

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION -
VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND PARTNERSHIPS
POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 29th June, 2010

10.00 am
Darent Room,
Sessions House,
County Hall, Maidstone





AGENDA

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND PARTNERSHIPS POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 29 June 2010 at 10.00 am
Darent Room, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone

Ask for: **Christine Singh**
Telephone: **01622 694334**

Tea/coffee will be available before the meeting

Membership

Conservative (11):	Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr A H T Bowles, Mrs P T Cole, Mr H J Craske, Mr R Frayne, Mr D A Hirst, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr S Manion, Mr M J Northey, Mr K Smith and Mr C T Wells
Labour (1):	Mrs E Green
Liberal Democrat (1):	Mr M J Vye
Church Representatives (3):	The Reverend N Genders, The Reverend Canon J L Smith and Dr D Wadman
Parent Governor (2):	Mr P Myers and Mr B Critchley
Teacher Advisers (6):	Mr T Desmoyers-Davies, Mrs J Huckstep, Miss S Kemsley, Mr R Straker, Mr S Thompson and Mr J Walder

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

Item No		Timings*
A COMMITTEE BUSINESS		
A1	Substitutes	10.00 am
A2	Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting	
A3	Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2010 (Pages 1 - 8)	10.10 am
B ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION		
B1	Deputy Cabinet Member (Vulnerable) and Director of Specialist Children's Services Verbal Update (Pages 9 - 10)	10.10-10.30 am

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| B2 | Draft Minutes of the Children's Champions Board - 19 May 2010
(Pages 11 - 16) | 10.30-10.40 am |
| B3 | Kent Contact and Assessment Centre - Abandonment Rate
(Pages 17 - 20) | 10.40-11.00 am |
| B4 | Kent Young Carers' Strategy Annual Update (Pages 21 - 26) | 11.00-11.30 am |
| B5 | Update on work of Parenting Team and Issues Arising (Pages 27
- 30) | 11.30-12.00 pm |
| B6 | New Statutory Guidance for Kent Children's Trust and Children
and Young People's Plan (Pages 31 - 36) | 12.00-12.30 pm |

C SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

- | | | |
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| C1 | Select Committee - Update (Pages 37 - 38) | 12.30-12.40 pm |
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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)

**All timings are approximate*

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

Monday, 21 June 2010

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.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - VULNERABLE CHILDREN
AND PARTNERSHIPS POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children, Families & Education - Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr A H T Bowles, Mrs P T Cole, Mr H J Craske, Mrs T Dean (Substitute for Mr M J Vye), Mr D A Hirst, Mr S Manion, Mr M J Northey, Mr C T Wells and Mrs E Green

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES: Dr D Wadman

PARENT GOVERNORS: Mr P Myers

PRESENT: Mr L B Ridings, Deputy Lead Member, Vulnerable Children

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms H Davies (Director For Specialist Children's Services Group), Mrs J Wainwright (Director Commissioning (Specialist Services)), Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive), Mr C Feltham (Head Of SEN & Resources), Mrs J Ackroyd (Trust Development Manager) and Mrs C A Singh (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

21. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2009

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

22. Director of Specialist Services, Director of Commissioning and Partnerships and Deputy Cabinet Member's Verbal Update

(Item B1)

(Verbal update by Mr R Ridings, Deputy Lead Member for Vulnerable Children and Ms H Davies, Director of Specialist Services and Mrs J Wainwright, Director of Commissioning and Partnerships)

(1) The Chairman asked Mr Ridings and Ms Davies and Mrs Wainwright to give their verbal updates.

(2) Ms Davies explained that the key issues that she would be speaking on were within the reports before the Members for the meeting and therefore she would wait to speak to each of the papers to avoid pre-empting Members discussions.

(3) Mrs Wainwright explained to the Committee that Mrs Turner, Managing Director was unable to attend the meeting and had asked her to give a update on the Restructure of the Children, Families and Education Directorate. The Consultation was still in the 3 month consultation period of the review. To ensure

that this was a full consultation process, meetings had been held with staff and managers seeking their comments and giving them the opportunity to ask questions, to ensure that they were properly engaged. Mrs Wainwright advised that the comments were being looked at as the process went along so that suitable issues raised through those comments could be introduced incrementally. The feedback on the meetings had been positive. There would be feedback into the exact arrangements in May 2010.

(4) Mrs Wainwright advised that the work programme was ongoing with a determination to produce a clearer Commissioning Framework by her Department with the cooperation of the Children's Trust Partnership. She advised that a draft was being produced on the final statutory guidance on the Children's Trust Partnership, which would be presented to a future meeting of the POSC.

(5) Mrs Wainwright concluded by informing Members of the new arrangements for dealing with complaints against schools and others. Complaints would now go through the schools and governing bodies. The first phase was due to commence on 1 April 2010 and Kent had agreed to be in the second phase, which was due to commence in September 2010. It was anticipated that any issues on the complaints procedure would be raised in the first phase and would therefore be better for those in the second phase and the second phase offered free training for staff and those not in the second phase would incur the cost of that training.

(6) Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments which included the following:

(7) In response to a question by Mr Manion, Mrs Wainwright advised that there was no information on the training at present as it was still a pilot, but she had produced a short report for her Senior Management Team that she would share with Members outside the meeting.

(8) In reply to a question by Mr Hirst, Mrs Wainwright explained that the governors had not been consulted yet as this was going through as an Act of Parliament.

(9) Dr Wadman was interested to note that the Local Authority was not going to be the final voice on a complaint.

(10) RESOLVED that the responses to the questions asked by the Members and the verbal updates be noted.

23. Champions Board Minutes 10 March 2010

(Item B2)

(1) The Chairman agreed to take the Minutes page by page to give Members the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the Minutes of the Children's Champions Board that were within the remit of this Committee.

(2) In response to a question by Mrs Dean, Ms Davies advised that the problems with the ICS information system for Children's Social Services were a national

issue. Kent had been working to modify the system. As from 1 April there would be 10 new exemplars that had been tested and the feedback had been positive by being more user friendly. The system would be kept under review.

(3) In answer to a question by Mrs Dean, Ms Davies explained that the Social Worker vacancies did not include agency staff.

(4) In reply to a question by Mrs Dean, Mrs Davies advised that the visit to Hackney Council, London, was an extremely thought provoking experience. Hackney was looking to get a balance of social workers and other agencies to assist with the increasing work load. Hackney Council had a good record of using and working with other agencies and a different role for their administration staff. They also had a significant range of family services, which Ms Davies felt she would like to take time to consult with staff on how this could work in Kent.

(5) RESOLVED that the responses to questions made by Members and the Minutes of the Children's Champions Board be noted.

24. Kent Children's Trust and Local Partnership Arrangements (Item B3)

(Report by Mrs J Wainwright, Director Commissioning & Partnerships)

(1) Members considered a progress report on the development of the Kent Children's Trust and local partnership arrangements and an overview of the process for preparing a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) by April 2011.

