

Kent Children's Trust Strategic Review 2011

Summary of Children's Trust arrangements in local authorities

1. Purpose and scope of survey

The aim of this survey was to establish the status of Children's Trust arrangements across a range of local authorities' including Kent's statistical neighbours, to inform decision making about the development of Children's Trust arrangements in Kent.

The small scale survey has included 24 local authorities to date and has focussed on 4 key questions:

1.	Is the main Children's Trust Board continuing? If not describe what group would be taking forward the Children's Trust agenda?
2.	Are there any Local Children's Trust arrangements? And if so will they be continuing?
3.	Is the Children's Trust producing a new Children and Young People's Plan?
4.	Has the relationship with the Health and Well-Being Boards been established?

2. Context

In November 2010 the DfE announced proposed changes to the legislation and regulations regarding Children's Trusts and CYPPs.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0066362/more-freedom-and-flexibility-a-new-approach-for-childrens-trust-boards-children-and-young-peoples-plans-and-the-duty-to-cooperate>

The overall aim of these changes was to give more freedom to local authorities to design partnership arrangements that most suited the local context. The statutory duty to cooperate from The Children Act 2004 remains the basis for these local partnerships led by Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members.

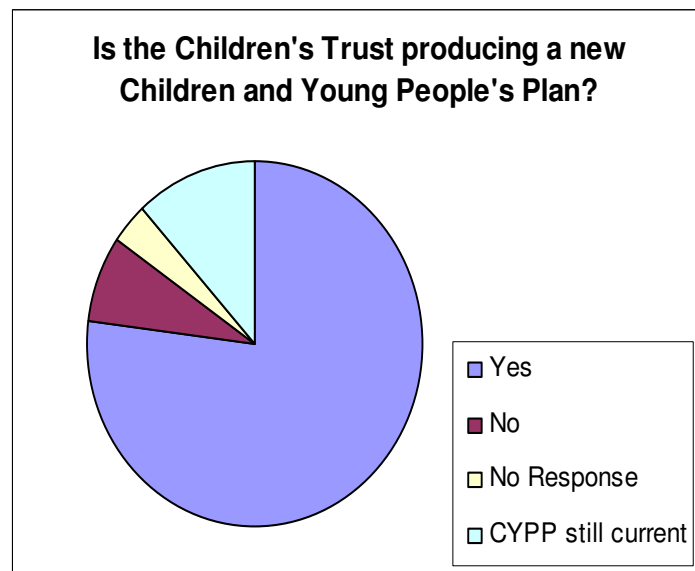
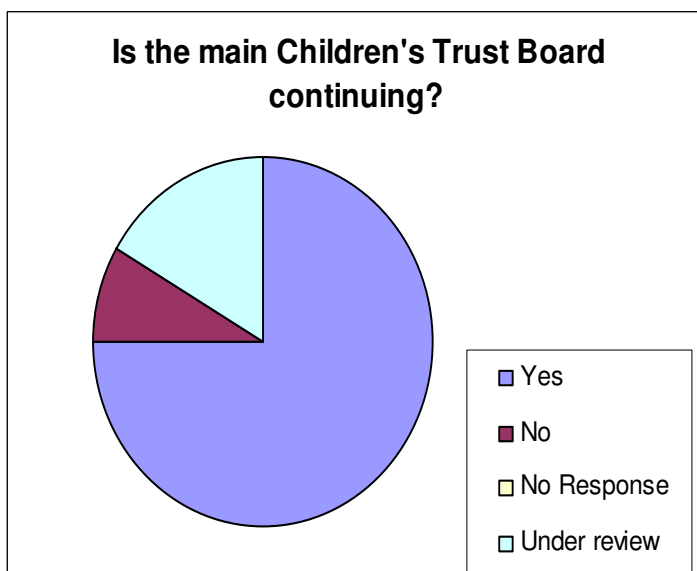
"Partnership working gets results. We have no plans to remove this sensible principle, enshrined in the 'duty to cooperate' (section 10 of The Children Act 2004) from legislation. Local authorities should continue to lead partnership arrangements that make sense for local people and services."

