



AGENDA

CABINET

Monday, 26th November, 2007, at 10.00 am Ask for: **Karen Mannering /
Geoff Mills**
Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone Telephone **(01622) 694367/
694289**

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the meeting.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2007 (Pages 1 - 6)
2. Declaration of Interests by Member in Items on the Agenda for this meeting
3. Kent Children's Trust Governance Framework (Pages 7 - 24)
4. Summary of Kent Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2006/07 (Pages 25 - 42)
5. Select Committee - Flood Risk (Pages 43 - 60)
6. Other items which the Chairman decides are relevant or urgent

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

**Peter Gilroy
Chief Executive
Friday, 16 November 2007**

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 15 October 2007.

PRESENT: Mr P B Carter (Chairman), Mr N J D Chard, Mr M C Dance, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr K G Lynes and Mr C T Wells

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs E M Tweed

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive), Mr G Badman (Managing Director of Children, Families and Education), Ms A Honey (Managing Director Communities), Mr O Mills (Managing Director - Adult Social Services), Ms L McMullan (Director of Finance), Mr A Wilkinson (Managing Director - Environment and Regeneration) and Ms M Peachey (Kent Director Of Public Health)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2007**
(Item. 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007 were agreed as a true record.

2. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Exception Report including details of Management Action Plans
(Item. 3 - Report by Mr Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Finance and Ms Lynda McMullan, Director of Finance)

(1) This exception report highlighted the main movements in the Budget since the report to Cabinet in September 2007. The report said there were significant revenue budget pressures that would need to be managed during the year if there is to be a balanced revenue position by year end. Directorates were working on management action plans in order to offset these pressures and further details were provided in Section 2 of the report. These actions would be closely monitored throughout the remainder of the year to determine progress towards a balanced outturn position for the authority (excluding Asylum).

(2) Mr Chard said that at present the main areas of concern were the budgets for Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care. Also the under spend on the Capital Budget was still increasing and a review was underway to see why the Council had not been able to take forward at this time as many capital projects as had been hoped.

(3) With regard to CSR07, Mr Chard said the early indications were that funding for local Government as a whole would be set at 1% above the current rate of inflation used by Government of 2.75%. However, the Retail Price Index was running at 4.1% so the Settlement would be below RPI. Further details of the

Settlement were awaited so it is not possible at this time to assess what impact it would have on the County Council's budget. Lynda McMullan said that Cabinet needed to be aware that some of the management actions identified in the report were one-off so some pressures would need to be built into base budgets. As to the Capital Programme, meetings were taking place to establish what are the causes of the slippage and what can be done to address this.

(4) Mr Lynes said that whilst the pressure on Adult Social Services budget was at this time increasing, work was being undertaken to ensure that through strong management action the budget would be brought back on target.

(5) Discussion concluded with Mr Carter saying that he was confident that the managements actions which were being taken would bring about a balanced budget.

(3) Cabinet:-

(a) noted the latest forecast, Revenue and Capital Budget monitoring position for 2007/08;

(b) noted that the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance were satisfied with the financial arrangements for the Bridge Development, Dartford Project within the Operations, Resources and Skills (CFE) Portfolio and had given approval to spend and authority to negotiate and enter into such agreements that were necessary to give effect to the scheme to the Director, Resources (CFE) and Head of Corporate Property, as recommended in the 16 July 2007 report to Cabinet on this project.

3. Towards 2010 - First Annual Report

(Item. 4 - Report by Mr Paul Carter, Leader of the Council and Mr Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive)

(1) In September 2006, the County Council set itself 63 challenging and ambitious targets in the Towards 2010 plans for Kent. This report attached the current draft of the first 2010 Annual Report for comment and consideration by Cabinet prior to its submission to the County Council for approval.

(2) Mr Carter said the first annual report would be considered at forthcoming meetings of the Policy Overview Committees and when the matter was reported to the County Council, targets would be included showing where the Council wanted to be in 2010.

4. Asylum in Kent

(Item. 5 - Report by Mr Alex King, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, Mr Chris Wells, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Standards, Dr Tony Robinson, Lead Member for CFE and Mr Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive)

(1) This report briefed Cabinet Members on the current situation regarding Kent County Council's responsibility to unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Mr Gilroy spoke about the continuing pressures placed on the County Council's

services and said that both health and education provision continued to be a challenge. However, despite the pressures, the County Council was proud of what it had and was doing to support these young people. Mr Gilroy said there had been two significant changes in the asylum field during 2007. Firstly, was the creation of The Border and Immigration Agency, previously a Department of the Home Office which became an executive agency of the Home Office in April of this year. Secondly, the introduction of the New Asylum Model under which new departments and systems of organising BIA staff into regional units had been established, with the welcome aim of closer working with local authorities and regional consortia. What was of paramount importance for the County Council was to continue the ongoing discussions with the Government in order to establish the mechanisms by which the County Council would be reimbursed the costs it had incurred on asylum so far, together with its ongoing costs. Currently, the County Council was seeking from Government the reimbursement of costs incurred in 2007/08 of some £3.6m. Added to that was a claim for a £3.8m shortfall from previous years. Mr Chard said that the total shortfall of £7.4m was equivalent to 1.5% on council tax and KCC should not have to finance a service which it was carrying out on behalf of the Government.

(2) Mr Carter said that the County Council would be joining other local authorities, who like KCC, were also seeking from Government payment of unmet asylum costs. With these other authorities, KCC would be entering into a joint campaign seeking full resolution of this matter and the repayment of all costs. Assurances would also be sought from Government on the development of a formula for future payments to make sure that council tax payers were not burdened by these costs in the future.

(3) Cabinet noted and supported the contents of the report and agreed to intensify its support in pressing Government for full reimbursement of all costs incurred in supporting unaccompanied minors. Cabinet also noted that there would be a report on migration to a future meeting.

5. Annual Public Health Report for Kent

(Item. 6 - Report by Mr Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health)

(Dr Declan O'Neil was present for this item)

(1) In introducing this report, Mr Gibbens said that Kent County Council had demonstrated its commitment to public health, through the appointment to Cabinet of a Lead for Public Health and then the adoption by the County Council of the Kent Strategy for Public Health. Mr Gibbens said the Public Health Report for Kent was about how we performance manage and how the issues related to public health in the county were taken forward in the future. Whilst the Executive summary of the report highlighted the key areas covered by the report, Mr Gibbens highlighted in particular those related to inequalities; obesity and sexual health. Dr O'Neil said that this was the first report of its kind in Kent since the 1970's and provided a baseline from which a range of activity and initiatives could now be developed. By having a Kent-wide Public Health Department, it was possible to draw together a wide range of information and be more innovative on public health issues. Through this work, it would now be possible to identify those areas of activity on which to

focus and to develop strategies for the future, although it had to be recognised that some of these issues could only be addressed in the longer term.

(2) During discussion, Mr Lynes said that he welcomed this report and the work being undertaken on defining those demographics which most affected the allocation and use of resources. Mr Ferrin spoke about the importance of raising awareness of the issues set out in the report, but said what was of most importance was to focus on actions and outcomes. In congratulating those involved in the preparation of the report, Mr Carter said it was important for the PSHE Advisory Group to commence its work as soon as possible. Mr Carter also placed on record the congratulations of Cabinet to Meradin Peachey and her team on the excellent outcomes from the Peer Review undertaken by IDEA.

(3) Cabinet noted and supported the contents of the report.

6. Cabinet Scrutiny and Policy Overview

(Item. 7 - Report by Mr Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive)

This report provided a summary of the outcomes and progress on matters arising from the meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September 2007. The report also set out the work programme for Select Committee Topic Reviews as agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee and provided an update on the current status of each Topic Review.

7. Clostridium Difficile Outbreaks at Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells- NHS Hospitals Trust - report by the Healthcare Commission

(Item. 8 - Report by Mr Paul Carter, Leader of the County Council)

(Mr Steve Phoenix, Chief Executive of the West Kent Primary Care Trust, Mr Glen Douglas, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospital Trust, Mr Greg Clark, MP, Dr Bruce Pollington, Mr Derek Smyth and Mr Geoff Rowe were present for this item)

(1) Mr Carter declared consideration of this item to be urgent so that Cabinet could consider the findings of the report published on 11 October 2007 by the Healthcare Commission into outbreaks of C.Difficile at hospitals managed by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospitals Trust. It was also important to consider and agree how the County Council could at this time play a lead role in providing support and assistance to its NHS colleagues.

(2) Mr Carter said whilst all were appalled by the findings of the Healthcare Commission, now was the time to see what needed to be done in order to take matters forward and restore public confidence. Meetings had already taken place with representatives of the Trust and the County Council had offered a package of help and support. This included making available, high quality managers from KCC to work with the Trust in a similar way the County Council had successfully supported Swindon Council. The County Council had also offered to work with the Trust to strengthen the non-executive membership of its Board; establish a local Health Watch and provide other resources including, if, necessary, a loan of up to £5m over a three year cycle. Mr Carter said this package reflected the leadership role of the County Council and its commitment to work with its health colleagues and other partners in order to restore public confidence.

(3) Mr Phoenix said he welcomed the County Council's support in looking to find a constructive way forward. Those in the Trust would over the coming months, have to work hard to restore people's confidence and this partnership approach was seen as being an important part of that process. The Healthcare Commission report was a watershed and had to be used as an opportunity to move forward. There had to be changes, and these had to include cultural changes. Mr Douglas said he believed in partnership working and there had to be a focus on customer service, lessons in which the Trust could learn from KCC. He would be undertaking a management review and had already called in an expert to give an initial assessment as to the hygienic state of the 3 hospitals. The expert had reported that whilst there were things which still needed to be done improvements had been made and he had confidence in the hospitals. Mr Douglas said also that in these circumstances, resources should never have been an issue and as part of the management review, there would be a focus on ensuring that there are the right people in top positions. In addition an action plan to address the issues raised in the Healthcare Commission report was being produced and this would be reviewed by the Commission itself.

(4) Mr Greg Clark, MP said that the confidence of the people served by this Trust had been knocked and whilst it was good news to hear that levels of infections had been improved, there had to be a zero tolerance approach towards this issue. Lessons still needed to be learnt and he said that the Trust needed to have a full time Chief Executive appointed as soon as possible. Mr Clark also said that there was an issue of accountability which needed to be addressed and he also spoke in support of a new hospital being built at Pembury as soon as possible. The PFI was in a critical period and everyone had to do all they could to ensure that the report by the Healthcare Commission did not affect that being taken forward. Mr Clark concluded by saying that he would be meeting the Secretary of State in the near future and would be raising these matters with him. Mr Phoenix said that the case for the new hospital at Pembury was a good one although the challenge was to demonstrate value for money and getting the balance of services right. Mr Phoenix also said that the interim Chief Executive was working for the Trust full time.