(2) The Chairman asked Mrs Wainwright to introduce the report. Mrs Wainwright gave a brief presentation on the key issues in the report and on appendix 1 and encouraged Members to visit the Trust Partnership in their local areas.

(3) Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments which included the following :

(4) Dr Wadman stated that when there was a major change taking place Members should be able to monitor and have the opportunity to discuss the review to ensure that it was streamline to eliminate duplication. Mr Ridings advised that he and Mrs Green attended the last Children's Trust meeting and were impressed with the cooperation between the various agencies at the meeting, which included the Police, Health, Social Services to safeguarding children, which he felt was the first signs that they could provide a good lead to the rest of the country. Mrs Green concurred adding that the review did seem to be genuinely moving.

(5) Mrs Dean expressed her concerns with the way Children's Centres related to the communities they were servicing. There was no 100% match with where they were to where they served. The services could be delivered outside the communities' area. She felt that it was important that there was more flexibility. Young parents had complained that their nearest Children's Centre was too far to push a pram to. Mrs Wainwright advised that the Children's Centres Review was still ongoing and that Mrs Dean's comments would be passed to Alex Gamby, Head of Early Years and Childcare (operations) for her feedback. The Chairman added

that she would ensure that this was part of the considerations of the Extended Schools Select Committee.

(6) RESOLVED that :

- (a) the comments and answers to Members questions be noted;
- (b) the findings from the review be noted;
- (c) agreement be given to the seven key proposals to strengthen our integrated commissioning and delivery arrangements at county and local levels for implementation during 2010; and
- (d) agreement be given to commit to a long term programme of consultation, development and change across all partner agencies of the Kent Children's Trust.

25. Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Units at Kent Mainstream Schools and Academies and Lead School Programme Pilots

(Item B4)

(Report by Mrs R Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families & Education Directorate and Mrs S Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education)

(Ms H Davies, Director of Specialist Services and Mr C Feltham, Head of SEN & Resources was present for this item)

(1) Members considered a report that provided an update on the Review of SEN Units and the timescale for considering options informed by the evaluation of the Lead School Pilots.

(2) Members were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions which included the following:

(3) In response to a comment by Mr Myers, Mr Ridings gave an assurance that there were no plans to close any of the special schools in Kent. He said that the results of the pilot were being carefully considered and would be reported back to the Committee in July 2010.

(4) In response to a question by Mr Hirst, Ms Davies advised that the objectives of the lead school pilots were to provide appropriate provision for the SEN children across Kent.

(5) In response to a request from Dr Wadman, Mrs Wainwright agreed to circulate a map of the Units to Members.

(6) RESOLVED that:

- (a) the comments and answers to Members questions be noted;
- (b) the needs of children and young people with SEN would continue to be met in appropriate schools and provisions, including schools with SEN

Units, providing parents and carers with confidence in Kent provision and services be noted;

- (c) the Local Authority would build on existing provision and expertise working with all schools in a locality to increase capacity to meet the SEN of children and young people informed by the lead school pilot be noted; and
- (d) the current lead school pilot would be evaluated as proposed and further reports made to the Children, Families and Education Senior Management Team and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee culminating in a report to Cabinet in the Autumn be noted.

26. Safeguarding Children in Kent - Defending and Developing the Service *(Item B5)*

(Item B6- Report by Mr P Gilroy, Chief Executive)

(1) The Committee considered a report that marked the final stage of the review commissioned by the County Council in December 2008, following the publication of the urgent Joint Area Review in Haringey carried out in response to the death in 2007 of Baby Peter, undertaken by the Chief Executive, on the arrangements in Kent for protecting vulnerable children. The report also gave an overview of the Review Team's assessment of arrangements in their local and national contexts and set out a number of recommendations for consideration by the County Council which would meet on 1 April 2010.

(2) The Chief Executive introduced the report explaining that protecting vulnerable children was a critical responsibility for the County Council with its 'corporate parent' responsibilities and said that he was pleased to be able to present the report to Cabinet and the Vulnerable Children Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee for discussion and comment, en route to full Council, who initially commissioned it.

(3) Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments which included the following:

(4) Mr Bowles proposed, seconded by Mr Craske that the recommendation be altered to read "the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships POSC recommends that the County Council adopt the report in its entirety and thanked Mr Gilroy and his team for the extensive work carried out in producing the valuable report".

Agreed without a vote

(3) Mr Gilroy suggested that one recommendation that he had not made and would consider making to the County Council was to reinstate a radio slot on Radio Kent for Social Workers on aspects of their work to rebalance the negative imagery reported in the press.

(4) In reply to a question by Mrs Dean, Mr Gilroy referred to page 87 of the report that indicated that the referral rates from neighbours was higher than from schools and questioned that there could not be so many of those children not at school. Complainants did not find it easy but he was concerned as to why schools did not relate easily to the Local Authority services.

(5) In response to a further question by Mrs Dean, Ms Davies said that Members would be advised of serious cases in future before they hit the media. Mr Gilroy added that there were times when cases went through the courts and there would be issues of subjudicy but he would plead that the whole report be made available to Members and the public for more trust in the system.

(6) Ms Davies outlined the actions already taken out on recommendations 75.2 to 75.8 and 75.8 to 11.

(7) Mr Bowles said that he was heartened by Members comments and thanked Ms Davies for her response on what was already happening with regard to the recommendations.

(8) The Chairman thanked Mr Gilroy for a very full and frank report and for leaving KCC with a wonderful legacy that should be taken forward nationally as part of the tool kit for local authorities.

(9) RESOLVED that the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships POSC recommends that the County Council at its meeting on 1 April 2010 adopt the report in its entirety and thanked Mr Gilroy and his team for the extensive work carried out in producing the valuable report.

27. Children Social Services Activity Figures

(Item B6)

(Report by Mrs S Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education and Ms H Davies, Director for Specialist Children's Services Group)

(1) The Committee discussed a report that provided an overview of core activity for Children's Social Services in respect of; referrals, Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan, Looked After Children, Other Local Authority Children (OLA) and Social Work Vacancies.

(2) The Chairman asked Ms Davies to introduce the report. Mrs Davies highlighted key issues within the report which included the significant rise in referrals since the Baby P case and the work with being carried out with schools, parents who were misusing drugs and alcohol and substance misuse. Those parents were now receiving help which had meant a significant increase in the workload. There had also been an increase in Other Local Authority Looked After Children (OLA LAC) in 2009-2010. She added that the social worker vacancy position was 29% at the end on January 2010 but reminded Members that there had been an increase of 60 social worker posts in 2009. One of the key objectives was to reduce the vacancy rate to date there had been 27 social workers recruited from USA and 5 from East Kent, recruitment would continue both internationally and within Kent. There was also consideration being given to converting some social work posts to assistant social worker posts changing the skill mix of the teams. She concluded that even being under incredible pressure the social workers were still doing an incredible job.

