done on establishing key milestones. Data analysis is currently being done and an action plan will be produced for the next meeting. Locality working pilot for Grange area will provide opportunity for linking into, along with Safeguarding Board. TH highlighted it was identified that from the feedback from the CYPP consultations that some clear groups of children were not achieving the 5 ECM outcomes, these were children in care, young carers, children with learning difficulties and disabilities and children living in homes where there is domestic abuse. JK agreed that these groups would also need to be examined. NH also suggested that 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector groups could help with developments, so that support is holistic.</p>	
3.3	<p><b>SDP Progress Report: Children and Young are Physically, Emotionally and Sexually Healthy.</b></p> <p>Jane Lunt gave the Board an update on the progress of the service delivery partnership for this priority. So far JL and Dave Howard have been looking at two different approaches to dealing with current health issues within the borough. 1<sup>st</sup> approach would be building on existing services, eg children's centres and additional family support. 2<sup>nd</sup> approach would be to focus on particular areas where we are not doing well, eg breastfeeding and teenage pregnancy, and prioritise work in these areas. TC highlighted that emotional health was a big issue which came out of the CYPP consultations. DE and JL outlined current</p>	

	work being done by the PCT to improve breastfeeding rates and also maternity services to focus on health of pre-birth children. NH highlighted the need for mental/emotional support for young fathers as they are a forgotten group and often struggle to deal with issues following a partner getting pregnant. JL suggested a 'young dads' worker could be provided via 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector organisations.	
4.	<b>SPECIFIC INFORMATION</b>	
4.1	<u>Children's Trust Executive</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GM asked TH to invite Jobcentre Plus to become members of the Children's Trust Board. TH to prepare letter and sent to GM for signature etc.</li> <li>Operation Stay Safe – GM gave an update on progress. The operation was successful, with good feedback from participants. 12 young people at risk were protected.</li> </ul>	TH
4.2	<u>Parent Carer's Forum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CP outlined the report from the Parent Carer Forum, which was circulated at the meeting. Report from the Parents Matter Too event to be circulated to the Board, with the minutes from this meeting (KH).</li> <li>The Parent Carer Forum wish to be updated at their next meeting on what services are available via schools for children and young people with regards to sexual health. DE suggested that Sue Forster from PCT be contacted for information.</li> </ul>	KH
4.3	<u>Children &amp; Young People's 3rd Sector Partnership (CYP3SP)</u> Update to be provided at next meeting.	GF
4.4	<u>Health Board</u> Update to be provided at next meeting	DE
4.5	<u>Joint Intelligence &amp; Commissioning Unit (JICU)</u> Currently issues with commitment from members. Report to be brought to next meeting on strengths and weaknesses of the JICU. Children's Trust Board to challenge progress.	TC ALL
4.6	<u>Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) presented by GM</u> Update to be provided at next meeting	AW
4.7	<u>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Report</u> GM updated the meeting on progress. There has been an attempt to renegotiate more realistic LAA targets with Central Government, but no change was agreed.	
	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 1.00 – 4.00pm, Marketing Suite, Municipal Building Widnes	