(5) Mr Gilroy spoke about the work the County Council was undertaking with the Trust and its interim Chief Executive in order to identify areas in which the County Council had knowledge and experience which would be of mutual benefit. He said it was important at this time for services to work together in order to give the public reassurance and confidence. Mr Ferrin said he was worried that some people would be so concerned that they may postpone or cancel their treatment. Therefore restoring confidence in the Trust was paramount. Mr Douglas said he accepted that at the moment some people may not have the confidence to be treated at the three hospitals, but as had already been said, everyone was doing all they could and considerable improvements had already been made to make sure they were safe. Mr Lynes said Members had a duty to the people who elected them and as such needed to see at first hand what was being done to address the issues raised by the Healthcare Commission. Mr Gibbens said local people needed to be more involved and better informed about the work of their local Trust and Mr King spoke about the importance of partnership working and the need to support the PFI for the new hospital at Pembury. Dr Pollington said there was a very wide range of issues which went to make up the Healthcare agenda, and the way to provide greater public services was to take this work forward in the spirit of co-operation and partnership.

(6) Mr Smyth said shared the concerns which had been expressed but he had reservations about establishing a Health Watch. He believed the way to raise public confidence was through the Links Network for Health and Social Care which would becoming into operation from April 2008 under proposals set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. Mr Rowe said he felt it was important to move forward with what was available now. There needed to be a flexible approach in how the issues raised in the Healthcare report were dealt with and therefore people needed to be given an opportunity to be involved in those issues as soon as possible. He therefore saw no objection to the establishment of a Health Watch.

(7) In concluding the discussion, Mr Carter thanked the Health representatives and Mr Clark for attending the meeting. He said what was needed to help restore confidence was for the Healthcare Commission to give a commitment that it would visit the Trust again and undertake a further review to give endorsement to the actions the Trust was now taking. Mr Carter said assurance was also needed from the Secretary of State regarding the PFI hospital at Pembury. Mr Carter proposed and it was agreed, that for clarity some minor external changes be made to the recommendations set out in the report.

(8) Cabinet:-

- (i) agreed the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to negotiate with NHS colleagues a package of measures through which the County Council can help provide public reassurance on long term improvements; and
- (ii) approved the setting up as soon as possible of a local 'Health Watch' which provides the public an independent route for registering concerns about their local health services.

By: Graham Badman, Managing Director for Children, Families and Education
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE
Chris Wells, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Standards, CFE

To: Cabinet – 26th November 2007

Subject: Kent Children’s Trust Governance Framework

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Following consultation with Elected Members, multi-agency partners and staff directly involved in the delivery of services, this report proposes a governance framework for Kent Children’s Trust (KCT) and the local operational structures.

Background to Children’s Trusts

1. (1) The development of children’s trusts is part of a national programme of change to improve outcomes for children and young people in line with the Every Child Matters (ECM) framework.

(2) Through the Children Act 2004 (section 10) the following services have a duty to cooperate to improve outcomes for children and young people:

- District Councils
- The Police Authority and Chief Officer
- The Probation Board
- The Youth Offending Team
- The Strategic Health Authority and PCTs
- The Learning and Skills Council and related service providers

(3) As the Children’s Services Authority Kent County Council has a lead role to ensure that services comply with this duty and that arrangements for integrated planning and working are effective. Accountability for children’s services rests with the Children’s Services Authority and is secured through the Lead Elected Member (LM) and Director of Children’s Services (DCS). Statutory guidance on the role and responsibilities of the LM and DCS states that, “the Lead Member maintains an effective overview of Children’s Services and has overall political accountability.” “The DCS has a leading role to ensure that there is clear leadership at all levels within the authority.” The statutory guidance can be read in full at <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/guidance/>

Progress in Kent

2. (1) The Kent Children's Trust was established in September 2006. Its main function is to agree cross agency priorities and actions to improve outcomes for children and young people. The vision for Kent includes radical arrangements for the delivery of children's health services.

(2) There is a statutory duty for the DCS to secure agreement to a multi agency Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) to improve outcomes. The Kent CYPP has already been agreed by KCC and the Kent Children's Trust. It was approved by County Council on 25 May 2006 and was subject to the usual scrutiny procedures. The CYPP will be implemented through a network of local operational arrangements.

(3) The local operational structures bring together professionals from a range of disciplines including police, health and the voluntary sector. They will secure local plans that implement the CYPP and LAA and align with KCC priorities and strategies. Many services are already provided under the current cluster and consortia partnership arrangements. These would have been subject to the normal scrutiny procedures during that time. Local structures will be required to create more effective preventative services and intervene and provide support in accordance with the demands of the Children Act in individual cases. Four local pathfinders are currently exploring how these local arrangements could operate. An interim evaluation of the pathfinders is available at http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/lct_evaluationreport.cfm

(4) KCC now needs to agree a governance framework under which the KCT will operate. An outline paper was taken to Cabinet on 17th September that committed to comprehensive consultation with Elected Members and others to inform the governance framework. Consequently the Lead Elected Member and the Director of Children's Services have provided two Member briefings, attended by 30 Elected Members and six multi staff briefings attended by 625 people from agencies and sectors delivering services to children, young people and their families.

(5) At these meetings Members raised the following issues (a fuller version is available in Appendix 2):

- the use of data sets and what information would be used at a local level to inform priorities.
- how communication could be improved for Members on local progress
- whether they could receive local data sets and improved information on their localities
- some Members expressed strong views about direct involvement in local trusts.
- there was a debate about not wanting to over burden operational activities with bureaucracy.
- some Members expressed concern about the efficacy of current scrutiny arrangements.
- it was proposed that POC as well as the Children's Champion Board should have a scrutiny role in addition to the formal KCC scrutiny procedures.
- it was suggested that even though local arrangements are operational they were of such importance that Members should have a local scrutiny function.
- the Local Boards were suggested as a possible solution for providing a local scrutiny function.

National Pathfinder Report on Children's Trusts

3. (1) The Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health commissioned the University of East Anglia and the National Children's Bureau to evaluate the 35 national Children's Trusts pathfinders. The report was published in March 2007 and of particular interest is the findings on the development of governance.

(2) A statement made by a local strategic authority was used to evidence how the development of change processes in local authorities, coupled with the attempt to construct innovative partnerships across education, health and social care, was testing conventional models of robust governance. This illustrates quite clearly that the discussions being held in Kent on Member involvement are neither unusual nor unique.

"Why should unelected groups of people come together and determine strategy on children's services for an area? It is actually quite an important question in terms of governance. And what is the role of the democratically elected Members in that? And when you talk to people about governance arrangements you will hear that there have to be some quite important checks and balances built in, in order to ensure that this doesn't just become a kind of self regarding oligarchy of people who are just reinforcing each other's power base. We worked really hard with our Members in order to say, 'Look, this is not about an attempt to hijack a democratic process or to take over the running of the services, which you have a statutory responsibility for running. This is about a partnership agenda. This is about working with people who have their own accountability systems, who have their own democratic processes. Nobody is expecting you to commit yourself to something that you don't want to be committed to. You have a power of veto. That's the way in which the partnership works. Now see it as an opportunity for us to go into pooling budgets, commissioning services, doing all that kind of thing, which might actually be a real benefit to you."

(3) The full report on the national evaluation of Children's Trusts pathfinders can be found at: http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_national_CT.cfm

(4) No other local authorities are known to have Elected Members in local trust delivery arrangements.

The Kent Children's Trust Governance Framework

4. (1) The following arrangements have already been determined either by the Children's Act 2004 or by KCC with partners agreement and contribute to an effective governance framework for KCT:

- (a) Accountability for Children's Trusts rests with Kent County Council as the Children's Services Authority and is secured through the Lead Elected Member, Chris Wells and Director of Children's Services, Graham Badman. This accountability can be shared but not delegated.
- (b) The Lead Member (LM) and Director of Children's Services (DCS) exercise this accountability within the local authority structures for financial and business management and are held to account through the Local Authority scrutiny process.
- (c) The Kent Children's Trust Board operates as a directly linked working group of the Kent Partnership.

- (d) The Kent Children and Young People's Plan, which forms part of the KCC planning framework, sets the strategic direction within which locality arrangements will operate.
- (e) The LM and DCS share accountability with partners on the Kent Children's Trust Board. Members of the Board are also accountable to the organisations they represent and bring with them a range of statutory, policy and professional responsibilities. Membership of Kent Children's Trust Board does not supersede these duties.
- (f) The Nolan Committee principles of public life have been adopted as a common framework for the partnership on which to build shared accountability for the work of the Trust.
- (2) Scrutiny arrangements will also be part of the Governance Framework.

Recommendations

5. Cabinet are asked to:

- (1) AGREE the principles for the Kent Children's Trust Governance Framework (paragraph 4.1. above).
- (2) AGREE to extend the membership of the Kent Children's Trust County Board to include one representative for each main opposition party in addition to both the Cabinet Members
- (3) AGREE scrutiny arrangements for the work of Kent Children's Trust through:
 - (a) The existing KCC Executive Scrutiny Panel
 - (b) CFE POC and the Children's Champion Board
- (4) AGREE that a local scrutiny function could be established to consider the work of local operational structures either through Local Member Boards or another mechanism to be determined by KCC.
- (5) APPROVE the attached Governance Framework (Appendix 1).

Joy Ackroyd
Trust Development Manager
Tel: 01622 696013

Background papers:

Members may wish to look at the Children's Trust webpages for general background information: <http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/childrenstrust.cfm>

KENT CHILDREN'S TRUST
GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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1 VISION & PURPOSE

1.1 The Vision for children and young people in Kent is:

In Kent's successful communities, achievement exceeds aspiration, diversity is valued and every child and family is supported. Children and young people are positive about their future and are at the heart of joined up service planning. They are:

- Nurtured and encouraged at home
- Inspired and motivated by school
- Safe and secure in the community
- Living healthy and fulfilled lives

[Ref: Kent Children's & Young People's Plan, 2006-2009]

1.2 This means helping children and young people to:

- (a) Be healthy
- (b) To enjoy and achieve
- (c) To stay safe
- (d) To make a positive contribution
- (e) To enjoy economic well-being¹

1.3 The outcomes and priorities for children and young people in Kent are set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 'Positive about our Future'. This plan is a statutory requirement of the Children's Act 2004 and is the single over arching strategic plan for services commissioned and delivered through Kent's children's trust arrangements.

1.4 The CYPP incorporates the children and young people's block of the Local Area Agreement and the Vision for Kent (Kent's Community Plan) and is agreed by Kent County Council and the Kent Children's Trust .

1.4 The purpose of Kent Children's Trust is:

- (a) To set the strategic direction for the development of integrated commissioning of services for children and young people pre birth to age 19 across the county in line with the Kent CYPP.
- (b) To improve wellbeing and life chances for the most vulnerable children in Kent and to create local contexts where all children can flourish.
- (c) To agree priorities and actions for children's services across Kent and to provide a framework for the effective operation of local arrangements.