(3) The reply to a question by the Chairman, Ms Davies advised that the responsibility for the follow up with those children placed by other local authorities in Kent was the responsibility of the host authorities. Kent's children social workers become involved if the children were at risk, other agencies that could be involved

such as the Youth Offending Service. She advised that the Mrs Turner, Managing Director, would be speaking to Director of Social Services in May regarding this issue.

(4) In reply to a request by Mrs Green, Mrs Davies agreed to supply the Social worker vacancies within each area across Kent.

(5) In response to a question by Mr Wells, Mrs Davies advised that there were 1196 Looked After Children and 253 that were Asylum Seekers.

(6) RESOLVED that the responses to the comments and questions made by Members be noted.

28. Select Committee Update

(Item C1)

(Report by Mr P Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager)

(1) Members received a report on the progress to establish the Select Committee on Extended Services (previously titled Extended Schools).

(2) The Committee were given the opportunity to suggest topics they wished to be considered for potential reviews in November 2010 and January 2011. Members agreed to contact the Democratic Services officer outside the meeting with their suggestions.

(3) Following the discussion on Item B3 "Kent Children's Trust and Local Partnership Arrangements" on the agenda. The Chairman agreed to ask the Select Committee for Extended Services to consider the location of Children's Centres within the review.

(4) RESOLVED that the terms of reference of the Select Committee on Extended Services be noted.

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By: Joanna Wainwright, Director, Commissioning & Partnerships

Date: 29 June 2010

Summary of the verbal update

The update from the Service Director for Commissioning and Partnerships Group will focus on restructure and re-organisation within CFE, and progress with developing the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This will include an update on the current position with recruitment into the new CFE structures, and the need for induction, staff development, and team building / re-building. Within these processes there will need to be a change from a culture where services are reliant on grant funding to one of securing the best outcomes through integrated working and a greater focus on drawing the Kent Children's Trust partners into joint commissioning arrangements.

In addition this update will include an overview of the timelines involved in developing the new CYPP from 2011 - 2014 and a summary of progress to date

(The Deputy Cabinet Member and the Director of Specialist Services' summaries were not available at the time the papers went to print)

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Champions Board held in the Swale 1, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 19 May 2010.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr M J Vye (Vice-Chairman), Mrs P T Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr L B Ridings, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mrs J Whittle

ALSO PRESENT: Mr S King (Children in Care Council Apprentice) and Mr A Speller (Young Lives Foundation)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms H Davies (Director For Specialist Children's Services Group), Mr A Hickmott (Head of Children's Services, West Kent), Mr P Brightwell (Policy & Performance Manager - Looked After Children), Mr A Heather (Principal Educational Psychologist), Ms P Davies (Kent Safeguarding Children Board Manager) and Miss T Grayell (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**26. Welcome and Introductions**

(Item)

The Chairman welcomed Scott King, the first apprentice of the Children in Care Council, who had been invited by the Board to attend and meet them. She also welcomed Adrian Speller from the Young Lives Foundation and Andrew Hickmott, Head of Children's Services, West Kent, who were also attending the Board for the first time. Those around the table then introduced themselves.

27. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2010

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2010 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

28. Chairman's Announcements

(Item A4)

1. The Chairman said she had been very pleased that the Safeguarding Children in Kent report had been presented to and debated at full CC on 1 April. This was a very valuable document which she hoped would be used by LAs nationally.

2. Ms H Davies confirmed that it was already being used as a working document to shape the work of CSS, who were implementing the report's recommendations.

29. Children In Care Council (CICC) update (oral)

(Item B1)

1. Mr King outlined the process by which a council for the CICC would be elected. All LACs in Kent had been sent ballot papers and were eligible to vote, and good participation was expected. Every candidate's manifesto had been sent out and it was expected that most LACs in Kent would know at least one of the candidates personally, and so would feel engaged in the process.

2. Once the council had been elected and formally appointed, it would decide how and with whom it wished to establish links, although it was expected that CICC would link with KYCC to address issues which were common to both their manifestos.

3. Mr Brightwell added that the CICC would meet four times a year on its own and would decide if and when it wished to invite or meet with the Board or Cabinet Members. In addition to these four meetings, there would be two meetings with those at the KCC who hold level 2 and 3 CP responsibility. Two CICC reps would sit on the Kent CP Group and there would be two seats reserved for CICC reps on the Kent Youth Parliament. He said he was currently very involved in supporting the arrangements, but would step back once the CICC council was established, and the CICC would then be run by Catch 22 and Upfront. He said Scott's post as apprentice was funded by CICC and he hoped that it would be possible to fund a second apprentice post.

4. RESOLVED that the update be noted, with thanks.

30. Housing for Care Leavers *(Item B2)*

1. Mr Hickmott introduced the item and gave Members a copy of the joint protocol which has been prepared with partners. He and Ms H Davies answered questions from Members, highlighting the following:-

- a) it was hoped that the KCC would be able to work more closely with DCs to address the issue of young people leaving care. Past difficulties had arisen around different interpretations of the Southwark judgement;
- b) Members expressed concern about the capacity and resources of the charity Catch 22, as the report recommendations included the review of the KCC's contract with them. Some SWs were known to have a caseload of 25 cases each, which was considered too high. Ms Davies emphasised that all Catch 22 SWs, personal advisors and other staff were fully qualified and had expertise in working with young people leaving care, and that the charity had full control of its budget for finding placements. She added that, although the Board was being asked to support a review of the contract with Catch 22, this review would not take place immediately;
- c) Members requested regular quarterly statistics on the number of young people being supported through transition from care to independent living. Mr Hickmott undertook to supply these;

- d) Mr King pointed out that Catch 22 worked really hard to find suitable housing for young people. He supported Members' concerns about resources. What was difficult, he said, was that when a young person moved to a new area they would go to the bottom of the waiting list for housing;
- e) young people leaving care were entitled to 'floating support' to help them adjust to leaving care and living independently;
- f) Catch 22 were part of a SW practice pilot, which was due to end in March 2012, at which point the government would make a decision about extending it. Members requested an interim evaluation of the pilot;

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the report be noted, and that the Board seek further evaluation regarding meeting the accommodation needs of vulnerable young people;
- b) the Board support the review of the contract with Catch 22 16plus by the Contracts Review Group to establish if the service can be extended to work with homeless young people who become Looked After Children after their 16th birthday, so consideration is given to the expertise of the service being used with this group;
- c) the Board support the consideration of the joint protocols for sign off by the respective management groups, following the Joint Policy and Planning Board in May; and
- d) the Board receive quarterly stats of the number of young people being supported through transition from care to independent living, and an interim evaluation of the pilot of which Catch 22 is part.

31. The Placement of Looked After Children in Kent by Other Local Authorities

(Item B3)

- 1. Mr Brightwell introduced the report and set out key points as follows:-
 - Since the last update in November 09, the number of LACs placed by OLAs had fallen by 42;
 - Kent has the highest LAC population in the UK, with as many being placed by OLAs;
 - the key issue is the impact and pressures on education and health services for Kent's children;
 - Kent had been successful in lobbying government, and the introduction of the Sufficiency duty, a duty on all LAs to commission sufficient LAC placement for own LAC in own area, would help Kent;
 - the situation won't change overnight, and LACs already settled here won't be sent home;

- detail set out in the report shows placement patterns. Some OLAs show a very high level of placement, by many are very low and falling.