DfE Announcement 2010

3. Key findings

Most local authorities approached are taking the opportunity provided by the Government changes to review their Children's Trust arrangements. This survey has been undertaken whilst many local reviews are in progress and therefore new arrangements are still being developed. It is too early therefore to describe the range of 'new' Children's Trust arrangements emerging across the country. There are however some recurring themes reported through our survey;

- 3.1 All authorities approached planned to retain a distinctive strategic partnership focussed on children and young people.
- 3.2 There is a general shift towards smaller, streamlined partnership groups rather than large Boards at strategic levels.
- 3.3 The new partnership arrangements are being re-focused on children and young people in need and requiring early intervention.
- 3.4 The governance of the new arrangements is generally linked to the local strategic partnership which in most local authorities is also subject to review.
- 3.5 Not all authorities have operated more localised partnerships for example around schools or districts, however where they have these arrangements are being continued.
- 3.6 The links between the Children’s Trust Partnership and the new Health and Well-Being Boards has been acknowledged by all the local authorities approached, however firm relationships have not yet been established.
- 3.7 All local authorities are retaining a CYPP in some form setting out shared priorities for children’s services; however these are very localised with no common format.
- 3.8 There is a strong emphasis on joint working around a small number of shared priorities.



These findings are consistent with the EMIE research “Children’s Trust Boards; What has changed?” which was based on information collected between December 2010 and February 2011.

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/emie/detail.asp?id_content=55&id_category=6&id_ref=8296&detail=news


Appendix 1 details the individual responses from the local authorities who have responded to date.

*Joy Ackroyd
Kent Children’s Trust Partnership Manager
21st June 2011*

Survey of Children's Trust arrangements in Local Authorities

1. Survey of Kent's' Statistical neighbours

	County	1. Is the main Children's Trust Board continuing? If not describe what group would be taking forward the Children's Trust agenda?	2. Are there any Local Children's Trust arrangements? And if so will they be continuing?	3. Is the Children's Trust producing a new Children and Young People's Plan?	4. Has the relationship with the Health and Well-Being Boards been established?
1.	Kent (correct as at June 2011)	Currently under review however partners have expressed a strong commitment to continued joined working.	Yes , in September 2010 introduced 12 LCTs linked to the 12 Districts. The new LCTs take forward the work of the previous 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships and school clusters. 12 LCTs are lead by Independent Chairs.	Yes , a slimmer, streamlined plan to provide a strategic framework for decision making.	Yes , shadow Health & Wellbeing Board established and links to KCT are being considered.
2.	East Sussex	Yes - chaired by Lead Member for Children's Services.	Yes - five co-terminus with District/Borough boundaries and called Children's Services Planning Groups. Under these five groups are sub-groups (22 in total) which are called Local Partnerships for Children clustered around secondary schools or groups of schools and often chaired by Headteachers. Each sub-group has a specific task and these arise out of guidance on the range of themes required. They each have a tiny budget but are not commissioning bodies.	Yes - the new CYP Plan for 2011-2014 is almost ready - with an appendix for the workforce strategy.	No response received.

3.	Essex	Yes , called 'Children's Joint Strategic commissioning Group'	Yes we have five local children's delivery and commissioning boards (LCCDBs) – coterminous with our PCT current arrangement	Not a CYPP but have produced a commissioning strategy with priorities and each of the local boards have produced commissioning plans with commissioning intentions.	Yes the Children's joint Strategic Commissioning Group is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.  Z:\Global\SHQ\ED Policy\SPPDS Unit\KEI
4.	Lancashire (Correct as at December 2010)	We are working toward our Children's Trust merging with the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Maintaining the existing 12 local groups linked with the 12 District boundaries.	Yes	See answer to question 1.
5.	Northamptonshire	Yes , in Northamptonshire the Children's Trust Board has agreed that it will continue and it is formally incorporated into the Partnership arrangements for the county.	The Trust have a Section 10 pooled budget arrangement and partners have committed to continue to contribute to the budget for 2011/12 and the formal agreement remains unchanged. In addition there is a piece of work currently being undertaken jointly with the LSCB and SOVA about pooling partnership resources to have a single integrated business management function for the Children's Trust and Safeguarding Boards.	Yes , we have agreed a 2011/12 Children's Plan which will be a one year plan to reflect a previously agreed ambition to meet certain aspirations by 2012.	Discussions are currently in progress about how the Trust will relate to the Health and Wellbeing Board once established. Initial views are that it should be a sub-function of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a specific focus on children, young people and families.

