

20th July 2010

Report on the Children's Trust Board arrangements in Walsall

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor R Andrew, Childrens' Services

1. Executive Summary:

1.1 To advise Scrutiny of new legislation underpinned by changes introduced by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. That section 12A of the Children Act 2004 (which requires the establishment of a **(Children's Trust Board)** to come into force on 1st April 2010.

1.2 Recommendations for scrutiny:

- To note and consider the report
- To ensure that Scrutiny are aware of the new proposed Statutory Guidance, the strategic purpose and governance for Walsall's Children's Trust Board (CTB).
- To ensure that Scrutiny are aware of the new joint protocol between the Children's Trust Board and the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).

2. Background papers:

2.1 The Children's Trust Board has become a statutory body that every local authority is required to have in place by April 2010. It is also part of the wider cooperation arrangements under section 10 of the Children Act 2004. The Children's Trust Board has primary responsibility for developing, publishing, reviewing, revising and monitoring the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

2.2 The first meeting of the Children's Trust Board was held of 5th May 2010 and the agreed strategic purpose is to produce, and ensure delivery of, its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which will improve outcomes for all children and young people and support their families and carers. It also provides strategic leadership across the entire Children and Young Peoples Partnership arrangements.

2.3 The Children's Trust Board is a thematic partnership within the Walsall Strategic Partnership (WSP). The Children's Trust Board does not manage the partnership agencies, it provides a strategic framework, through its CYPP, within which the partners may commission services in a coordinated way using either joint or aligned budgets. The Children's Trust Board delegates some of its functions to four key Executive sub-groups (**see appendix 1**).

2.4 The CTB will work closely with the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and accept support and challenge from the WSCB. They should not have the same chair. The WSCB has a separate identity and independent voice from the Children's Trust; the WSCB is not subordinate to or subsumed within the CTB.

Crucially, the WSCB must be able to:

- scrutinise the work of the Children's Trust Board and the Children's Trust partners;
- form a view on the quality of local safeguarding by each body,
- challenge as necessary with impunity; and
- speak with an independent voice and be heard.

The relationship between these two boards is clarified in the agreed protocol in **appendix 2**.

3.0 Resource and legal considerations:

3.1 Financial:

The Board has secured resources for its effective operation and of the entire Children's Trust by ensuing funding Under section 12C of the 2004 Act, therefore it can make monetary payments towards expenditure for Board purposes, provision of non-monetary resources to the Board, such as accommodation for meetings and staff for note-taking.

3.2 Legal:

New legislation changes underpinned by changes introduced by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. That section 12A of the Children Act 2004 (which requires the establishment of the Children's Trust Board) to come into force on 1st April 2010

3.3 Staffing:

The priorities contained within the Children and Young Peoples Plan help inform the Corporate Workforce Plan and the Children's Integrated Workforce Strategy which aims to ensure that the authority has the right people, with the right skills to **work smarter** to deliver effective integrated services.

4. Citizen impact:

4.1 The strategic purpose of the CTB is outward focussed and is based on the outcomes of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which informs the CYPP and was itself based on thorough consultation and a detailed needs analysis of Walsall citizens.

5. Environmental impact:

Improving the quality of our environment is considered within the CTB arrangements.

7. Performance management:

7.1 The CTB provides the top level vision for the delivery of performance across the partnership.

8.0 Equality Implications:


8.1 The CTB reiterates the Council's core values, which include respect and equality. Equality is an integral theme running throughout all our planning activity.

9.0 Consultation:

Officers	Consulted - Who	Date	Comments
(a) Legal Services	B. Gill Lynn Levesley Helen Winter	11.06.10 14.06.10	Report accurate – no further comments. The arrangements detailed in the Report and Appendices comply with the requirements both of the legislation and the <i>Children's Trusts: Statutory Guidance on cooperation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan</i>
(b) Finance	D. Mortiboys	15.06.10	Cleared
(c) HRD	D. Martin	08.06.10	No staffing implications
(d) Heads of other relevant service(s)		Nov 09 – April 10	Consultation with officers and partners via CT Ex. Group between November 2009 and April 2010-06-15