2. Mr Brightwell answered a number of questions from Members, and the points highlighted were as follows:-

- a) Kent is not the CP for LAC placed by OLAs; this responsibility remains with the placing authority. Kent works with OLAs to remind them of their CP responsibilities and to see that they meet them;
- b) many LACs placed by OLAs have additional educational needs. The costs of these are not covered by the funding coming with the child so have to be absorbed by Kent. However, SEN statements needs are funded by OLAs;
- c) the approach made to OLAs is important. Kent should offer to help them to address the impact of their level of placements on their own and Kent's LACs;
- d) Members asked to be told what level of funding accompanies a LAC placed by OLA, and Mr Brightwell undertook to advise them of this figure;
- e) Members expressed concern that some children never show up for funding for education needs as they arrive after the start of the school year and leave before the end of year and so are never counted as part of that year's cohort for funding purposes;
- f) the Sufficiency duty was welcomed as it will gradually address the issue and reduce costs to Kent;
- g) IFAs are supported financially by London Boroughs who place children with them, and under the Sufficiency duty, it is important for Kent to work with IFAs to highlight the need to recruit FCs in their own area. Recruitment of FCs in London has always been a challenge, as housing and other costs are so high. The level of placements made in Kent exacerbates the shortage of FCs in Kent and nationwide;
- h) Mr King referred to the damaging effects of moving frequently, and highlighted the behavioural and MH difficulties which often arose from this, which would make a young person more of a challenge for SWs to work with.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the information set out in the report and given in response to Members' questions be noted with thanks;
- b) the issue be kept on the Board's agenda for future meetings so the expected changes in patterns arising from the Sufficiency duty can be identified when they happen; and

- c) The Board reserve the idea of referring the issue to Cabinet in future if it feels it necessary to do so.

32. 'Care to Listen' DVD (Discussion about how the Board wishes to use this)
(Item B4)

1. Mr Brightwell circulated copies of the 'Care to Listen' DVD to all Board Members and commended it to them as a very good quality production. It had been launched in November 2009. The DVD has three parts – about coming into care, being in care and leaving care – and each part contains recommendations. He asked Members to view the DVD and think about how the Board should take forward the recommendations, and which ones in particular they felt most able to support. The CICC would also be taking forward the recommendations in the DVD, and might be presenting it to the full CC. The DVD was also to be used to help train SWs and other professionals.

2. Mr King referred to a draft of a survey which would seek young people's views on KCC's Pledge to children and young people, and he undertook to share this with Mr Brightwell and perhaps add this to a future Board agenda.

3. RESOLVED that an item be placed on the Board's September agenda to cover the feedback on the DVD which had been received from the CICC, and to allow Board Members to give their own feedback and discuss how to use the DVD at future meetings.

33. Kent Safeguarding Children Board (oral update)
(Item B5)

1. Ms P Davies gave an oral update on the prep of the KSCB's annual report. The Annual report would show the KSCB's achievements and how effectively it is working, include statistical data, and outline its main areas for future work. It had identified two areas for focus in the next year: Mental Health and Domestic Violence, and all its partners were signed up to these priorities.

2. The KSCB has a statutory duty to look at all child deaths (of which, there were approx 101 in the last year) but Ms Davies emphasised that this included children who died as a result of premature birth and those who died of illnesses; a very small number of those were children who had died as a result of neglect or mistreatment.

3. The KSCB had established the habit of producing annual reports in the last few years, so had pre-empted the government requirement for annual reports to be produced. This would become a statutory requirement in April 2011.

4. The Annual Report would be reported to the September meeting of the CCB after being reported to the full CC on 2 September 2010.

5. RESOLVED that the info given be noted, with thanks.

34. Update on issues arising from the Safeguarding Children in Kent report
(Item)

1. Ms H Davies gave an oral update on progress on implementing the recommendations of the SCIK report, and set out the following:-
 - The pressure on CSS services identified in the report continue to be a challenge, with an increase in the number of referrals received, the number of children with a Child Protection Plan, and the number of LAC in Kent;
 - SW vacancies were being addressed by the recruitment of a further 55 SWs this summer. The SWs who arrived from the USA in Feb had settled in well, and a further 9 SWs from N Europe had been appointed in Mid Kent;
 - SW assistants will also be recruited, and some existing SWAs have a training route to qualify as SWs. This progression is seen as a good way to reward SWAs, it retains staff who are already committed to the job and grows the staff for the future; and
 - Graduate SWs can undertake 2 years of post graduate training, but the status of an MA requirement for new SWs was not yet clear.
2. Mr King commented that young people he knew who had considered SW as a career had been put off by the long hours and the negative press.
3. Members asked to be informed of the location and spread of SW vacancies by receiving a regular stats item. Ms Davies undertook to prepare an information paper for the Board's next meeting in Sept 2010.

Virtual Head Teacher

In response to a question, Mr Brightwell explained that, although Kent had embraced the concept of a virtual HT, it had been careful to title the role a 'HT for LAC'. This role would be to check what had been done to improve the education outcomes of LAC and help ensure that the KCC met its CP responsibilities. A pilot scheme had been successful elsewhere. The HT for LAC would be a very good person for the CICC council to meet, once established. Members added that it would be very important for the HT for LAC to report regularly to a KCC scrutiny committee.

35. Kay Weiss, Head of Policy and Performance

(Item)

Members noted that today's meeting would have been the last CCB meeting that Mrs Weiss would have attended before taking up her new post as Members agreed that the Chairman write to Mrs Weiss to pass on the Board's thanks and very best wishes in her new post.

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services
Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and
Scrutiny Committee – 29 June 2010

Subject: **KCAS ABANDONMENT RATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report to Members on the level of abandoned calls experienced at Kent Contact & Assessment Service (KCAS) and detail the measures that are in place to mitigate this.

Introduction

1. (1) A review of duty arrangements in 1999 identified that this was provided by over 50 teams across the then twelve social services districts for both Adults and Children's services. There were also separate arrangements for Mental Health, Fostering, YOT and Hospital Teams. This was an issue of concern at the time of the Joint Inspection of Kent Social Services in 2000 by the Audit Commission and the Social Services Inspectorate. A consequent report to the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee agreed proposals to streamline existing duty arrangements with a view to introducing a 'screening' service supported by the KCC County Call Centre by the end of 2001 to improve public access to services, consistency and reduce pressure on staff.

(2) The County Duty Service (CDS) was established in 2002 providing a single unified system. It received contacts and referrals for all social care related matters other than for acute mental health, which has an integrated screening service with the Health Service. CDS was regarded as an innovation, staffed by primarily unregistered staff under the supervision of registered staff with significant operational experience.