1.5 The Kent Children's Trust has agreed three guiding principles to underpin the continued development of children's trust arrangements in Kent:

- (1) A strategic partnership at County level as required by the Children Act 2004 with a key focus on commissioning improved outcomes for children and young people through a local delivery network.
- (2) Presumption in favour of decision making at the most local level that is consistent with excellent performance, (outcomes for children) value for money (quality and infrastructure) and within the strategic framework established by the Kent Children's Trust.
- (3) A focus on preventative and early intervention services for children, young people and families.

2 THE NATURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

2.1 The Kent Children's Trust has been established to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004 for whole-system integration.

2.2 The Kent Children's Trust is a sub-group of the Kent Local Strategic Partnership, known as the Kent Partnership. The Kent Partnership membership includes senior representation of the agencies and organisations involved in children's trust arrangements. The relationship between the Kent Children's Trust and the Kent Partnership is part of the integrated governance arrangements.

2.3 The purview of the Kent Children's Trust includes all aspects of the lives of children and young people and some aspects of the lives of adults as they relate to the Every Child Matters framework for improving outcomes.

2.5 Within Kent County Council's risk based classification of partnerships, the Kent Children's Trust is identified as a Major Partnership characterised by:

- (a) The involvement of several services;
- (b) The potential for extensive new ways of working;
- (c) The requirement for elected member involvement;
- (d) The potential to impact on the County Council's organisational strategy, structure and plans;
- (e) The number of partners involved;
- (f) The likely commitment of expenditure from more than one service area;

- (g) The relationship with KCC cabinet; and
- (h) The potential for high impact on outcomes for children if there was partnership failure.

2.6 The implication of this classification is that, for the County Council's purposes, a partnership agreement is required as part of governance arrangements to lower any potential risks to the County Council.

3 LEADERSHIP

3.1 The Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to take the lead in developing fully integrated arrangements for children's services. In areas with two-tier local government, the leadership is with the local authority with responsibility for education and children's social services. The lead local authority is known as the Children's Services Authority.

3.2 The Children's Services Authority is required to appoint a Lead Elected Member (LM) whose portfolio carries the political accountability for the same range of services as the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and a Director of Children's Services accountable for the full range of services for children and young people. The roles and responsibilities of LM and DCS are set out in statutory guidance <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/guidance/>

3.3 In Kent, Kent County Council is the Children's Services Authority. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Standards is the Lead Member and The Managing Director of the Children, Families and Education Directorate (CFE) is the Director of Children's Services. This decision was ratified by KCC Cabinet on 16 October 2006.

3.4 The Kent Children's Trust provides strategic leadership for the entirety of Kent's children's trust arrangements, which includes local operations and partnership working.

4 MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The Director of Children's Services is required to make arrangements for integrated working between the Children's Services Authority and relevant partners, including those have a duty to co-operate in children's trust arrangements.

4.2 The Children's Act 2004, lists the following partners, as those who have a duty to co-operate:

- (a) District councils within the children's services authority (CSA) area;
- (b) The Police Authority and the chief officer of police;
- (c) The Probation Board;
- (d) The Youth Offending Team;
- (e) The Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts within the CSA area;
- (f) Service providers under the Learning and Skills legislation;
- (g) The Learning and Skills Council;

4.3 The membership of the Kent Children's Trust has also been extended to include a wide, cross-sector range of partners involved in services to children and young people. The current membership is at Appendix 2.

4.4 All members of the Kent Children's Trust are accountable to the organisations that they represent. Members bring with them to the partnership arena, a range of statutory, policy and professional responsibilities including those statutory duties arising from health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation. Membership of the Kent Children's Trust does not supersede these duties.

4.5 Members of the Kent Children's Trust share accountability for the work of the Trust with the Lead Elected Member and the Director of Children's Services. This means they share management, financial, legal and public accountability for the work of the Trust. In addition, the Nolan Committee principles of public life have been adopted by the Kent Children's Trust as a common framework on which to build shared accountability for the work of the Trust. (Appendix 1).

4.6 All members of the Kent Children's Trust should have a mandate to speak for their agency, organisation or sector. They must be able to participate in the agreement of the strategic direction of the Kent Children's Trust on behalf of their agency, organisation or sector and ensure agreements are reflected in the plans and strategies of participating agencies.

4.7 Member's of the Kent Children's Trust may nominate representatives from their agency, organisation or sector to attend meetings on their behalf but must ensure that any nominee brings with them a comparable ability to represent and act on behalf of the agency, organisation or sector.

5 STRUCTURE

5.1 Children's trust arrangements in Kent comprise:

- (a) The Kent Partnership
- (b) The Kent Children's Trust
- (c) County working groups aligned to the Kent Children's Trust
- (d) Local children's trust delivery arrangements

The Kent Partnership

5.2 The Kent Partnership includes senior representatives of all agencies, organisations and sectors involved in children and young people's services in their broadest sense and forms part of the arrangements for integrated governance. Where bilateral or other arrangements are made regarding pooled resources, additional governance structures may be required under an accompanying legal agreement.

The Kent Children's Trust

5.3 The Kent Children's Trust is the strategic partnership with statutory responsibilities arising from the Children Act 2004 and the wider Every Child Matters agenda. This includes a specific responsibility for the development of the Children and Young People's Plan which has an overall aim to ensure improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

County Groups aligned to the Kent Children's Trust

5.4 The work of the Kent Children's Trust is supported by a sub-structure of working groups and partnerships. Broadly these can be characterised in three ways:

- (a) Management Boards or steering groups that have a statutory basis and exist independently of the Kent Children's Trust with distinct governance and reporting arrangements e.g. Kent Youth Justice Board, The Connexions Partnership.
- (b) Groups established to manage or promote improved outcomes for particular groups of children and young people or to improve a specified outcome e.g. Teenage Pregnancy strategy group, Looked After Children steering group. Some of these groups predate the establishment of the Kent Children's Trust.
- (c) Implementation groups that relate directly to the development of children's trust arrangements in Kent e.g. The Children and Young People's Plan implementation group, The Children's Trust Pathfinder Reference Group.

5.5 The Kent Children's Trust will ensure that the sub-structure is fit for purpose and aligned to the overall aims of the Kent Children's Trust

Locality Arrangements.

5.6 The Kent Children's Trust will secure improved outcomes by working through a network of local children's trust arrangements. Local arrangements will focus on the needs of local communities and will ensure effective integrated working across children's services in that area.

Local children's trust arrangements will implement the priorities of the Kent Children's Trust through the preparation of a local children and young people's plan to be approved by the Kent Children's Trust. The Kent CYPP and local CYPPs will form part of the KCC planning framework.

Local partnerships of professional officers will guide local operations within the strategic framework established by the Kent Children's Trust.

6 NEEDS, PRIORITIES AND DATA ANALYSIS

6. Priorities for Kent children will be established at county and local levels through the effective use of multi-agency data sources about children's health, learning, safety, wellbeing and life chances. The Integrated Commissioning Framework will ensure that planning and decisions are evidence based and services are effectively monitored and reviewed. Partners of the Kent Children's Trust are committed to sharing data to enable effective integrated planning and commissioning.

7 PARTICIPATION

7. The Kent Children's Trust has identified standards for the effective participation of children, young people, parents and carers. These standards will be implemented and monitored through the Integrated Commissioning Framework. Local arrangements have a key role in promoting the participation of children, young people, parents and carers and the broader community in the planning and delivery of children's services.

8 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

8. There will be a signed agreement on behalf of all partners which will include operational protocols for the Kent Children's Trust for example, composition and frequency of meetings. The partnership agreement will form part of this Governance Framework.

9 SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

9. KCC will provide, through elected member arrangements a scrutiny function at both County and local levels

Joy Ackroyd
Trust Development Manager
Tel: 01622 696013; email: joy.ackroyd@kent.gov.uk

Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Appendix 1

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Kent Children's Trust Membership

Name and Job Title	Agency
Badman, Graham Chair of Kent Children's Trust Managing Director Children, Families & Education	KCC, CFE
Wells, Chris Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Educational Standards CFE Lead Member for Children's Trust Arrangements Represented at KCT by Mark Dance <i>see below</i>	KCC, CFE
Venner, Rt. Rev. Stephen Vice Chair of Kent Children's Trust, The Bishop of Canterbury	Faith Groups
Dance, Mark Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources & Skills CFE	KCC, CFE
Anderson, Bill Director: Children's Social Services	KCC, CFE
Andrews, Sarah Director of Nursing, Eastern & Coastal Kent PCT	Health
Barham, Alan Headteacher at Sittingbourne Community College	Schools
Bennet, Sam Kent CAN	Further and Higher Education
Bernard, Gordon Chief Executive, Connexions	Connexions
Blandford, Prof. Sonia Dean of Education, CCUC	Further and Higher Education
Clout, Barry Executive Officer, Kent CAN	Further and Higher Education
Craig, Dr Ian Director: Operations	KCC, CFE
Cuff, Derek Operations Manager	Kent Police MADAG
Davies, Lesley Area Director, LSC	LSC
Gooding, Roland Headteacher at Valence School	Schools
Hodges, Marilyn Director: Strategy, Policy & Performance	KCC, CFE
Honey, Amanda Managing Director, Communities	KCC, CYM
Hughes, David Chief Executive, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	District Councils
James, Hillary Chief Officer, National Probation Service	Probation
Kersting-Woods, Alexa	Kent Fire &

Appendix 1

Education Manager, Kent Fire & Rescue	Rescue Service
Marsh, Rob Kent CAN	Further & Higher Education
Mills, Oliver Managing Director, Adult Social Services	KCC, CYM
Minter, Trevor Director: Kent Partnership	KCC, CED
Molloy, John Chief Superintendent, Kent Police	Kent Police
Murrells, Richard Director: Children's Health	KCC, CFE
Park, Ian Community Development Social Inclusion Manager, Maidstone District Council	District Councils
Parsons, Carol Director: Standards & Achievement	KCC, CFE
Peachey, Meradin Director: Public Health	KCC, CED
Pye, Jay Headteacher at Loose Junior School	Schools
Samuel, Richard Chief Executive, Thanet District Council	District Councils
Slaven, Angela Director: Youth Offending & Substance Misuse	KCC, CYM
TBC Early Years Representative	TBC
Thomas, Jenny Director: Strategy/Corporate Governance, West Kent PCT	Health
Wainwright, Joanna Director: Commissioning (Specialist Services)	KCC, CFE
Woolley, Rob Director: Kent Children's Fund	KCC, CFE

Joy Ackroyd

Children's Trust Development Manager, KCC, CFE

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Papers to be sent to: Molly Norley, Hilary Williams, Ruth Armstrong-Thompson, Jaime Palmer

Membership details, dates of meetings, agendas and papers are posted on the KCT web pages:

<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/childrenstrust.cfm>

MEMBERS' BRIEFING ON CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS IN KENT
26 September and 9 October 2007