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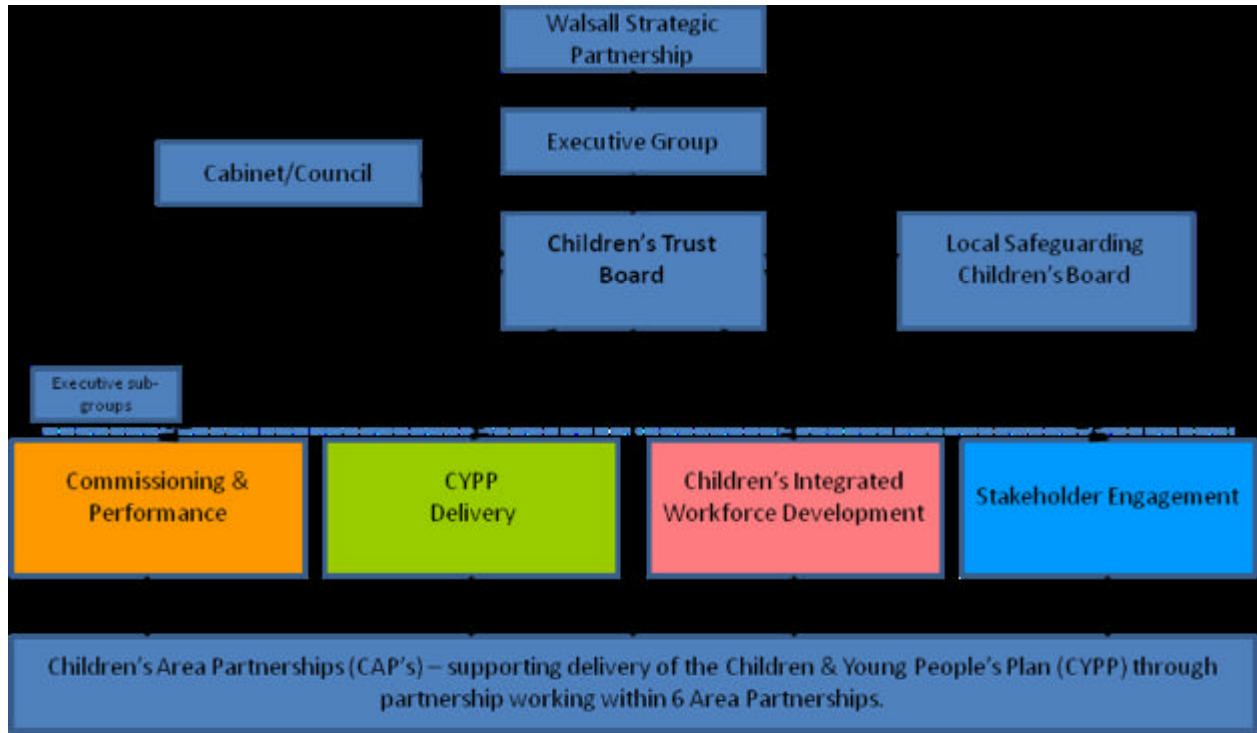
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Appendix 1

Children's Trust Board Governance Arrangements



Appendix 2

Protocol between the Children's Trust Board and the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board

Purpose of the Protocol

The purpose of the protocol is to set out the relationship between Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and the Children's Trust Board (CTB).

The Role of Walsall's Children's Trust Board

The primary purpose of the Walsall Children's Trust Board is to produce, and ensure delivery of, its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which will improve outcomes for all children and young people and support their families and carers. It also provides strategic leadership across the entire Children and Young Peoples Partnership arrangements

The Children's Trust Board (CTB) is a thematic partnership within the Walsall Strategic Partnership (WSP) and reports to the People Executive of the WSP. The Children's Trust Board does not manage the partnership agencies, it provides a strategic framework, through its CYPP, within which the partners may commission services in a coordinated way using either joint or aligned budgets and will further integrate process and service delivery.

The Role of the Walsall Safeguarding Children Board

The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB), to ensure the effective co-ordination of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. WSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Walsall, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

The WSCB's activities would ordinarily be part of the overall CYPP. WSCB planning should fit clearly within the framework of priorities set out in the CYPP. The WSCB should have a clear work programme, including measurable objectives, and a budget. The WSCB is separate too and not a sub group of the CTB.

WSCB will produce an annual report which will provide a comprehensive analysis of safeguarding in the local area. WSCB has an agreed Business Plan which incorporates relevant safeguarding priorities from the CYPP.

The Relationship between the CTB and WSCB

The work of WSCB is part of the wider context of children's trust arrangements that aim to improve the overall wellbeing, (i.e. the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes) of all children in the local area. It contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children, but has a particular focus on the 'staying safe' outcome. Its role within the wider governance arrangements of the children's trust is to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Whereas the Walsall CTB has a wide role in planning and delivery of services, WSCB objectives are about co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what partner organisations do individually and together with regard to safeguarding children and young people. It is important that, while operating in the context of the children's trust and developing a strong working relationship with the wider strategic partnerships within

Walsall, WSCB exercises its unique statutory role effectively. It must be able to form a view of the quality of local activity, to challenge organisations as necessary, and to speak with an independent voice. WSCB must have a clear and distinct identity within children's trust governance arrangements to ensure that this is possible. WSCB is responsible for supporting and challenging the Walsall CTB on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe. Therefore, it should not be regarded as an operational sub-committee of the Walsall CTB.

The WSCB should not be subordinate to, or subsumed within, the children's trust arrangements in a way that might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. It should expect to be consulted by the partnership on issues that affect how children are safeguarded and how their welfare is promoted. The WSCB is a formal consult tee during the development of the CYPP. The chair of WSCB will have a seat on the CTB.

The WSCB and the wider children's trust arrangements need to establish and maintain an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly. They need to ensure that action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another, and should work together to ensure that there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice. WSCB should contribute to, and work within, the framework established by the CYPP.

The CTB will receive the annual report of WSCB which should challenge CTB and all partners to ensure children are fully safeguarded. The CTB will draw on advice and evidence in this annual report to inform the development and review of CYPP and show in the plan how they intend to respond to issues raised by WSCB. The CTB can call the WSCB into account for the extent to which it has acted in accordance with the CYPP.

The CTB will work in consultation with WSCB to agree:

- A strategic approach to understanding needs, including a sophisticated analysis of data and effective engagements with children, young people and families;
- A strategic approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services, and identifying priorities for change – including where services need to be improved, reshaped or developed;
- Integrated and effective arrangements for ensuring that priorities for change are delivered in practice through the CTB; *and*
- Integrated and effective approaches to understanding the impact of specialist services on outcomes for children, young people and families, and using this understanding to constructively challenge progress and drive further improvement.

Challenge and conflict resolution

The priorities and proposed courses of action may, at times, differ between the CTB and WSCB. In this event, the chairs of both boards will seek a resolution in the first instance. This could include establishing a small working group with senior manager representatives from each board or agency to develop a potential solution where necessary. If a solution cannot be agreed, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Chief Executive and Leader of Walsall Council who will ensure that an agreed solution is achieved.