(3) It was agreed at the point of disaggregation of Adults and Children's services in April 2006 that the County Duty Service would remain a generic service hosted under KASS with the Out of Hours service hosted by CFE. Both services are located at Kroner House which means that a 24 hr Duty Service operates from a single site.

(4) In July 2009, the County Duty Service changed to become Kent Contact & Assessment Service in preparation for the restructure of KASS in October 2009 to deliver the new system of Self Directed Support. This heralded an intention for KCAS to build on its previous core responsibilities of call handling, provision of information and advice and signposting to the assessment and commissioning of preventative services such as enablement and equipment as well as urgent services. The purpose of this change was to provide a faster service response to people following contact assessment as well as enable local teams to focus on people with more complex needs.

Issue

2. (1) When CDS was established, it was estimated that it would handle 84,000 contacts and referrals per year. This demand has increased year on year. Data evidenced 130,000 contacts and referrals were handled by KCAS during 2009/10, a 14% increase on 2008/09. Business remains predominantly by telephone contact, (approximately 80%) with the remainder by post, fax, e-mail and on-line. A call handling study undertaken in June 2009 established the breakdown of call volumes to be approximately Adults 60% and Children's 40%.

(2) Despite a highly motivated, stable and skilled staff group, this increasing demand has resulted in a level of abandoned calls that has understandably raised concerns about not only public satisfaction but also potential risk related to adult/child protection. It is worth noting therefore that two recent surveys have reported high levels of public satisfaction. Also, that there have not been any issues raised in Serious Case Reviews during the previous three years; this is in respect of both Adults and Children's services.

(3) Notwithstanding the above, it is fully accepted that improvements to the abandoned call rate are required. Detailed below are the key actions that have either been taken already or are planned:

- (a) From April 2010 all activity other than call handling and fast track equipment provision was either ceased or put on hold pending achievement of a significantly improved response rate
- (b) New and enhanced telephony system has been installed which will significantly improve prioritisation of response against type and length of wait as well as enable an automatic feedback to Contact Kent after an agreed length of wait. It also allows for use by staff outside of the KCAS base such as those working in Gateways or flexibility during peak periods.
- (c) Development and training programme is underway to upskill Contact Kent operators to minimise inappropriate referrals to KCAS, deal directly with enquiries for social services lower level Information, Advice and Guidance as well as directly forward enquiries to local teams from people already known to KASS. Two call handling studies during 2009 indicate that this should reduce demand on KCAS by around 35%.
- (d) Process Improvement exercise using internationally recognised approach (LEAN 6 Sigma) commences June 2010 to ensure that business processes are as effective and efficient as possible ie, identify any 'waste' in the system and, if there is any, remove it.

(4) It is encouraging that since April 2010 the abandoned call rate has shown an overall average reduction to 16% per week. There is high expectation that when the measures at 2, 3 and 4 above become fully operational over the coming few months there will be a further significant reduction. Performance with call response/abandonment rate is reported weekly to the responsible SMT officer and the impact of the above actions on this rate is subject to monthly reporting to all of KASS SMT.

(5) Members need to be aware that the current activity and performance by KCAS is supported by £144k investment from the Social Care Reform Grant which will not be available from April 2011. A meeting will shortly be held with colleagues in CFE to discuss future requirements from KCAS by each Directorate, and the appropriate, respective resource requirements to support their delivery. These discussions will be considered in the context of the Access & Assessment Review which is currently being undertaken by Chief Executives Department which includes the relationship between Contact Kent, KCAS and Out of Hours. This report is therefore being shared with the appropriate lead officer in CFE who is similarly required to report to its Members.

Recommendations

Members of the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report.

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Background documents: None

Other Useful Information: None

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From: Helen Davies, Director of Specialist Children's Services

Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education Directorate

To: Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Children, Families & Education Policy Overview Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Subject: Kent Young Carers' Strategy Annual Update

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Report to update Members on the implementation of the Young Carers' Strategy during 2009/10

Introduction

1.1 Kent's Young Carers' Strategy was launched in 2007. The Adult Services Carers' Select Committee considered the strategy and accompanying action plan in 2008 and made a number of recommendations. Action taken in response to these recommendations was reported to the Carers' Select Committee Review in January 2009. It was agreed at this meeting that the Vulnerable Children and Partnership POSC would receive an annual report regarding the implementation of the Young Carers' Strategy.

1.2 Young Carers are now recognised nationally as a group vulnerable to poor outcomes. Locally they are identified as a vulnerable group within the Children and Young People's Plan.

Priority 5

Supporting vulnerable children to improve their life chances including improving the achievement and quality of life for young carers by implementing the Kent Young Carers' Strategy. *Kent CYPP 2008-11*

National Developments

2.1 During the last year central government and associated organisations have produced guidance that indicates how the needs of young carers are best identified and met.

2.2 The 'Think Family' Toolkit lays out process and good practice to improve outcomes for children in families that may be receiving support from a variety of

children's, young people's and adult services. 'Working Together to Support Young Carers - The Local Memorandum of Understanding between the Statutory Directors of Children's Services and Adult Services' is one of the tools issued under the 'Think Family' approach.

2.3 The new Healthy Schools Enhancement Model, using both universal and targeted interventions, has been designed to help schools develop their wider thinking and planning to achieve improved health and well-being outcomes for children and young people. The new guidance includes detailed information on how to identify, support and meet the needs of young carers in school. This guidance reiterates that which has already been made available to Kent schools for the past two years. The formalisation of the need to consider young carers under the Healthy Schools banner is a positive step forward for this vulnerable group.

2.4 Nationally, in recent years, concern has grown regarding the number of young carers who are home educated. The recommendations from the Review of Elective Home Education, which proposed the registering of all home educated children, assessment of the suitability of the home education and subsequent monitoring, featured significantly in the Children Schools and Families Bill 2010. This requirement does not, however, appear in the final Act. Despite this it is likely that future guidance regarding home education will be published. Hopefully, this will provide an additional form of monitoring for those young carers who are educated at home.

2.5 These new initiatives and proposals provide a range of tools to identify young carers, access and monitor their well-being and mainstream support for them in a range of settings.

Activity during 2009/10

3.1 When Kent's Young Carers' Strategy was launched in 2007 it was estimated that there were 2800 young carers in the county. In 2008, there were 600 young carers across the county receiving support. This figure has more than doubled with over 1200 young carers being supported across the county during 2009/10. This support, commissioned currently through the Local Children's Services Partnerships, includes:

- A range of social and recreational activities for young carers including residential weekends, weekly support groups, holiday and weekend activities;
- Activity in more than 130 schools to build awareness of young carers and develop capacity to deliver in school support and identify young carers; and
- Tailored individual support for those young carers most in need.

3.2 Through the Home Access for Targeted Groups Funding, 62 young carers and their families have been provided with a laptop and broadband access for two years. The allocation of laptops has been targeted at the most vulnerable young carers.

3.3 The Youth Capital and Youth Opportunities Fund (administered through the Communities Directorate) provides young people with the opportunity to take an active part in the commissioning process for the services that are designed to support them. Young people are trained as decision makers at a number of events, including residential courses. This year, 25% of the decision makers trained were young carers.