Main points and comments raised by Elected Members: -

- Which data would be used to inform the formation of the local Children Trust like structures (LCT), specifically would local area/cluster statistics be used or NFER statistics? Furthermore would each LCT be collecting similar statistics for their area?
- *Response confirmed that local data from clusters would be used together with multi-agency data supplied by partners. Graham Badman explained that Mosaic would allow CFE to have access to local information, as it operates at a sub-ward level. Additionally health and school performance data would be fed into the process.*
- Which data has the pathfinders used?
- *Response clarified that much data came from our partner agencies. The main difference now that the pathfinders had been set up was that this data was now being used in an integrated way and it could form the basis of collective decision-making.*
- Had the additional collaboration reduced the number of meetings and was there data to prove this?
- *Response confirmed that this data had yet to be collected.*
- What the Member role would be in LCT. Would the Members only be involved in Local Boards and was it sufficient?
- *Mr Wells responded by describing how LCTs would play a different role to the Kent Children's Trust (KCT). There is KCC political representation on the KCT, which has the responsibility of agreeing the county-wide Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). At a local level, Local Boards could scrutinise the LCTs. There is no decision yet as to local Member involvement.*
- If Local Boards are to be given the power to scrutinise LCTs, they must be given additional resources, as they would not be capable currently to fulfil this role?
- Are LCTs relevant to all parents and comments on the lack of reference to parents?
- *Response confirmed that LCTs include all children based against a model of need, and the views of young people and their parents are integral to arrangements at both a County and local level.*
- A few local Members had been invited to cluster boards now and it would be 'great' if Members could get involved in the activities of the area, not purely in a Scrutiny role.
- *Response: Chris Wells replied that some Members may look at Scrutiny from a particular perspective. He commented that if Scrutiny is properly engaged, it will be pro-active and forward thinking and influence decision making in a positive way.*
- No young person should fall through the net. Are partnership arrangements between Kent, Medway and East Sussex (and their respective agencies) sufficiently robust to ensure this would not happen?
- No young person will fall through the net as a result of the individual children's database, remarked Chris Wells. If a certain number of reports are inserted into this database, it automatically triggers an activity. Kent will have to look across its geographical boundaries; this is implicit to the arrangements.

- It was stated that it was the Conservatives who had turned Scrutiny into a reactive process. Scrutiny and overview must be seen as combined functions, but not enough thought had been given to providing Members with an Overview role.
- **Response:** *Chris Wells pointed out that there has been a concerted effort to change POC so there is more of an opportunity for Members to have overview and Scrutiny. CFE are glad to receive any feedback.*
- How many times had the Pathfinders been referred to CFE POC?
- **Response:** *There had been two oral updates and a written report was being presented at the next meeting.*
- Members were not elected to do the County Council's work at street-level, but to take a step back and make strategic decisions.
- **Response:** *Chris Wells said that Kent needed to be very careful of Member involvement. The Children's Act lays out very specific duties and the trail of responsibility leads directly back to Graham Badman and Chris Wells.*
- All Members had a responsibility for Looked After Children and that as elected Members, voters would hold them to account.
- **Response:** *Graham Badman explained that the responsibility to safeguard children fell to the Safeguarding Board not to the Children's Trust. The point of the LCTs was to form better preventative services.*
- **Response:** *Chris Wells reminded Members that there was the Children's Champion's Board to champion their needs.*
- Members were concerned over the lack of Member involvement. Members want more information; and there were concerns over the reliability of Local Boards to supply this. There is information that local Members will know and if they were involved from the outset there may be less of a need for Scrutiny.
- The Kent Children's Trust Board (KCTB) seemed similar to a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and to the Kent Forum.
- Who was representing the churches on the KCTB, and who was the chair and how is the KCTB funded?
- **Response:** *The church was represented by the Bishop of Dover, as the Kent Partnership and SACRE had nominated him. The Law does not require that there must be a church representative.*
- LCTs should be local and specific to the locality; there was concern that Scrutiny would be coming from the centre.
- Where did the minutes, agendas and reports from the Pathfinders go, and should Members receive copies?
- Were the Police Authority aware of LCTs developments?
- **Response:** *There had been extraordinary co-operation from the Police Service. The Chief Constable had discharged responsibility for this area to the Chief Superintendent.*
- In the past, no Members knew of the Children's Consortium. It was requested that processes and systems (e.g. Local Board systems) were set up in advance of LCTs.
- **Response:** *Chris Wells stated that there were not just KCC Members to consider, but Members of the other agencies too e.g. the Fire Authority. Inclusion of Members from all*

these agencies would make the group too large and unwieldy. Children must get the services they require without a delay.

- There is a genuine worry that mechanisms are being taken away from local Members. There is the additional lack of resources for Local Boards, and without this resourcing there can be no Scrutiny.
- **Response:** *Graham Badman clarified that there were 2 issues: firstly the role of local government and secondly, the issue about Children's Trust - one is not linked especially to the other.*
- Who must be involved in governance arrangements according to the DCSF. Was it that district and borough councillors would be involved, but not KCC Councillors?
- **Response:** *Graham Badman explained that there is a framework of governance set by the law. Chief Officers (not politicians) from District Councils were represented on the County Trust Board.*
- A paper should be circulated with different governance models for the Members to choose from.
- Pathfinders must have some form of governance.
- **Response:** *There has been no change to governance arrangements yet, deciding governance was the next stage. This is a process of development.*
- Who sat on the Children's Trusts, so Members knew who to approach with their concerns?
- **Response:** *It was confirmed that a list of Members would be provided in the regular newsletter.*
- How would the LCTs would be funded?
- **Response:** *It was confirmed that Clusters manage staff devolved down by KCC and they will be matched by health staff.*
- It was suggested that there should be a report to POC in future to allow for further debate.
- Children's Champion Members should be involved at local level - elected by people.
- Children's Champions already established as sub group to POC could fulfil Scrutiny role.
- Agree Member role is one of Scrutiny not a professional.
- Issues around information - more information about what is happening locally was needed. Lack of information creates suspicion when we do not know what is going on.
- Local Board already trying to bring organisations together. Consortia always had a relationship with Local Boards.
- There have been some answers to help understanding how it will work. What pressures will be put on schools to flag up concerns about children?
- Role of Scrutiny helpful to move into Children's Health arena.
- Some did not participate before because they did not know about it. Concerns regarding enhancement of democracy and issues about what are communities - stretches further than trusts. Pity didn't have Pathfinders - who are they, where did they come from?
- **Response:** *Chris Wells stated that there are other pathfinders across the country that will feed back their experience.*

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By: Graham Badman, Managing Director for Children, Families and Education

Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE

Chris Wells, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Standards, CFE

To: Cabinet – 26 November 2007

Subject: SUMMARY OF KENT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/07

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report summarises the activity of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board during the year 2006/07

Introduction

1. (1) This is a summary of the Annual Report of Kent's Local Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) which came into operation from 1 April 2006. It sets out the achievements in the previous year and the work programme for the current period. The report also details statistics on child protection for 2006-07.

(2) The aim of this report is to be informative about the work of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board and to make the results of our efforts accountable to safeguarding children professionals, to those who fund and support safeguarding children services and the KSCB, to all members of the Council and the Lead Member for Children's Services, to the Kent Children's Trust and to service users, and the public of Kent.

Background

2. Statutory Government Guidance around Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government 2006, Chapter 3) identifies that the role of Local Authority Elected Members...“through their membership of governance bodies such as a cabinet of the LA or a scrutiny committee or a governance board, is to hold their organisation and its officers to account for their contribution to the effective functioning of the LSCB”.

Recommendations

3. Cabinet is asked TO NOTE the 2006/7 Summary Activity report of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board.

Penny Davies
Kent Safeguarding Children Board Manager
Tel: 01622 694856

Background Documents:

None

Kent Safeguarding Children Board



Summary of Annual Report 2006-07

Forward

March 2007 saw the conclusion of a challenging but successful first year for the Kent Safeguarding Children Board. This report summaries some of the key activities that took place during 2006-7.

Like all LSCBs across England, we have had to manage the transition from the Kent Child Protection Committee remit to the much wider safeguarding agenda, as set out in the Children's Act 2004 and in the government guidance of *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006*.

Members of the KSCB have worked hard this year to ensure that the membership and structures required for an effective and robust KSCB are in place. Whilst some of the KSCB structures will continue to evolve, there are firm foundations in place to ensure that the KSCB will serve children, young people and families within Kent well.

Kent's very good performance in safeguarding is being enhanced by improvements in infrastructure, addressing service developments in high-risk areas, as well as further improving an informed and skilled workforce.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and requires a co-ordinated multi-agency response. A diverse range of agencies are involved in the work of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board ; some are specialist services, working with particular groups of children and families, and others are universal services, working across all age groups and communities. The Board would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment throughout this year which has contributed to the successful transition from KCPC to the new KSCB. I am confident we can build on this very positive start and embrace the challenges ahead.

Penny Davies
Kent Safeguarding Children Board Manager

Introduction

A range of skills and expertise from a variety of professions and voluntary organisations are required to safeguard children. The Kent Safeguarding Children Board and its member agencies are responsible for ensuring these essential services are co-ordinated, directed, and developed in an effective safeguarding service for the children of Kent. In doing this, the Board prioritises protecting children from abuse and neglect and following a clear set of values based upon current human rights and children and families legislation, guidance issued by central government, and the best standards of professional practice. In respect of its child protection work the Board upholds the following principles.

