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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