3.4 During this year, three young carers have been supported to stand for election to the Kent Youth County Council. All three were successful and have achieved a position in the council.

3.5 Joint Policy and Protocols between CFE and KASS to meet the needs of young carers were developed last year. These protocols have been reviewed in light of the Memorandum of Local Understanding. Joint training on the Young Carers' Protocols for staff across CFE and KASS is being planned. Currently both Kent Mental Health Trust and KDAAT are looking at adopting these protocols.

3.6 A Young Carers' DVD produced by young carers in the county is being made available to all schools through the Healthy Schools Programme and will be incorporated into training for staff across all agencies.

3.7 As part of KASS monitoring of the implementation of the Adult Carers' Strategy a Carers' Joint Needs Assessment is in development. Lead by KASS, this will monitor needs and activity to support carers across the county and will include an assessment of the needs of young carers.

Consultation with Young Carers

4.1 Kent's Young Carers' Strategy was written following extensive consultation with young carers who identified the key the themes around which the document focuses. During this year, consultation has taken place with young carers to evaluate the impact of the strategy. The consultation, based on the views of 68 young carers across the county (a 10% sample of the 600 known at time of commissioning) identified that:

- Support in school is most important element of the strategy for young carers. 44% of the young carers interviewed had a named worker, but all felt that support in school could be improved. Only 7 young people stated that no-one in school knew about their caring status.

- Young carers see support for the person for whom they care as the major consideration when seeking support for themselves. If the cared for person is not getting the support they need young carers are unlikely to seek or accept support themselves.
- Young carers felt strongly that professionals from both Adult and Children's services, those within schools and in the community still do not understand the role that they undertake. They think more training and information should be made available to them.

Workers aiming to support young carers should identify both their needs and their strengths developing plans to assist them.

4.2 The full consultation is being made available to Local Children's Services Partnership Staff and Children's Social Services District Managers in order that young carers' views may inform and improve local delivery and commissioning of services. The new Preventative Service Managers will lead on this from September 2010 within the new local arrangements.

Next Steps

5.1 Our Joint KASS and CFE Young Carers Protocols (available at <http://knet2/directorates/adult-services/policies-and-procedures/operational-and-sds-policies/carers/young-carers>) identify appropriate routes of referral and support for young carers in Kent. New and emerging government guidance is providing increased clarity as how the needs of young carers should be met in schools and family situations that do not meet the thresholds for statutory intervention.

5.2 Our consultation with young carers provides a positive overview of what has been achieved in the last 2 years. However, the document does provide a salutary reminder that some professionals are unaware of the needs of young carers and that support for them, the person for whom they care and their family remains variable.

5.3 During the next year it will be important to consolidate the work that has already taken place to improve outcomes for young carers. Key to achieving this, within the restructured CFE, will be the mainstreaming of activity as well as responsibility for monitoring and review. Alongside this we must maintain a dialogue with our young carers, ensuring that the issues they have highlighted as most important to them continue to be the focus for improved delivery of services and support. Key areas for future development are given in Appendix 1.

Recommendations:

Members of the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- Approve this report and agree presentation of the report to the next meeting of the Kent Children's Trust Board.

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Background Documents: Kent Young Carers' Strategy

Think Family :
ADSS and ADCS Model of Local Memorandum of
Understanding between the Statutory Directors of
Children's Services.

Other Useful Information: None

Young Carers

Activity 2010/11

Task	Responsible Body	Timescale	Completion Date
Continue dialogue with young carers regarding their needs and outcomes of the recent consultation.	12 Local Children's Trusts and Operational Groups in partnership with the Provider Groups.	December 2010	March 2011
Continue to develop joint working between children's and adults services to ensure that young carers are prevented from engaging in inappropriate caring.	KASS Carers Advisory Group.	Ongoing	Review February 2011
To continue to develop support in school for all young carers ensuring this is linked into the New Healthy Schools Enhancement Model.	Healthy Schools Strategic Group. (This group is currently subject to review.)	Ongoing	Review February 2011
To integrate the Young Carers Protocols within the development of tools to deliver whole family assessments within the county.	Think Family or Parenting Strategy Group. (To be identified as part of CFE restructure)	December 2010	March 2011
Continue to raise awareness with professionals, across all services, regarding the identification and needs of young carers and provides specific training as required.	12 District Operational Groups.	Ongoing	Review 2011

By: Joanna Wainwright, Director of Commissioning and Partnerships Group
Helen Davies, Director of Specialist Children's Services Group

To: Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Subject: **Update on work of parenting team and issues arising**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report gives an update on the work of the parenting team and some of the issues facing the agenda. It also illustrates the nature and funding of the team and risks associated. This paper focuses on the "**parenting programmes and practitioner development**" work strand of the team.

1. Purpose

Priority 3, of the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011, pledges to "Improve parenting by implementing Every Parent Matters and developing more effective multi-agency support and early intervention for families experiencing problems"

This includes:

- Making sure that good quality parenting programmes are available that help parents in their role
- Make sure those families who need more intensive help or have children or young people facing special circumstances get the support they need

The aim of this report is to update the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships POSC on the current work of the parenting team and how we are contributing to this priority. This report also raises sustainability issues for consideration, due to the short term funding attached to the majority of the team and highlights the risks attached.

In addition to the workstream identified in the summary above, the team also works within the 'Think Family' agenda and undertakes the broader implementation of the 'Supporting Parents' strategy. A further update paper will be produced at a later stage on these key activities.

2. Overview of current work

- a) **Training and co-ordination** has taken place for 90 practitioners to train in evidence-based parenting programmes (EBPs), running best practice workshops and co-ordinating joint funded training for additional places. These programmes cover universal, targeted and specialist levels of need. The potential has been created to reach an additional 1350 parents (based on 2 facilitators per programme, 3 programmes a year, with 10 parents on average attending).