- In all cases the child's welfare will be the paramount consideration
- Staff will actively work to develop relationship with parents that will promote working in partnership and take account of their views and those of their children. Information will be shared with parents, and children (when their age and understanding permits), unless this would place a child at risk or prejudice a criminal investigation or prosecution
- Where the continuing welfare and safety of a child can be secured by informal means, this will be the preferred option
- Where informal assistance is not appropriate to safeguard a child, the formal child protection process will be invoked, including any necessary legal actions
- Wherever possible, the child's welfare will be safeguarded within the family
- Where it is necessary to remove a child from a family, priority will be given to returning the child to the family's care wherever this is compatible with the child's best interests.
- Consideration will be given to the possible negative effects of any intervention and the least intrusive option compatible with safeguarding the child's welfare and safety should be chosen after a proper assessment of needs and risks
- In all decisions and services, full regard will be given to the child's age, ethnicity, culture, language, religious background, gender, or disability.
- The right the confidentiality of parents, carers, and children will be respected and information only shared in the interest of the child
- With the exceptions detailed in the Kent County Council Children Families and Education Directorate's 'Client Access to Personal Records' policy (i.e. where the safety of the subject may be compromised, where information relates to a third party, or where a detection or prevention of a crime may be compromised), the subject of the information will be allowed access to computerised and paper records held by the Kent County Council

The Board's purpose of providing a framework for protection when individual children are at risk of abuse, and for preventing abuse, is achieved through its main areas of activity:

- Establishing agreed inter-agency procedures and policies for responding to cases of child abuse and co-ordinating the work of professionals in its member agencies
- Promoting and reviewing the effective operation of the child protection process through its three Local Child Protection Co-ordinating Committees and subgroups
- Improving standards of practice by means of its extensive inter-agency child protection training programme
- Identifying important trends and problems by analysis of statistical and management information
- Identifying learning points for improving procedure and practice from the review of individual cases of very serious abuse
- Raising awareness to specific child protection matters, through a programme of public information campaigns

The safeguarding responsibility of the KSCB includes work to safeguard and promote the welfare of groups of children who are potentially more vulnerable than the general population:

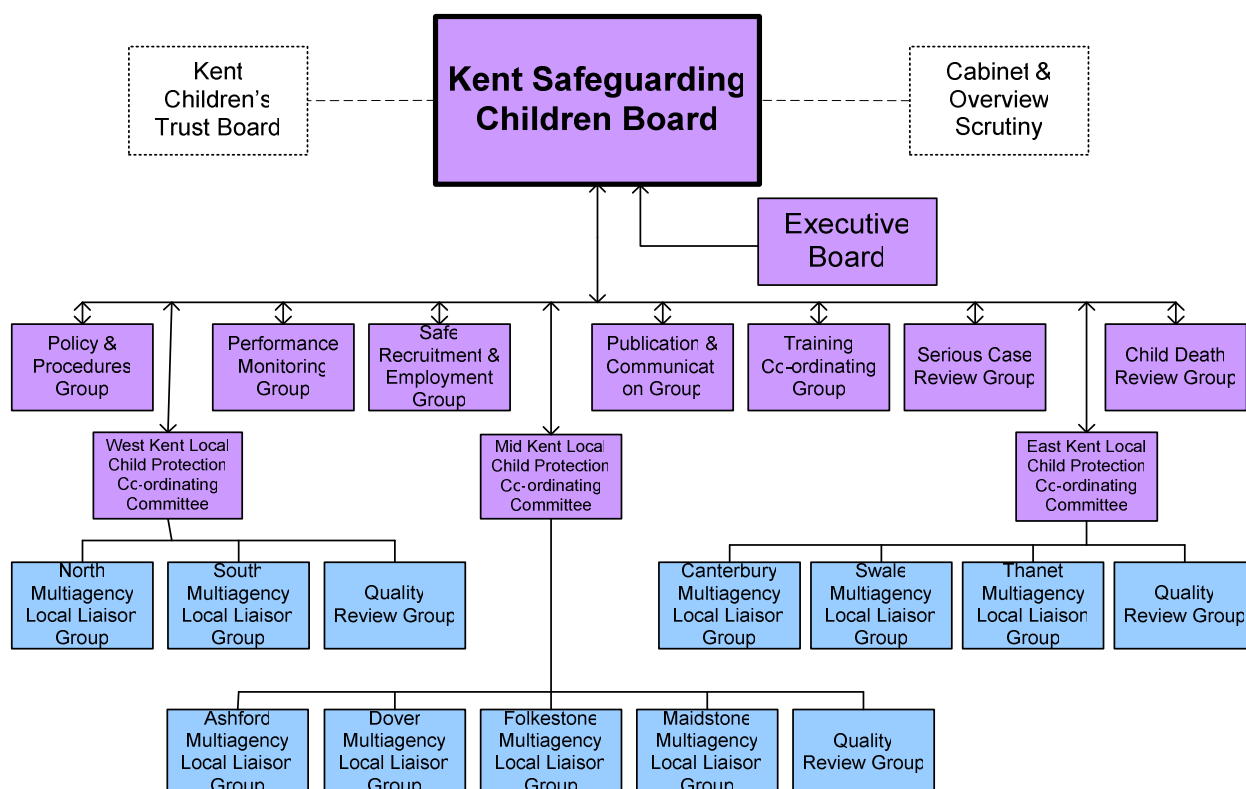
- Children who are privately fostered
- Disabled children
- Looked after Children
- Children who run away from their families or institutions

Those whose health/well-being may be impaired due to:

- Misuse of drugs and alcohol (by themselves or by their parents)
- Early sexual activity with the accompanying risks of becoming a teenage parent or of contracting sexually transmitted infections
- Bullying
- Mental health problems (including self harming)
- Factors such as obesity, cigarette smoking or poor take up of immunisation
- Injury or death as a result of traffic accidents or house fires etc.
- Gambling
- Forced marriage

Kent Safeguarding Children Board

The Board meets four times a year and is assisted in its work by the eleven multi-agency subgroups which drive the operational work of the KSCB. For membership of Board see Appendix 1



In discharging its responsibilities, the Kent Safeguarding Children Board ensures that:

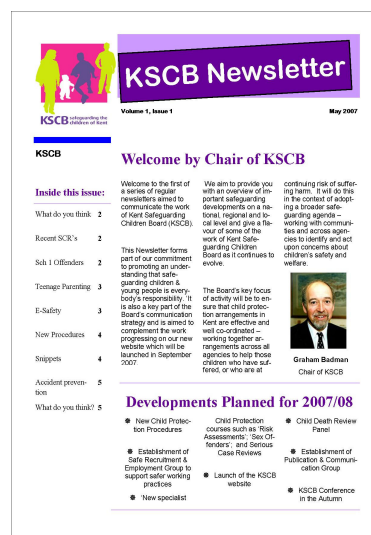
- The welfare of the child is central to the work of the Board;
- All policies, procedures and guidance and service provision incorporate principles of equal opportunities, are non-discriminatory, values cultural diversity and facilitate the involvement of children and families wherever possible;
- The independence of the Board is maintained, as it is essential to fulfilling its purpose.

The post of Board Manager, Board Support Officer, Independent Chair of the Serious Case Review Panel, the Training Manager, Training Administrator, CRB Officer and Custodian of the CPR are financed by the Board and these officers ensure the wide range of the Board's work is completed and they assist member agencies and the

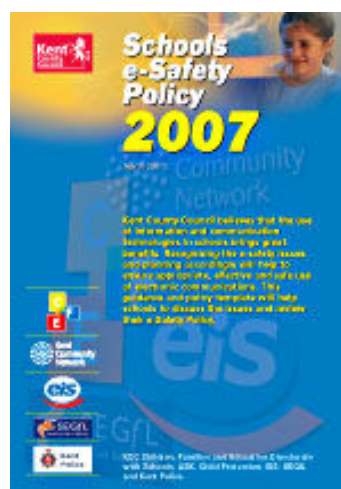
public with information about policies and procedures, public information campaigns, and training events.

Key KSCB achievements in 2006 - 2007:

- In May 2006, KSCB created the post of the KSCB manager to act as a driver for the Board's work. This post was successfully appointed to in January 2007.
- Kent Safeguarding Children Board has agreed its Constitution and sub-group structure arrangements as well as introducing rigorous action planning. It has undertaken focussed discussions and briefings to Board members in relation to Working Together 2006, Private Fostering, Safe Recruitment and Allegations Management, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Children Missing from Foster Care and Residential Homes, E-safety and Domestic Violence.
- Development of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board Newsletter



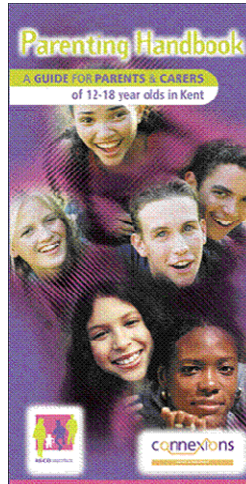
- E-Safety Strategy Group produced an e-Safety Policy which includes a template to help schools write their own e-safety policy



- Two Safeguarding Children Online conferences, in partnership with Kent Police, for head teachers, e-Safety and child protection co-ordinators which coincided with the release of these posters.



- Private Fostering leaflets have been produced and distributed widely to parents, carers, children; and professionals.
- A Trainers pack has also been developed regarding Domestic Violence in partnership with the Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group,
- The Board has delivered in excess of 1500 training places to practitioners across Kent covering core competencies and more specialised learning modules, particularly around Children with Disabilities.
- The KSCB has produced and distributed 70,000 copies of a 'Teenage Parenting Information Handbook' which includes information on – adolescence & puberty, bullying, sexual exploration, domestic violence against parents, parental substance misuse, living away from home, teenage parents and Young carers. The handbook has had wide distribution through member agencies of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board.



- Procedural Amendments regarding siblings being placed on the Kent Child Protection Register.
- Three serious case reviews have been carried out and completed with clear actions plans to address the lessons learnt.
- A national event for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and their partners was held on the 13th March at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham. A workshop was facilitated by KSCB, CFE and CEOP on On-line exploitation. Positive feedback was received from the audience on what work was being done in Kent in this area.
- "What to do if you are worried a child is being abused" booklet was updated in December 2006 and distributed to organisations working with children.

Initial & Core Assessments

Between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007 Children Social Services received a total of 10516 referral request to provide assessment and services for children in need. Of these referrals, 89.9% progressed to an Initial Assessment. This assessment is one regulated by Guidance, and is a critical process of professional intervention and family support.

Improvement in initial assessments completed within timescales increased during the year from 66.7% to 75.3% and in core assessments within timescales increased from 70.3% to 84.3%. *.Fig 1*

Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) C64 measures the percentage of Core Assessments completed within 35 working days. Core Assessments are an in depth assessment of a child and their family, which are of themselves also a tool of intervention. Kent's performance in PAF C64 has improved year on year, to the current performance of Band 5, the highest band achievable.

PAF C64 - Core Assessments Completed				
	Total	Completed Within 35 Days	% Completed Within 35 Days	PAF Banding
KCC (inc Asylum)	3,341	2,818	84.3%	●●●●●
East Kent	1,069	866	81.0%	●●●●●
Mid Kent	1,281	1,073	83.8%	●●●●●
West Kent	657	567	86.3%	●●●●●
Disability	145	129	89.0%	n/a
Asylum	189	183	96.8%	n/a
Ashford	242	204	84.3%	●●●●●
Canterbury	420	369	87.9%	●●●●●
Dartford	167	139	83.2%	●●●●●
Dover	613	561	91.5%	●●●●●
Gravesham	267	250	93.6%	●●●●●
Maidstone	86	67	77.9%	●●●●
Sevenoaks	52	44	84.6%	●●●●●
Shepway	340	241	70.9%	●●●●
Swale	230	195	84.8%	●●●●●
Thanet	419	302	72.1%	●●●●
Tonbridge & Malling	67	45	67.2%	●●●
Tunbridge Wells	104	89	85.6%	●●●●●
EK Disability	68	59	86.8%	n/a
MK Disability	29	23	79.3%	n/a
WK Disability	48	47	97.9%	n/a

Fig 1

Child Protection Activity in Kent

The duty to protect children from abuse and neglect is a special aspect of the Children's Social Services responsibility under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. It is therefore helpful to place child protection within the context of the substantial numbers of children and families who are assisted by the Children Families and Education Directorate each year. Services provided for these children are frequently aimed at preventing the risk of abuse by supporting families in times of stress and other difficulties. Although Children's Social Services is the agency with primary responsibility for assessing and co-ordinating services for children in need and for children in need of protection, this task would be impossible without the skills and services of other agencies. The Kent Safeguarding Children Board provides the forum for co-ordinating these vital services for safeguarding children. Statistical reports of child protection activity are an important element in formulating strategies to protect individual children from abuse and to reduce the overall incidence of abuse.

