

## Kent Children's Trust Board Review

### Aim

To recommend and gain agreement to a streamlined strategic partnership with the purpose of driving forward improved decision making, service integration, and joint commissioning around prevention, early and targeted intervention services for vulnerable children and young people at a time of organisational change. The effectiveness of the revised Kent Children's Trust will be measured in terms of the outcomes experienced by the children and young people of Kent.

### Drivers

- The need to have strong and responsive arrangements at a strategic level that support and enable Local Children's Trust Boards and operational teams to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people, particularly against priority areas identified in Kent's Children and Young People's Plan.
- Requirement to address areas of weakness identified in the Ofsted inspection of Kent's Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services – in particular the impact of Kent Children's Trust Board on the robustness and consistency of our Prevention and Early Intervention services and on ensuring and overseeing Partner agencies role and understanding of safeguarding.
- Changes to national legislation, in particular the introduction of a statutory Health and Wellbeing Board, plans to remove the statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust Board and Children and Young People's Plan, coupled with Kent's introduction of streamlined partnership arrangements through the Kent Forum and the need to position partnership planning for children, young people and families in this new context.
- Retention of the 'duty to cooperate' (The Children's Act 2004) and the need for strong partnership arrangements working to the DCS and Lead Member.
- Reduced resources across all sectors.

### Required outcomes

The outcomes sought from this review are:

- A streamlined, strengthened and responsive strategic partnership with clarity of purpose expressed within revised terms of reference; clear role descriptors for all members of the partnership; an agreed and transparent workplan and communications plan and a robust performance management system that inter-relates with the work of Ambition Board 2, the evolving Kent Health and Wellbeing Board and, in particular, with Kent Safeguarding Children Board.
- Robust arrangements for multi-agency planning and commissioning at a time of organisational change.
- Clarity on arrangements to ensure that the voice of children, young people and families inform strategic planning and commissioning.
- A communications plan that is aligned with communications for Ambition Board 2, Kent's Health and Wellbeing Board, Kent Safeguarding Children Board and Kent Schools Association in order that key stakeholders in Children's services have a means of contributing to strategic planning and commissioning.
- In the light of changing partnership arrangements a reduced bureaucratic burden of multi-agency meetings related to strategic partnership working and more effective use of resources.
- Improved support to Local Children's Trust Boards, with a robust performance framework that evidences improved outcomes for children, young people and families through joint working.

## Outputs

- Summary report with recommendations – initial, short and longer term. Report to be considered by the Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member and then presented to the current Kent Children’s Trust Executive.
- Workplan for the revised Kent Children’s Trust arrangements.
- Working protocols that address the inter-relationship of the partnership arrangements that address the priorities for children, young people and families with the responsibilities of Kent Safeguarding Children Board, Kent Health and Wellbeing Board and Kent Forum Ambition Board 2.

## Dependencies and Risks

- Timescale of development of Ambition Board 2 and Kent’s Health and Wellbeing Board with clear terms of reference and workplans.
- Review of Kent Safeguarding Children Board and inter-relationship with revised partnership arrangements for children, young people and families.
- Partner commitment and engagement at a strategic and local level.

## Methodology

- Base on ‘duty to cooperate’.
- Desk-top review of progress against the 2010 change for children plan that was informed by the National Commissioning Support Programme review of our children’s partnership arrangements.
- Desk top review of other Local Authority children’s trust arrangements
- Options to be drawn up against the evolving arrangements for Ambition Boards, Kent’s Health and Wellbeing Board and Kent Schools Association. Options will also take account of the current protocol between Kent Children’s Trust Board and Kent Safeguarding Children Board.
- Review of Kent Children’s Trust Board and Kent Children’s Trust Executive, current terms of reference and partnership agreement.
- Review of Kent Children’s Trust Board working groups including the multi- agency data group, participation working group and integrated processes project board.
- Consultation with Kent Children’s Trust Board members and their agencies including one to one meetings with Kent Children’s Trust Executive Members.
- Regular communication with stakeholders via Kent Trust Web.
- Additional communication with Chairs of Local Children’s Trust Boards.

## Timescale

Research and interviews	end of March to mid April 2011
Development of initial options	end of April 2011
Proposals put forward for consultation:	early May 2011
Decision on revised arrangements:	end of May 2011
Implementation:	early June 2011

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