- b) **Troubleshooting delivery issues-** Since the introduction of the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP), the parenting team has become involved in organising training for multi-agency staff across Kent for a range of evidence based parenting programmes. Through the monitoring of this process, we have identified the need for clarity in respect of commitments being explicit for staff who have been trained. Now, when the parenting team co-ordinates any training, it is stipulated that managers must sign off training forms and commit to freeing up that member of staff to deliver a minimum of 3 programmes a year.
- c) **Multi-agency Parenting Practitioner Forums** have been established in 22 Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) to co-ordinate local planning and delivery of EBPs. Agencies represented include children's centres, social services, extended schools, the voluntary sector and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). To further improve consistency and co-ordination we have also set up a central practitioners group to ensure that there is a commonality of approach. This group will also give practitioners a role in the overall planning process and help us the central team keep an overview on operational issues, best practice and local challenges. Chairs of the local groups sit on this forum.
- d) **Working with Parents level 3 qualification-** We are piloting the nationally recognised minimum standard for parenting practitioners by commissioning Adult Education to train 30 practitioners in a Level 3 Working with Parents qualification. We are also working with the Children's Centre team and the Children's Workforce Development Council to offer a module of this course to children's centres involvement workers in Kent. 120 workers are already signed up.
- e) **Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP- government funded until March 2011)** We now have 3 dedicated parenting practitioners in Ashford, Maidstone and Shepway who deliver a parenting programme for parents of children aged 8-13 at risk of anti-social behaviour as well as offering one to one support. The team also co-ordinates local delivery.
- f) **"What's On" database for referrers-**This is a county wide web resource for referrers which gives details of the parenting programme availability and referral pathways. This is currently based on Kent Trust Web and links to Children and Families Information Service / Kent Resource Directory.
- g) **Supporting practice and expertise-** We are taking the lead to set up practice support groups for one EBP to support delivery and maintain quality. We intend to offer support for other colleagues to develop similar networks for other programmes.
- h) **Cost-benefit analysis of parenting programmes in Kent-** We have a range of programmes delivered in Kent, some with significant cost implications. We have commissioned a cost-benefit analysis of the most common programmes used. This analysis, when complete, will be shared widely to help commissioners and practitioners analyse cost-effectiveness before they commission, adapt or develop new programmes.
- i) **Impact of parenting programmes on children and young people- data issues-** We have commissioned a business analyst to look at a sample of data pathways into, and out of parenting programmes from a variety of referral points. Information provided so far has reflected that significant data is being collected on parents, often

paper based, but that there is no central system to link back the parenting programme to outcomes for the child. Discussions around system support will be progressed through the ICT board and Management Information.

- j) **Understanding the continuum of support around parents and match appropriate need to intervention.** Staff at all levels need to understand the programmes available, the level of intervention and the issues that they address. Therefore we are developing guidance for staff to match appropriate programmes to presenting need through using a “basket of indicators”.

3. How the team is funded

- a) There are currently 7 (soon to be 8) members of the parenting team including the Supporting Parents Lead officer. The commissioning lead is Jo Hook, supported by Allison Allan, Supporting Parents officer.
- b) The team’s operational work is **grant funded by the Department for Education (DfE) until March 2011** through the ‘Think Family’ grant. We have had no indication that this grant is likely to continue.

The largest proportion of this grant covers the cost of:

- **3 Parenting Early Intervention Programme co-ordinators (KS10)** - Funded to deliver and co-ordinate evidence-based parenting programmes to parents of children aged 8-13 at risk of anti-social behaviour in Ashford, Maidstone and Shepway.
- **1 Senior Parenting co-ordinator (KS10)**. This post, funded by the DCSF, focuses on county development and co-ordination of training and delivery. We are contract-bound to ensure that the postholder delivers programmes to parents.

c) In addition:

- Thanet District Council has a Senior Parenting Practitioner (KS10) funded through the RESPECT agenda, hosted in Kent Safe Schools. This funding also ends in March 2011. The worker is an “associate” member of our parenting team
- We host **1 Speakeasy development worker (KS7 3 days a week)** – funded through the teenage pregnancy partnership until **March 2011**
- We are due to host a **Partners in Literacy project worker (KS10)** funded for a year by the National Literacy Trust to support Family Literacy across Kent .

4. Sustaining delivery to mothers, fathers and carers.

a) In discussion with practitioner fora over the last year, we are clear that areas that are most consistent in delivering the CYPP Priority 3 targets are those that have a dedicated member of staff who co-ordinates and delivers evidence-based parenting programmes. Currently, these areas are Ashford, Maidstone, Shepway and Thanet.

b) Amongst other activities, these practitioners

- Ensure the continuous delivery of evidence-based parenting programmes and develop the continuum of support for families in need;

- Support and co-ordinate other colleagues to deliver programmes;
 - Work with a wide range of partners to understand the role, complexity, type and suitability of parenting programmes in that locality; and
 - Address gaps in delivery for vulnerable groups – for examples, deaf parents, dads, prisoners.
- c) In areas other than those mentioned above, staff with the “parenting” lead report difficulties with the lack of resources to deliver consistently, the time to administer and co-ordinate the delivery of programmes and the availability of trained multi-agency partners to work in partnership. Resources are being shared locally to enable, as far as possible, a consistent level of service delivery to families.
- d) Should funding be sustained after March 2011, proposals can be developed on how to maximise the existing resources for countywide benefit. If funding is not sustained, we will need to agree what our “service model” will look like in line with the Early Intervention/Preventative strategy to ensure that our service to families is sustained and can improve. Further options can be developed that include how multi agency practitioners can be co-ordinated and supported to deliver a continuum of programmes. The service model will also be explored through discussions around the parenting joint commissioning plan.
- e) Should funding be found to continue any aspects of the current operational delivery post March 2011, consideration will need to be given to positioning them within Specialist Children’s Services.

5. Central capacity

- a) Currently, our “Senior Parenting Co-ordinator” is the only dedicated central resource for parenting. The co-ordinator organises training, supports practitioner fora and advises on programme quality, workforce development and effectiveness
- b) If we lose this resource, we have the ability to pick up some of this work using the Supporting Parents Officer but will need to work through others to tackle broader areas covered in the ‘Supporting Parents’ strategy such as parental involvement in learning, family learning, support to and engagement of extended family, inclusion and engagement of fathers etc.

Recommendations

Members of the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to

- note the good progress that has been made by the parenting team;
- be aware that the current grant funding reductions may require a review of existing services.

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By: Joanna Wainwright, Director Commissioning and Partnerships Group
Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families & Education Directorate
Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education Directorate

To: Vulnerable Children and Partnerships- Children, Families & Education Policy Overview Committee

Date: 29th June 2010

Subject: New Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts and the Children and Young People's Plan

Classification: *Unrestricted*

Summary: This report updates Members on the new statutory guidance for Children's Trusts and the Children and Young People's Plan and Kent's response.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The Kent Children's Trust (KCT) is a key mechanism to deliver Kent County Council's priorities for children, young people and families and to help develop economic and community regeneration. The KCT Board is a sub group of the Kent Partnership and contributes to the delivery of the Vision for Kent and local area agreement targets. The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the Children's Trust agreement and priorities to improve outcomes for Kent children, young people and families by working in partnership. A new plan is to be developed to cover the period from April 2011 - 2014.
- 1.2** The Kent Children's Trust is underpinned by existing legislation including The Children Act 2004. These requirements are now further developed through the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act which received royal assent in November 2009. New Statutory Guidance was published in March 2010 to underpin the legislation.

At their meeting on 31st March 2010 Members requested an overview of the new statutory guidance and an update on the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan.

2. Role of the Local Authority in children's trust arrangements

The new government have affirmed their support to:

- Strengthen families – taking a whole-family approach;
- Empower communities
- Tackle child poverty
- Support Children's Centres and early intervention for the neediest families

These ambitions will require a strong partnership approach across children's services. The Children's Trust is well placed to carry forward these ambitions whether or not it is retained on a statutory footing.