Child Protection as a part of all Children's Social Services referrals

Of all referral received during 2006/7, 2164 concerned children where there was the possibility of abuse or neglect. This represented 20.6% of children referred to Social Services in the year. In addition to new referrals, Children's Social Services has a substantial number of active cases. Of these, an average of 8.2% are designated as child protection cases. Child protection work therefore represents a substantial element of all children and families work undertaken by Children's Social Services. As other agencies are involved in risk assessment or in providing elements of agreed multi-agency child protection plans, this is a significant component of all children's services within the county.

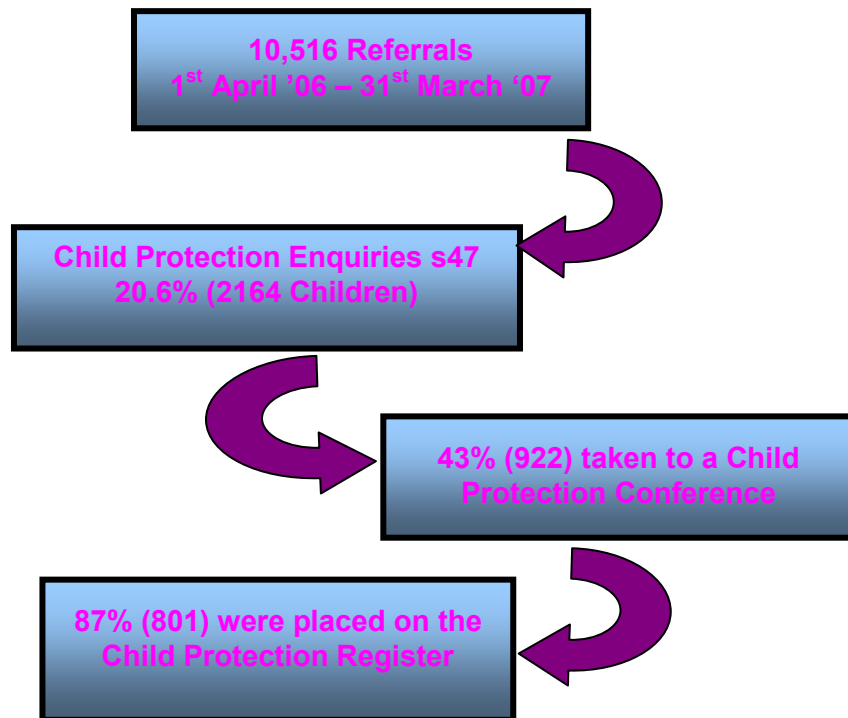


Fig 2

Of the 922 cases subject to the child protection case conference process, over 87% were confirmed to be at continued risk of significant harm and their names placed on the Kent Child Protection Register and detailed multi-agency protection plans agreed.

The rate of Registrations during 2006/07 of children on the Child Protection (CP) Register per 10,000 this year was 32.2, up from 28 last year and above England's average of 30.2.

The rate of children on the register is now 27.9 compared to 24 last year (25.3 nationally last year). In any one year, some variation around this level will be expected, and the graph (Fig 3) details proportional levels over the past 7 years.

Children on CP Register per 10,000

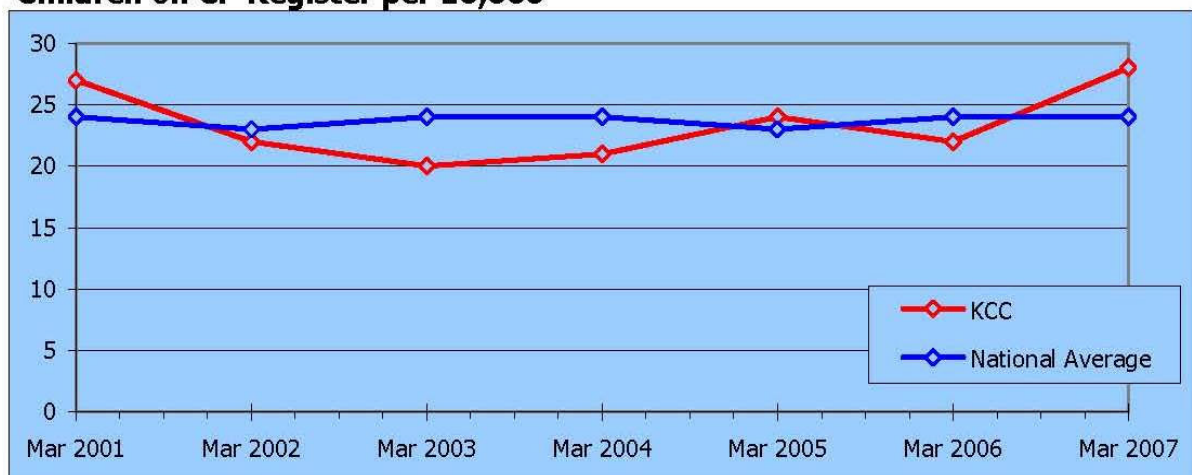


Fig 3

Kent, when compared to both the National average and the comparator 'Basket of Authorities' (Fig 4) does show a higher proportion of children on the CP register, and a lower level of children looked after. This does indicate a correlation between the management of risk and good outcomes in a community, and the cohort whose needs are so extensive that they become looked after.

Region / Authority	CP Per 10,000	LAC Per 10,000
England	24	55
South East	20	42
London	29	72
KCC	28	38
Medway	31	58
Buckinghamshire	14	28
Essex	17	44
Hampshire	16	38
Oxfordshire	20	31
Surrey	11	31
East Sussex	27	44
West Sussex	21	46

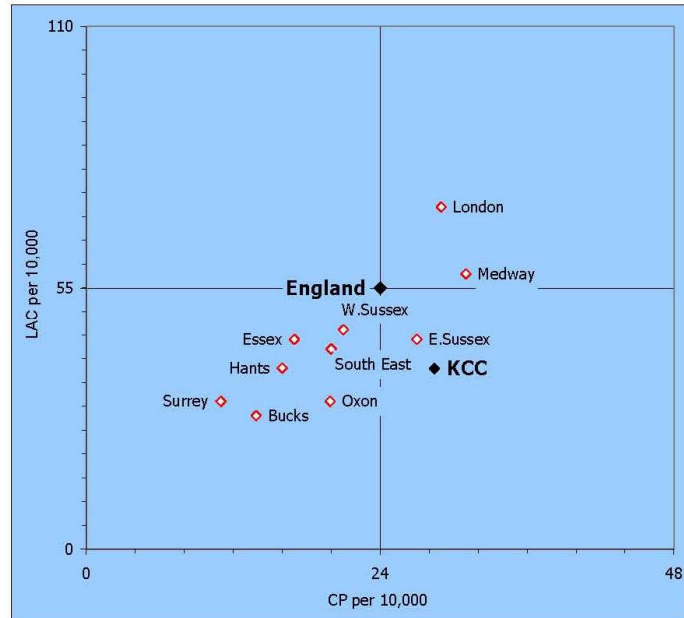


Fig 4

Registration takes account of the types of abuse to which each child is considered to be at risk. The four categories used on the Kent register are identical to those used in all other local authority registers and follow the requirements of central government. They are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

Children may be registered as being at risk of more than one type of abuse. Fig 5 indicates registrations by the main category of abuse of each child.

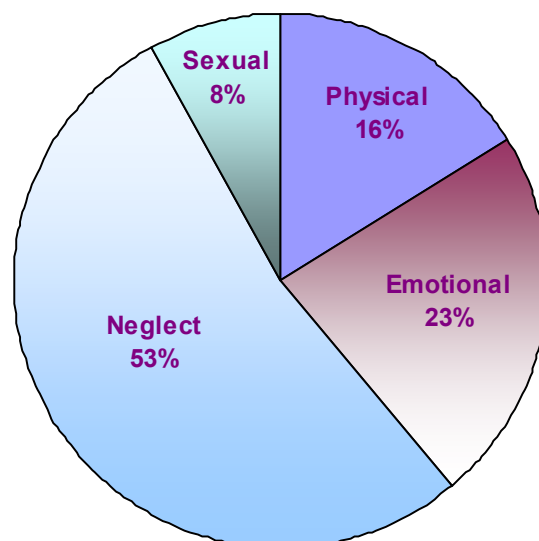


Fig 5

The total number of children on the Kent Child Protection Register will vary from day to day and year on year, comparisons are normally made for 31st March in each year. There is however a considerable amount of activity during the year with new registration being added to the register and children's names being removed when risk has been resolved.

Neglect continues as in previous years to be the main reason for children being registered under this category. Physical and sexual abuse has decreased over the last three years.

Next Steps

The Board is aware that there remains much work to be done and particular areas of priority have been identified and are already being progressed e.g.

1. Continuing development of KSCB as a strategic board to influence, lead and performance monitor the work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Kent; and, developing its links with the Kent Children's Trust Board
2. To ensure there are adequate resources for the functioning of the Board.
3. Reducing the incidence and impact of domestic violence on children and families.
4. To undertake serious case reviews, child death reviews (from April 2008) and other related reviews into practice and ensure that lessons are learnt and there are improvements in arrangements and practice accordingly
5. To review 'Kent & Medway Child Protection and Children in Need Interagency Procedures', protocols and practice guidance to ensure effective safeguarding
6. Promoting and implementing safe-recruitment & allegations management practice within all sectors.
7. Developing and maintaining an informed social care workforce.
8. Reducing the proportion of children and young people who feel unsafe in schools and their local area, by developing tailored multi-agency responses to issues identified through further analysis of the Children and Young People of Kent Survey.
9. KSCB's Newsletter for all Kent children's social care workforce includes the independent sector (http://www.kcpc.org.uk/kscb_newslettermay07.pdf).
10. Website to be completed revised to reflect the wider safeguarding remit of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board and this is currently in development.

