



Kent Children's Trust News

Kent Children's Trust & Local Children's Services Partnership newsletter January 2010 issue 10 (Special Edition)

Introduction

Welcome to this special edition of KCT news focussed on the outcomes of the Kent Children's Trust commissioning and delivery review and the changes being planned to improve our partnership arrangements. This new year will be a time of great change for the Kent Children's Trust and for many individuals working within children's services. In a context of tighter budgets and service reorganisations we need to be very clear what difference our partnership arrangements can and are making for children and young people - we really need partnerships for a purpose.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the KCT review. We have listened to your views about where improvements are needed and I hope you will recognise potential solutions to these issues in the key actions set out overleaf. The review also highlighted some great work for example in engaging young people and understanding needs and many examples of excellent local partnership work. We must build on this solid foundation as we move forward.



At the KCT Board meeting in December I was encouraged by the strong sense of partnership commitment. Ann Sutton, Chief Executive of the NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and Vice Chair of the Board led a lively group discussion about the way ahead through which we agreed seven key actions for 2010 and committed to developing a long term Change for Children plan. Board members stressed the importance of integrated front line delivery - there was a real understanding that we can only make a difference if we support front line services to provide the best possible integrated services that are valued by children and young people themselves.

In December the Board heard from Richard Samuel about the most deprived communities in Kent - Margate and Cliftonville. Members were challenged to examine how we need to change to better support these communities and there was universal agreement that we must learn from the Total Place pilot in Thanet which is exploring how services can combine their resources to maximise local impact.

As we move into 2010 please be assured that the KCT Board remain committed to partnership working at all levels and most importantly to improving the lives and prospects of all children and young people.

The KCT Board are committed to keeping a good dialogue going with all those working across the partner agencies of the Trust - you will see that improving communications is a key action for 2010.

If you have comments and suggestions to share on any of the information in the newsletter please contact Joy Ackroyd, the Kent Children's Trust Partnership Manager.



Where every child matters

Rosalind Turner
Managing Director, Children, Families and Education
and Chair of Kent Children's Trust





KCT Review - Continuing the transformation: Partnership for a Purpose

On the 16th of December 2009 the Kent Children's Trust Board met at Tonbridge and Malling Council Chamber for a pivotal meeting regarding the future of Children's Trust arrangements in Kent.

Over the past six months KCT has been working with the national Commissioning Support programme (CSP) to undertake an extensive review of its commissioning and delivery arrangements at strategic and local levels. At the December Board meeting partners came together to consider and scrutinise seven key proposals to strengthen our children's trust arrangements during 2010. These proposals were developed with partners to address the immediate improvement areas from the review and also respond to the new requirements of the ASCL Act 2009 and new DCSF Children's Trust guidance (see page 4).

The Board also committed to developing a long term strategic 'Change for Children' programme, which is to be resourced by all partners of the KCT. This programme is to implement and sustain the changes required through the KCT commissioning and delivery review and the ASCL Act 2009.

The Change for Children Programme will address major strands of partnership working including:

- Integrated Frontline delivery
- Multi-agency workforce development
- Integrated processes
- Organisational culture
- Resources
- Information sharing

A multi agency change team reporting to the KCT Executive will also be created to manage and coordinate the change programme. Further information on this will be shared in the next KCT Newsletter.



Kent Children's Trust Board meeting 16 December 2009



Agreed KCT Change for Children actions during 2010

<p>Action 1 - Re-establish the KCT Board as the lead body with responsibility for setting vision, agreeing the CYPP and championing improved outcomes through partnership working. Streamline the KCT substructure and clarify purpose and accountability.</p>
<p>Action 2 - Re-establish the KCT Executive Group as a strategic commissioning group with devolved responsibility to drive forward improving outcomes on behalf of the KCT Board.</p>
<p>Action 3 - Develop and implement a children's trust joint commissioning framework at strategic and local levels to ensure effective delivery of the CYPP priorities.</p>
<p>Action 4 - Reduce the number of LCSP Boards from 23 to 12 to ensure closer alignment with other partner agencies / groups. Strengthen accountability and clarify partnership resources to support the effective operation of the LCSP Boards.</p>
<p>Action 5 - Work towards integrated local delivery teams to support universal and targeted services at the most local level.</p>
<p>Action 6 - Develop the new CYPP 2011-2013 focused on crosscutting high priorities in areas that will secure improved outcomes across the ECM framework with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and communities.</p>
<p>Action 7 - Strengthen the KCT Communications Strategy to ensure consistent clear messages, to join up strategic and local levels and to ensure children's trust development is clearly understood and recognised.</p>



Introducing 12 Local Children's Trust Boards

December 2009

KCT Board decision to move from 23 LCSP Boards to 12 new LCT Boards



Jan 2010

KCT Executive Group agree transition process & initiate task and finish group to manage the transition



Jan – Apr 2010

Planning work undertaken to ensure a clear programme of change (including review of TOR, Membership, resources...)



Apr – July 2010

Existing LCSP Boards pair up and work towards the formation of new LCT Boards ensuring best practice is carried forward



September 2010

12 new LCT Boards in place

These actions will be developed and progressed by the KCT Executive Group over the coming months, starting with their meeting on the 21st of January.

The full report of the KCT Commissioning and Delivery Review which provides more detail and background on the review and the seven Change for Children Actions is now available to view at:

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_change_for_children.cfm

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the review so far, the feedback we have received has been invaluable in both understanding the issues and planning for the future.



Consultation on New Statutory Children's Trust Guidance and New Children and Young People's Plan Regulations

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act became law in November 2009 and the DCSF is now consulting on new statutory guidance for Children's Trusts. This will strengthen partnership arrangements across children's services.

Everyone working in children's services should be aware of the new law and guidance and how it could impact on their service.

The ASCL Act 2009 builds on The Children Act 2004 by:

- Requiring every area to have a Children's Trust Board from April 2010.
this means - a firm foundation in law for the work of Kent Children's Trust.
- Transferring responsibility for preparing the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) from the local authority (KCC) to the Children's Trust Board.
this means - a more binding partnership across children's services to achieve shared priorities.
- Requiring the Children's Trust Board to monitor CYPP implementation.
this means - collective responsibility to ensure we are making a difference.
- Extending the range of statutory Children's Trust partners to include schools, FE and sixth form colleges and JobCentre Plus from January 2010.
this means - a more 'rounded' partnership better able to engage with learning and family issues.

The DCSF guidance seeks to strengthen Children's Trusts co-operation arrangements, and provides a detailed steer on a host of issues including:

- Integrated processes and delivery.
- Commissioning.
- Workforce Development.
- Developing a new jointly resourced CYPP from April 2011.

For more information visit the link below:

The KCC response to the DCSF consultation is being led by Jill Wiles jill.wiles@kent.gov.uk

Tel - 01622 694505 and responses are required by the 29th January 2010

and finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read this special edition KCT news, we felt it was important to keep as many people as possible informed of the continuing programme of change for KCT. For more information on the Trust and the forthcoming Change for Children Programme, visit the KCT website at

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm

I look forward to hearing from you.

James

The next KCT Newsletter will now be released in early March so there is still time to contribute your articles to me via email james.harman@kent.gov.uk 01622 694195

You can also stay in touch with all the latest developments by visiting the Children's Trust web page <http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

This newsletter is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages. Please call 01622 694195 for details.