6.	Staffordshire	Currently under review. On the 28.03.11 the Staffordshire Children's Trust Board made several recommendations, including that they would no longer meet, and the current Children's Trust Executive be reviewed and expanded with links into the Health and Wellbeing Board, for more information please log onto: http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/countytrustboard/ and look at the meeting's minutes	No , all 8 of the District Trust Boards have been 'dissolved' and subsumed into other new/existing local partnership arrangements, to find out more, please log onto: http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/districtandboroughtrustboards/ to see how each one has changed	Yes , a Children & Young People's Strategic Action Plan has been produced for 2011-12 and can be found at: http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cypp/	This is still being developed.
7.	Warwickshire	Yes	Yes , we have 5 Area partnership groups	Yes , our CYPP is being worked on currently with a view to updating as opposed to reproducing it.	In the process of being established.
8.	Worcestershire	Yes . All the partners on the CT Board were keen to continue and meetings are always well attended	Yes , we are in the process of setting up Local Children's Partnerships (LCP), in each of our 6 local areas (districts). These will act as local commissioners for local services for children and young people – the first of which will be the Youth Services Positive Activities funding, (subject to Cabinet approval in May 2011). They will also be involved in developing a Local 'Youth Offer'. This will be effective from April 2012 with the next 12 months being our transition period to ensure the LCPs are fit for purpose.	Yes and this will continue to be monitored by the Children's Trust and included in the Local Commissioning arrangements. The Child Poverty Strategy runs throughout our new Plan.	In the process of being established.



2. Survey of other Local Authorities:

	County	1. Is the main Children's Trust Board continuing? If not describe what group would be taking forward the Children's Trust agenda?	2. Are there any Local Children's Trust arrangements? And if so will they be continuing?	3. Is the Children's Trust producing a new Children and Young People's Plan?	4. Has the relationship with the Health and Well-Being Boards been established?
1.	Birmingham	Yes	No local trusts in place	Yes, a simple and brief statement of partners priorities for children and young people	In hand - there is dialogue between both and recognition that both will revisit roles as the HWB remit becomes clearer
2.	Coventry	Yes	Yes - the Children's Commissioning Board will continue to function in the same way. We are currently reviewing our outcome groups, and asking them to focus on fewer priorities.	Yes, we are looking to produce a smaller Children's Plan focused on fewer priorities	No - a shadow board has been established but we have not yet agreed how to link in with the children's agenda.
3.	Dudley	Currently under review. Partners will be considering this over the next few months. However, they have already expressed a strong commitment to partnership working.	Yes, Township Groups in Central & North Dudley continue. Township groups in Stourbridge, Haleowen and Brierley Hill are on hold pending decisions relating to question 1.	Yes.	Under discussion.
4.	Durham	Yes, but the County Durham Children's Trust is being reviewed	Yes 10 Local Children's Boards which will be working through integrated service hubs operational from September 2011	Yes currently developing shared priorities for improved outcomes.	Is being considered as part of a review of thematic partnerships in Durham.

5.	Hampshire	<p>Yes, Hampshire Children's Trust will continue to represent a wide range of partners and publish a strategic plan. The new Children's Trust model consists of:</p> <p>The Children's Trust Board: the key strategic group, with responsibility for developing the vision and direction for the Trust, including the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP);</p> <p>The Business Group: responsible for managing the day-to-day functions of the Children's Trust, in accordance with priorities set out in the CYPP. This includes planning, performance management and oversight of resources.</p>	<p>Yes, 18 Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs): the 'delivery arm' of Hampshire Children's Trust at a local level. Based upon direct involvement from all schools and partners in an area, they are key to improving a wide range of outcomes (both educational and social) for children and young people. LCPs support implementation of the priorities of the CYPP through local delivery plans.</p>	See answer 1	
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6.	Herefordshire	<p>Yes, The Board is continuing but under a new banner and with new governance arrangements. All this is in the context of our LSP moving to 9 locality partnerships. All our CT subgroups have finished (based around the 5 ECM outcomes). The new CT Board will have membership from all the "duty to co-operate" partners plus others to represent the other groups above - also schools, colleges, GPs, members of our yp shadow board etc</p>	<p>No didn't have any but would expect there to be some development with the 9 locality partnerships so they have a cyp input to them. (see answer to question 1)</p>	<p>Yes, it's slimmed right down and we're just finalising it. We have 4 priorities. We are asking partners to pledge support to these priorities and are coming up with a menu of pledges for them to sign up to. Our new CT Board will be responsible for overseeing delivery of the plan, holding partners to account, removing barriers etc</p>	<p>Relationship being monitored. The DCS and DPH sit on this and also sit on the CT Board so there are links but nothing formalised as yet.</p>
7.	Hertfordshire	<p>No, the main Children's Trust Board (it is an Executive in Herts) is not continuing. We had our last Executive meeting in May and we will be taking forward the Children's Trust agenda through a Strategic Commissioning Group for Children's Services. This will include Health and Police, GP and Head teacher reps and will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We will have three children's commissioning groups reporting to the Strategic Commissioning Group. These are 'Early Intervention', 'Children with complex needs',</p>	<p>We have had local District Children's Trust Partnerships, which have reported to the Local Strategic Partnerships, not the Children's Trust. It will be a local decision whether these continue or not in the future.</p>	<p>Yes, we have produced a CYPP for 2011/12, and are now reviewing the new planning framework needed in future. The new framework will need to take a more resource driven approach across all partners.</p>	<p>Yes, the relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board has been established, and the first meetings will take place in July. See answer to question 1.</p>