11. To develop and review inter-agency training.
12. Undertake a section 11 audit
13. Ensure a strong focus on safeguarding is an integral part of all integrated working processes that are being put in place e.g. Common Assessment Framework, ContactPoint, Lead Professional, Information Sharing, integrated service delivery during 2007/8.
14. Continue to raise the public awareness of safeguarding and encourage them to seek assistance at the early stages of any difficulty by alerting them to the wide range of services available for support and help. In particular, the board will:
 - Continue the publicity of the dangers to children from domestic violence
 - Continue to raise awareness of what to do if you are concerned a child may be being abused
 - Rewrite the child protection conference leaflets for children and their families

Membership of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board

The Board's membership follows central government guidance in 'Working Together 2006' and represents the principal agencies and professions engaged in child protection in Kent. Mr Graham Badman, Managing Director of Kent Children Families and Education, chairs the Board. Strategic managers represent the following organisations:

Adult Mental Health Services

Adult Social Services

Children & Families Court Advisory Support Service

Children Social Services

Children, Families & Education

Crown Prosecution Service

District Councils in Kent

East Kent Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust

Health Trusts

Kent & Medway Connexions

Ofsted

Police

Probation Service

Public Health

South East Kent Coastal Ambulance Service

West Kent Primary Care Trust

Youth Justice Service

All members who sit on the Board have a strategic role within their agency, and are of a seniority to enable them to:

- Speak for their organisation with authority;
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters;
- Hold their organisation to account;
- Influence the development of their agency's practices;
- Ensure that child protection and safeguarding services within those agencies are adequately resourced;
- Contribute to the development of robust and effective monitoring and performance functions.

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By: Mr K Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste
Mr M Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services

To: Cabinet – 26 November 2007

Subject: Select Committee: Flood Risk

Summary: To receive and comment on the Select Committee Report: Flood Risk

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 7 June the Policy Overview Co-Ordinating Committee agreed to a short sharp review on Flood Risk which it allocated to the Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee to oversee.

Select Committee Process

Membership

2. The Select Committee commenced its work in July. The Chairman of the Select Committee was Mrs S V Hohler, other members being Mr G A Horne, MBE, Mr I T N Jones, Mr R E King, Mr J I Muckle, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr M J Vye and Mr F Wood-Brignall.

Terms of Reference

3. (1) The Terms of Reference of the Review were as follows:
- a) To gain an overview of sustainable flood risk management in Kent in light of current government policy and funding
 - b) To gain an overview of action taken since 2001 to minimise flood risk to the residents of Kent (with reference to recommendations of KCC's 2001/2006 Reviews)
 - c) To gain an overview of issues relating to planning control, flood resilience and flood risk in Kent and consider local planning authority roles in influencing planning decisions
 - d) To consider what action or initiatives by KCC could lead to greater flood protection and resilience for Kent residents
 - e) To consider what action or initiatives might benefit Kent residents in terms of preparedness and emergency planning for flood events
 - f) To make specific recommendations on the topic of flood risk management for Kent County Council and partner organisations.

Evidence

4. The Select Committee were resourced for a three and a half month period over the summer and during this period gathered evidence through desk research and received oral and written evidence from range of stakeholders including local councils, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, Kent Highways Service, Southern Water and Natural England. A full list of witnesses who provided both oral and written contributions is contained in Appendix 1 to the Select Committee report.

Specific recommendations

5. The report contains a large number of recommendations but we would specifically wish to draw Cabinet's attention to the following:-

2. That there should be adequate, ring-fenced, direct government funding for flood risk management to provide a more transparent system which will reassure the public that vital plans, strategies and flood defence work will not be compromised by competing demands within DEFRA or elsewhere.
13. That Kent planning authorities adopt the requirement for Drainage Impact Assessments for all new developments, following the Canterbury model.
14. That the Fire & Rescue Service are included as an active partner in the planning process for new developments.
16. That KCC lobbies government to produce a set of Building Regulations for use in flood risk areas so that planners are supported by increased but nationally consistent obligations to assist developers with a high level of flood proofing/mitigation.
18. That KCC specifically allocate funding to enable the proposed road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and, where necessary, to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved and the location of gullies and their characteristics to be recorded on GPS. That the KHS winter maintenance budget is readjusted to become an extreme weather budget.
20. That the government should urgently consider the EA's request for funding to enable vital works to proceed at Jury's Gap, Camber.
28. That the Environment Agency, through its chairmanship of the KRF Severe Weather Group, should ensure there is a systematic survey of critical infrastructure (location and flood defences) and through the SWG promote work with utility companies to ensure supplies can be protected and maintained during flood emergency situations.

Conclusion

6. (1) We welcome the report and would like to congratulate the Select Committee on completing this piece of work. We would also like to thank all those witnesses who gave evidence to the Select Committee.

(2) Mrs S Hohler, Chairman of the Select Committee, Mr J I Muckle and Mr M J Vye will present the report to the Cabinet and will be available to answer questions raised by Cabinet Members. The Executive Summary is attached. Please contact Angela Evans on 01622 221876 or email (angela.evans@kent.gov.uk) if you require a full copy of the report.

Recommendations

7. (1) The Select Committee be thanked for its work and for producing a relevant and a balanced document.

(2) The witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the Select Committee be thanked.

(3) We recommend the report and its recommendations to Cabinet and welcome any observations Cabinet wish to make.

Mr K Ferrin
Cabinet Member for Environment,
Highways and Waste

Mr M Hill
Cabinet Member for Community Services

Flood Risk Management in Kent

Select Committee Report

2007



Executive Summary

Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ
08458 247247
county.hall@kent.gov.uk



Foreword

How we manage flood risk now, and the decisions we make in this regard, will have far reaching consequences for the people of Kent.

We have suggested small steps that can be taken to contribute to the overall reduction in flood risk and the better management of it. It is absolutely crucial that we follow guidance and take care where we site new developments; maintain defences to a good standard, incorporating a margin for climate change impacts; use sustainable drainage systems and put in place measures to make buildings more flood-proof and communities more resilient. More importantly, it is essential that we do not take our eye off the ball and become complacent about flooding. We must retain a constant focus on flood risk in Kent, and pull together expertise at all levels. We suggest oversight is provided by a standing flood risk committee and multi-level involvement is secured through Flood Liaison Advice Groups which bring together experts including those in the local community.

In an environment of tight budgetary control we will need to constantly ask ourselves: 'what are the potential costs of not taking a particular action?' We urge that the government give much greater priority to flooding, by ring-fencing funding and ensuring that important schemes are not delayed.

Having seen how Kent and other counties have been affected so adversely by intense rainfall we believe it is important to invest in a variety of measures as soon as possible, so that we are better prepared to cope with what we hope are rare, but may become increasingly frequent, severe weather conditions.

The risk of sea flooding is very real and it is acknowledged that a repeat of the set of conditions leading to flooding in 1953 could have dire consequences. It is therefore with the utmost urgency that we take action to ensure that people are aware of the risk, aware of what is being done to protect them and what they can do for themselves, and that our flood planning and warning systems are both comprehensive and flexible enough to ensure everyone's safety.

I would like to thank all those individuals who assisted the Select Committee by giving up their time freely to provide written or oral evidence during the summer break. I would mention particularly: Ted Edwards, Ingrid Chudleigh, Liam Woollorton, Richard Francis and David Nye who provided invaluable assistance during our visits and Phillip Merricks and his family for allowing us to visit his farm. Finally I would like to thank Research Officer, Sue Frampton, Democratic Services Officer, Christine Singh and colleagues for their assistance to the Select Committee.

Sarah Hohler – Chairman

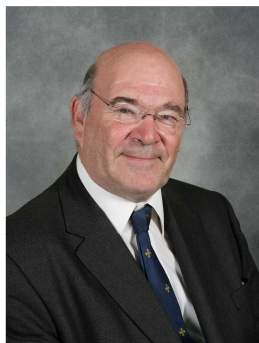
1 *Executive Summary*

1.1 **Committee membership**

The Select Committee consisted of eight Members of the County Council: five Conservative; two Labour and one Liberal Democrat.



Mrs Sarah Hohler



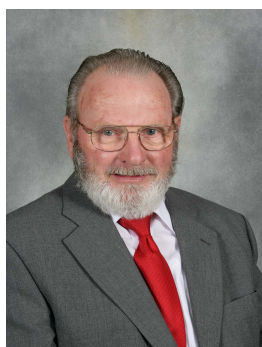
Mr Godfrey Horne



Mr Ivor Jones



Mr Richard King



Mr John Muckle



**Mrs Paulina
Stockell**



Mr Martin Vye



**Mr Frederick
Wood-Brignall**

1.2 **Terms of Reference**

- To gain an overview of sustainable flood risk management in Kent in light of current government policy and funding
- To gain an overview of action taken since 2001 to minimise flood risk to the residents of Kent (with reference to recommendations of KCC's 2001/2006 Reviews)
- To gain an overview of issues relating to planning control, flood resilience and flood risk in Kent and consider local planning authority roles in influencing planning decisions
- To consider what action or initiatives by KCC could lead to greater flood protection and resilience for Kent residents
- To consider what action or initiatives might benefit Kent residents in terms of preparedness and emergency planning for flood events
- To make specific recommendations on the topic of flood risk management for Kent County Council and partner organisations.

1.3 Evidence gathering

The Select Committee were resourced for a three and a half month period over the summer and during this period gathered evidence through desk research and received oral and written evidence from range of stakeholders including local councils, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, Kent Highways Service, Southern Water and Natural England. A list of witnesses who attended Select Committee hearings is given as Appendix 1 and a list of those submitting written or supplementary evidence is at Appendix 2.

1.4 Visits

Members undertook visits to a number of sites representing different aspects of flood risk management. A one day itinerary included visits to the Isle of Sheppey (Elmley and Warden Point); Ingress Park in Greenhithe and the Leigh Barrier south of Tonbridge.

1.5 Glossary of terms and acronyms

ACE	Association for Consultancy and Engineering
ADA	Association of Drainage Authorities
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CFMP	Catchment Flood Management Plan
CLA	Country Land & Business Association
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
COW	Critical Ordinary Watercourse
CPA	Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
Culvert	Covered structure that conveys a flow under a road, railroad or other obstruction. Culverts are mainly used to divert stream or rainfall runoff to prevent erosion or flooding on highways.
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
Enmainment	Designating a critical ordinary watercourse as a main river
EU	European Union
FLAG	Flood Liaison Advice Group
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOSE	Government Office for the South East
GPS	Global Positioning System
Hereditaments	Property that can be inherited
HLT	High Level Target
KFRS	Kent Fire & Rescue Service
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IT	Information Technology
KCC	Kent County Council
KHS	Kent Highway Services
KRF	Kent Resilience Forum
LDA	Land Drainage Act
LDD	Local Development Documents
LDF	Local Development Framework
LGA	Local Government Association
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (now DEFRA)
MOD	Ministry of Defence

MSW	Making Space for Water
NAO	National Audit Office
NE	Natural England
NFCDD	National Flood and Coastal Defence Database
NFU	National Farmers Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFWAT	The Office of Water Services
OW	Ordinary Watercourse (any watercourse not a main river)
Pluvial	Relating to rainfall
RFDC	Regional Flood Defence Committee
Riparian	Relating to the banks of a river
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SEERA	South East England Regional Assembly
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Soakaway	Structure to collect rainfall from a catchment area prior to discharge into surrounding soil
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
Swale	A grassed depression which leads surface water overland to a storage or discharge system, typically using the green space of a roadside margin. (Source: EA)
SWG	Severe Weather Group
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1.6 Introduction

- a) The Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee convened a Select Committee for a short period in early summer to gain a broad overview of the current situation regarding the management of flood risk in the county. Kent has one of the longest coastlines of any English county¹ with many important coastal settlements, a rich and varied landscape with 28,500 hectares of designated conservation sites and a good deal of key infrastructure on low-lying land. Over 70% of Kent comprises agricultural land hence its fame as the 'Garden of England'. Kent has two of the major growth areas in the south east region: Ashford and Thames Gateway and numerous smaller growth areas which are likely to undergo intense development. Substantial sections lie in flood risk areas and, despite earlier Select Committee recommendations, pressure for house building may mean that some development in these areas goes ahead. Effective flood risk management is clearly a key component of Kent communities if they are to be sustainable into the future.
- b) Sustainable flood management has been defined in many ways including that which:

'provides the maximum possible social and economic resilience against flooding, by protecting and working with the environment, in a way which is fair and affordable both now and in the future'

*Source: Scottish National Technical Advisory Group, 2004
(Flood Issues Advisory Committee)*

- c) While the review was at the planning stage in June 2007, unprecedented intense rainfall caused unseasonal flooding. Parts of Kent were affected but the most devastating and severe floods occurred in the south west midlands and tragic loss of life occurred. These floods highlighted several important issues, not least they served to illustrate to the Committee that flooding can happen at any time, in any season and with enough severity to overwhelm defences.

