



Halton Children's Trust

**Minutes of Executive Group Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd February 2011
2.00pm, Municipal Building Widnes**

Present:

Gerald Meehan	Strategic Director of Children's Services, HBC (Chair)
Ann McIntyre	Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision
Julia Rosser	Public Health Specialist Registrar, Halton & St Helens PCT
Jonathan Potter	Divisional Manager, Team Around the Family Widnes, HBC
Mark Grady	Children's Trust Principal Officer, HBC
Lydia Unsworth	CYP3SP Lead Engagement Officer
Emma Taylor	Divisional Manager, Team Around the Family Runcorn, HBC
Gareth Jones	Warrington & Halton Youth Offending Team
Catherine Johnson	Principal Performance Officer, HBC
Dave Howard	Connexions
Hazel Coen	Divisional Manager, Performance, HBC
Lorraine Crane	Divisional Manager, IYSS, HBC
Nigel Moorhouse	Operational Director, Children & Families Services, HBC
Alison Upham	Principal Manager, Children with Disabilities, HBC
Karen Hickey	Assistant Policy Officer, HBC (minutes)

Apologies

Diane Sproson	Area Manager, Connexions
Jane Lunt	Operational Director, Child & Family Health, Halton & St Helens PCT
Michelle Bradshaw	Assistant Director, Child & Family Services, Halton & St Helens PCT
Paula St Aubyn	Divisional Manager, Safeguarding, Quality and Review, HBC

Item		Action
1.0	MATTERS ARISING	
1.1	Item 2.5, LSP development day - MG to attend next LSP meeting	MG
2.0	DECISION MAKING	
2.1	<p>Feedback from Ofsted Inspection</p> <p>Initial feedback has been good. There were 22 findings overall, with 10 graded as outstanding and 12 as good. For both Safeguarding and Looked After Children services overall effectiveness was good and capacity to improve was outstanding. Judgements compare favourably nationally. There is also a range of development areas which will be followed up. The Children's Trust came out as outstanding and there was universal praise for partnership working. Members to disseminate thanks from the Children's Trust Executive to staff throughout their agencies. 25th March report will be published on Ofsted website. Briefing presentation slides to be sent out with minutes.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>KH</p>
2.2	<p>WNF Prioritisation of Grants</p> <p>The amounts which were specified at the last Children's Trust Executive meeting have since been revised. They are now as follows: £30k – Making Waves</p>	

2.3	<p>£32,170 – Missing from Home £20k – Arch (alcohol services) £40k – Teenage Pregnancy £40k - NEET</p> <p>The Safer Halton and Health SSPs have been approached to jointly fund a Domestic Violence co-ordinator to support children and young people. The outcome of this request will be decided by the end of March.</p> <p>Engagement of Young People Discussion was held around how we can better engage young people into participation with Children’s Trust. A mapping exercise was suggested to look at the number and variety of participation and engagement groups that currently exist, with a view to forming a shadow board of young people for the Children’s Trust, with a variety of representation from each of the groups, including vulnerable and BME groups. Voluntary sector representation would also be required, LC to follow this up. A draft participation and engagement strategy is currently being produced for the Trust, DS to feed back on progress.</p>	<p>LC DS</p>
3.0	<p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>3.1 New Children’s Trust priorities were agreed at the development day in December, however it was raised that the wording of them may need revising to better reflect an outcomes focus. It was agreed that the new priorities would be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective joint commissioning (led by Jane Lunt and Ann McIntyre) 2) Improve outcomes for children and young people through embedding integrated processes to deliver early intervention (led by Nigel Moorhouse, Jonathan Potter and Emma Taylor) 3) Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people by targeting services effectively (led by Steve Nyakatawa and Simon Clough) <p>3.2 Processes to oversee the delivery of these priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Children’s Trust Joint Commissioning Group and Strategic Integrated Working Group will need to be widened to incorporate all relevant partners • Implementation of actions for priority 3 will be carried out via the Joint Commissioning unit therefore this will remove the need for an additional group to be formed. • MG and LC to map out reporting mechanisms for existing sub-groups into the new priority groups • The first meeting of each of the priority groups will focus on identifying key outcomes, which will be brought back to the Children’s Trust Executive with initial performance information to be agreed 	<p>MG/LC</p>
4.0	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>4.1 CT Performance Report Quarter 3 2010/11 There have been some difficulties in obtaining data for this period, therefore proxy figures have been used for some health data. NEET data for end of year results is currently unavailable. The Children and Young People’s Plan project group will be reviewing Children’s Trust performance measures as part</p>	

of the development of the new CYPP 2011, with a much stronger emphasis on partnership measures to enable the Children’s Trust to challenge progress. CJ/HC will develop a template to facilitate this, which will take into account regulatory government indicators which will need to be included.

CJ/HC

4.2 Sentencing Green Paper

The Green Paper “Breaking the Cycle Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders” is currently being circulated for consultation by central Government, which proposes radical changes for Justice services. It is proposed that administration of justice services will be devolved to local authorities. The Green Paper seeks to divert young people from the Youth Justice System by focussing on early prevention via the Department of Education Early Intervention grant. Payment will be by results and central government will be shifting costs, including custody costs to local authority, which will be immense. This could result in disincentive for partnership working, and increase in custody rates. Consultation responses are to be sent in by March 4th. GJ to circulate draft response to Children’s Trust for further comment, prior to submission.

GJ

4.3 Aiming Higher for Disabled Children

Halton has provided short breaks disabled children for the past 3 years, and has made a marked difference. No statutory guidance for short breaks has been issued under the new administration. Practice guidance is aimed more at carers than the young people themselves. Despite the loss of Aiming Higher funding a full range of breaks will still be delivered under Early Intervention grant funding. By October a new statement of purpose is to be published covering how short breaks will be provided, which will then be subsequently reviewed. Services currently delivered under the Aiming Higher programme will be reviewed in March, and proposals put forward about future provision. The statement of purpose highlights 2 key themes:

- Services for disabled children and their families sit within the Team Around the Family model of early intervention. This includes all existing Aiming High services, short breaks and early intervention work (ie all pre-statutory work). This is known as the Disabled Children’s Service.
- Any issues regarding a disabled child needing statutory services (ie child protection and/or child in need) are managed within the existing Social Care Teams, along with all other children who need this service

4.4 Sustainable Community Strategy Progress Update

The draft strategy has been out to public consultation update during December and January. The following 2 comments were aimed at the CYP section in particular, together with the responses provided to cover these:

Children and Young People in Halton	The objectives for children is highly aspirational and should be omitted from the Objectives and be seen to be very intrusive if measures were carried out to fulfil the objectives.	The Children’s Trust has agreed new priorities that will be in place from April 2011. These will be reflected in the new Sustainable Community Strategy.
	Young people need somewhere to go to call their own rather than gathering on street corners, such as coffee bars which offers alternatives to non-alcoholic drinks and where constructive projects can be carried out.	A new youth hub in Widnes, called CRmz, has recently opened, offering a variety of evening and weekend activities. In addition, reducing the number of young people consuming alcohol is seen by CYP as a key area of work for achieving its priorities.