Kent County Council is responsible for "setting up and maintaining the cooperation and partnership arrangements which comprise the Children's Trust"¹. The Director of Children's Services (Rosalind Turner) and the Lead Member (Mrs Hohler) both have statutory functions in ensuring that the Children's Trust partnership fulfils the requirements contained in the new guidance. This leadership role needs to be exercised in a way which enables partner agencies to contribute and participate fully, developing a sense of ownership and commitment to the development of a shared strategy to improve outcomes for children through the Children and Young People's Plan.

3. New legislation and statutory guidance:

- 3.1** The new guidance replaces "Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on interagency cooperation to improve the well-being of children, young people and their families" (2008) and "Children and Young People Plan Guidance" (2009). The changes, listed below, seek to strengthen partnership arrangements across children's services.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009 builds on Children Act 2004 by:

- Requiring every area to have a Children's Trust Board.
- Transferring responsibility for preparing Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) from the local authority to the Children's Trust Board.
- Requiring the Children's Trust Board to monitor CYPP implementation.
- Extending range of statutory Children's Trust partners to include schools, FE and sixth form colleges and JobCentre Plus. (This took effect from January 2010)

¹ DCSF Statutory guidance on cooperation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan, March 2010.

4. Developing a new CYPP

4.1 The first new style CYPP must be published by April 2011 and provides an excellent opportunity to refocus partnership energy and resources on the areas of highest need for Kent children and families. The KCT review highlighted a number of strengths in the current CYPP and identified areas for improvement to be addressed in the development of the next plan as including:

- Clarify accountability and improve understanding across all partners and at all levels of the children's trust.
- Ensure outcomes in the CYPP are systematically translated into multi-agency commissioning plans.
- Strengthen joint commissioning arrangements to deliver improvements in line with the CYPP.
- Share more resources across partners to deliver CYPP priorities.

A timetable for developing the new CYPP is set out in Appendix 2. Regular reports on the development of the plan will be provided to Cabinet, POSC and the final plan will be agreed by the County Council.

4.2 Key stages in developing a new CYPP

Stage 1 – Needs assessment

Key to the development of the new CYPP is a comprehensive and detailed needs assessment drawing on an extensive analysis of multi agency data and intelligence including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of children's health; the poverty needs assessment and most importantly the views of children, young people and their families. The model and methodology for the Kent's needs assessment was agreed by the Kent Children's Trust Board in March.

A preliminary list of seven areas of greatest need has been identified where evidence suggests there is significant unmet need for children and young people growing up in Kent:-

- Emotional and Mental Health
- Healthy start in life
- Safeguarding
- Primary aged children's learning
- Adolescent engagement
- Housing /accommodation
- Family Poverty

Further work is underway to explore these areas of greatest need and to test out with all stakeholders before proceeding to the next stage.

Stage 2 – Prioritisation

Building on the analysis through the needs assessment, the KCT Board will identify the high level cross cutting priorities to improve outcomes in these areas of need during 2001 – 2014. The prioritisation process will be led by the KCT Executive Commissioning Group who will work with other key partnership and expert groups to identify key priorities for action. Most notably this will include the Kent Safeguarding Children Board and other sub groups of the Kent Partnership.

During 2010, the Kent Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement will also be reviewed and the new CYPP will both inform and be informed by work running concurrently across these three areas of work.

As the lead partner for the Kent Children’s Trust, Cabinet will be fully engaged in the development of priorities for the next CYPP and the final plan will be agreed by County Council.

Stage 3 Joint Commissioning Plans

Learning from the experience of implementing the current CYPP, the KCT Board have agreed that priorities in the new CYPP should be underpinned by joint commissioning plans to ‘turn aspiration into real action’. These commissioning plans will draw together and focus the collective efforts of partners to provide a ‘total place’ approach to the delivery of CYPP priorities.

5. Developing a ‘total place’ approach at local level

The CYPP will provide a framework for local integrated delivery across the 12 Local Children’s Trust district areas. It is envisaged that the new CYPP will set out the county-wide strategy and priorities, followed by 12 district sections setting out the key needs of children and young people and families in that area, and the key targets to improve outcomes. This is consistent with the approach being proposed by the Kent Partnership for the new Sustainable Communities Plan and supports a total place approach at the local level.

6. Consultation and engagement

In addition to the formal consultation period involving all stakeholders and partners there will be ongoing engagement and involvement with children, young people and families throughout the whole process.

7. CYPP Development and Approval Processes

All partners will need to ensure through their governance and budget processes that their agency are fully committed to the CYPP priorities and that the resources to deliver the joint commissioning plans are included within their budgetary cycles. At their meeting on 5th May Cabinet agreed the approval process and timetable for the CYPP. Members will be fully engaged in the development of the CYPP and the final draft will be approved by County Council in February 2011.

8. Recommendations

Recommendations:

Members of the Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Children, Families and Education Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

Agree to receive further reports on the development of Kent Children's Trust and the new Children and Young People's Plan.

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Background Documents: None

Other Useful Information: None

Headlines from the new guidance:

The Children's Trust Board becomes a statutory body with responsibility for developing the Children and Young People's Plan and monitoring its implementation.

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will be the agreed joint strategy of the partners in the Children's Trust on how they will co-operate to improve children's well-being (the five outcomes).

The Children's Trust Board will:

- Have a specific function - to develop the CYPP
- Monitor the implementation of the CYPP
- Prepare an annual progress report on implementation

The Children's Trust Board develops and monitors the Plan – but does not deliver it or manage the partnerships – this is the role of individual agencies.

The statutory partners:

- Must be represented on the Children's Trust Board
- Must have regard to any statutory guidance
- Are under "duty to co-operate"
- Can pool staff, money and other resources with local authority and/or any other statutory partner

New CYPPs must include arrangements by Board partners for:

- Reducing effects of child poverty
- A workforce strategy (training and development of the children's workforce) to deliver priorities
- Early intervention and preventative action
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Agreeing key actions for children with special education needs, disabilities and looked after children
- How it will work with families including links with adult services
- LAA targets relevant to CYP
- Performance management

By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Vulnerable Children and Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee
29 June 2010

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates Members on the progress of the Select Committee on Extended Services.

Select Committee: Extended Services (previously titled Extended Schools)

1. (1) The Select Committee on Extended Services is continuing with its evidence gathering and visits and is still on target to present its report to County Council in December 2010.

(2) Regular update reports will be submitted to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSCs) to keep Members informed of the progress of the Select Committee.

Suggestions for Select Committee Topic Reviews

2. At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board on 24 February 2010 Members received an update on the current Select Committee topic review programme. Although resources to support reviews are all currently allocated, there would be the potential to start new reviews in November 2010 and January 2011. It was agreed that Members would be asked to consider whether there are any topics that they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future topic review programme. If Members do have any suggestions could they contact the Democratic Services Officer for this POSC.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to; note the progress of the Select Committee on Extended Services, advise the Democratic Services Officer of any items that they would like to suggest for inclusion in the Select Committee topic review programme and note the report.

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Background Information: *Nil*

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