'Few, if any, surface water systems would have coped with the intensity or duration of rainfall experienced in other parts of the country; we in Kent were very fortunate to have escaped.'

Source: I.D. Oliver, Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board, written evidence

- d) However, bouts of heavy rainfall have continued to affect Kent, overwhelming drainage systems and causing flooding, particularly in Folkestone, Hythe and Whitstable. Media coverage has provided a graphic background to this review and while we need to acknowledge that no defences can provide absolute protection from flooding, and no individual in this country has the absolute right to be

¹ 217km

defended against flooding, we are reminded both that there are numerous sources of flooding and that an effective emergency response is required to deal with any eventual flooding and its aftermath.

- e) Some flooding is avoidable with intelligent forward planning and adequate funding. Many of the recent floods have been exacerbated by ageing drainage systems which cannot cope and 'flash floods' following heavy rain have become a familiar and unwelcome sight. Clearly, funding must be made available to update these systems and all new developments must incorporate sustainable drainage with integral flood storage to avoid increasing runoff and adding to flood risk downstream. Failure to invest now will inevitably lead to increased costs later on, both in human and economic terms. It is essential to plan for the long term, factoring in increased risk of flooding due to the effects of climate change. Where there cannot be a total avoidance of risk, there are a number of options for building flood resilience into new properties and a growing flood protection industry that, if developed, could save homeowners, businesses and government alike, millions in lost revenue, insurance claims and distress.
- f) It is worth restating that in terms of climate change impacts, it is evident that past experience is no longer a good indication of what is likely to happen in the future.
- g) Although the Environment Agency has responsibility for the bulk of flood risk management, KCC has a number of roles and functions principally as a drainage body and highway authority, but also in relation to environmental management, strategic and emergency planning. The county council can also make a key contribution to flood risk management by performing a number of 'non-structural' actions for example by raising public awareness of flood risks and helping to publicise what is being, and could be, done to mitigate against them.
- h) Other KCC Select Committees have reported on topics relevant to this review in 2001 (Flooding in Kent), in 2005 (Water and Wastewater, particularly in Ashford) and in 2006 (Climate Change). The recommendations of the Climate Change Report are currently being progressed and KCC has appointed a Project Manager to ensure that climate change is factored in to all future business plans. As the 2001 review took place in the wake of serious flooding, the majority of its recommendations related to the emergency response at the time. This Select Committee has taken a fresh look at flood risk management in Kent and while there was insufficient time to follow up on each of the earlier recommendations in detail, they were borne in mind throughout this review.
- i) For flood risk to be managed effectively in future it will be necessary to take account of flooding from all sources: fluvial (river), pluvial (rainfall)/flash flooding, groundwater, as well as drainage (including sewerage related) and, most importantly for Kent, the risk of flooding from the sea. Currently responsibility for various types of flooding lies with a number of different agencies and while there is in most cases a high level of co-operation between them there is the potential for confusion and delay both in the normal course of events and during emergencies. Responsibility for different aspects of drainage and flood risk management is highly complex and, for example, around 200 organisations have a management interest in sea defence and coastal protection.²

² Institute of Civil Engineers (2001) Land Drainage and Flood Defence Responsibilities

- j) The majority of funding for flood risk management comes from the government. However competing demands within the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have impacted adversely on funds available over the past two years and although, following recent floods, some of the 'lost' funds will be reinstated, there has clearly been an impact on the progress of plans, defence schemes and essential maintenance.
- k) Having heard from a range of stakeholders the Committee are confident that progress has been made in terms of structural flood defence since the serious flooding in the county in 2000/2001. It will be necessary to retain a focus on the topic and secure adequate funding in order to ensure that these advances are not lost and that the excellent relationships and co-ordination between partner organisations are maintained and enhanced.

1.7 Summary of Recommendations³

Organisational Responsibilities

R1 That KCC look into setting up and resourcing a permanent Flood Risk Committee, in partnership with District Councils, to monitor: organisational changes affecting the management of flood risk in order to minimise the effect of such changes; the KHS gully clearance programme; non-structural means adopted by KCC and District Councils to reduce flood risk, and the Environment Agency's progress on proposed flood defence works as well as maintenance of existing defences.

Funding for Flood Defences

R2 That there should be adequate, ring-fenced, direct government funding for flood risk management to provide a more transparent system which will reassure the public that vital plans, strategies and flood defence work will not be compromised by competing demands within DEFRA or elsewhere.

R3 That KCC should lobby the government to consider re-designating the flood management arm of the Environment Agency as a dedicated flood risk agency as well as giving the EA a strategic overview of all types of flood risk.

R4 That KCC promotes the further development of an Engineering Consultancy led by Canterbury City Council Engineers to disseminate good practice and offer training/ apprenticeships to build a practical skills-base and retain local knowledge/expertise in flood risk management.

Flood Risk Management plans

R5 That KCC supports development in brownfield and other areas subject to the rigorous application of site specific sequential and exception tests of Planning Policy Statement 25 (PS25).

R6 That KCC oversee the development of further sub-regional flood risk assessments, based on river catchments, and undertakes to monitor this

³ Those recommendations the Select Committee see as most important are in bold type.

development.

R7 That KCC ensures that its Environment and Waste Team are sufficiently resourced to enable them to: develop a county-wide coastal policy; maintain their oversight of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) to promote consistency across the county; and raise public awareness of plans.

R8 That KCC should lead on the co-ordination of work with landowners and other agencies to identify options for the funding of changed land-use or buy-out to ensure that plans to achieve more naturally functioning flood plains and coastline in Kent are arrived at equitably.

R9 That KCC works in partnership with the EA to ensure that River Basin Management planning is fully integrated with existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and with regard to SMPs.

R10 That Kent Highway Services (KHS) and the EA seek to reconstitute Flood Liaison Advice Groups (FLAGS) in Kent (ideally catchment based), with representation from the insurance industry and local communities.

Urban Development, Drainage and Design

R11 That KCC instigates discussions between local planning authorities, Southern Water and others on the feasibility, benefit and cost implications of using non-return valves/sealed sewage systems in all new developments and existing developments where sewage flooding is proven to be a problem and requiring it to be a condition of planning consent.

R12 That KCC promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) throughout Kent with over-attenuation of surface runoff, guided by best practice adopted by Canterbury and Ashford councils and findings of the integrated urban drainage pilots.

R13 That Kent planning authorities adopt the requirement for Drainage Impact Assessments for all new developments, following the Canterbury model.

R14 That the Fire & Rescue Service are included as an active partner in the planning process for new developments.

R15 That the Kent Design guide is revised to include information on mitigating flood damage and makes reference to innovative designs for the future, such as floating homes.

R16 That KCC lobbies government to produce a set of Building Regulations for use in flood risk areas so that planners are supported by increased but nationally consistent obligations to assist developers with a high level of flood proofing/mitigation.

R17 For KCC to work in partnership with the EA to publicise actions householders can take to increase the flood resilience of their homes.

R18 That KCC specifically allocate funding to enable the proposed road gully cleansing work to go ahead without delay and, where necessary, to enable the condition and capacity of highway drainage systems to be improved and the location of gullies and their characteristics to be recorded on GPS. That the KHS winter maintenance budget is readjusted to become an extreme weather budget.

R19 That KCC works in partnership with local authorities, the police and traffic wardens to inform the public about road drainage cleansing activities to address the issue of vehicles obstructing gullies and delaying vital works.

Condition of Kent Flood Defences

R20 That the government should urgently consider the EA's request for funding to enable vital works to proceed at Jury's Gap, Camber.

R21 That the EA should encourage the input of local authority and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) experts on local strategies and schemes and that IDBs gain representation on the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) in order to optimise the benefit to be gained from local knowledge.

R22 That the EA develop and implement a phased rolling programme of maintenance to include 'low risk' areas (in collaboration with the Kent Internal Drainage Boards).

R23 That the EA prioritise clearance of waterways in the Romney Marsh Area.

Emergency Planning

R24 That the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Severe Weather Group (SWG) audit and promote the development of emergency plans/specific flood plans for at risk areas in liaison with the Environment Agency and develop and generic flood plan for Kent.

R25 That the government consider placing a duty (with funding) on the Fire & Rescue Service to respond to a flood emergency and further considers designating FRS as the lead body in charge of a flood incident.

R26 That the Kent Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group formulate and publicise an action plan in relation to flooding to raise public confidence in Kent's preparedness for flood events and consideration should be given to merging the SWG with the Flood Warning Planning Liaison Group to reduce duplication and avoid confusion as part of a wider streamlining of the group structure within the Resilience Forum.

R27 That KHS should send officers to work alongside local district colleagues in an emergency situation.

R28 That the Environment Agency, through its chairmanship of the KRF Severe Weather Group, should ensure there is a systematic survey of critical infrastructure (location and flood defences) and through the SWG promote work with utility companies to ensure supplies can be protected and

maintained during flood emergency situations.

R29 That the Severe Weather Group liaise with partners in the Kent Resilience Forum and east coast authorities to formulate an emergency response plan for an extreme coastal event and, given the risk to life and property from sea flooding, assess whether the current warning system and communication processes are adequate or whether a siren system should be acquired for Kent, and that people are educated about what to do when they receive a flood warning.

Raising Public Awareness

R30 That KCC support the Environment Agency in raising flood risk awareness (including the appointment and training of flood wardens and to ensure that vulnerable people are identified and supported in emergency situations) via town and parish councils and similar community groups.