		'Children living away from home'.			
8.	London Borough of Barnet	<p>Yes, we have chosen to retain our Children's Trust Board. In the challenging financial climate it is more important than ever that partner agencies work closely together and plan jointly to reduce any duplication, maximise resources, and ensure that services are appropriately targeted.</p> <p>The Trust Board, which Cllr Andrew Harper chairs, contains as before, senior representatives from the police, health, schools and further education, together with my colleague, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and the independent chairman of Barnet Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	No Response.	<p>Yes, we have chosen to continue publishing a plan in order to support partnership working. The strategic priorities within the Children and Young People Plan were developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including local health services, the police, the voluntary sector, schools, young people, as well as the Council, and were agreed by Cabinet for the three year period 2010/11 to 2012/13. The actions under these strategic objectives are being refreshed for 2011/12 with input from partner agencies.</p>	No Response.

9.	London Borough of Tower Hamlets -	<p>Yes, have recently reviewed our Trust arrangements, and agreed locally that we still need a partnership arrangement in place. However, we have streamlined our structure and are better able to respond to national and local change. We have also changed the name of the partnership to the Children and Families Partnership and are currently reviewing our terms of reference</p>  <p>Z:\Global\SHQ\ED Policy\SPPDS Unit\KEI Z:\Global\SHQ\ED Policy\SPPDS Unit\KEI</p>	No	No response.	No response.
10.	Oxfordshire	Yes	Yes, we have three Children's Trust regional boards (+an Executive Group) all continuing although attendance is reduced at the moment	<p>We are on year 2 of our existing plan - see Oxfordshire workforce strategy.</p>  <p>Z:\Global\SHQ\ED Policy\SPPDS Unit\KEI</p>	Early days with Health and Well-Being Boards - Oxfordshire is a pilot area.
11.	Sandwell	Yes, at present our CT Board is continuing, pending further work to determine the role, size and scope of the H&WB Board. We have always had a close relationship with the H&WB Board in its previous design.	No.	Yes, we have just agreed a new plan, on the basis that partners still wanted to express their joint ambition for Children and Families. I have attached the final draft for you.	Currently Members feel that the CTB gives a wider cohesive view of the needs of families and children, which they felt would be subsumed if part of a wider H&WB function

12.	Shropshire	No County Board, but an Executive Group continues to operate.	No.	Yes.	Under discussion.
13.	Solihull	Unclear - DCS and V&CS wants to continue in some form but schools are looking for alternative approach. Sub groups all on hold and Board not meeting until end of June when it will reflect on partner consultations about next steps.	No.	No - pending discussion about future arrangements	Not yet, although discussion is underway. Concern that agenda will be adult focused.
14.	Stoke-on-Trent	Yes, the Trust Board is now a CYP Strategic Partnership Board. New governance arrangements for the partnership have been agreed	No response.	Yes, our plan runs until 2013, it will be refreshed annually	A link will be established
15.	Surrey	Yes, The Surrey Alliance (our version of Children's Trust) is continuing but slimmed down. It is impacted by the continuing uncertainty of our PCT arrangements in Surrey.	Yes, 4 area children's committees being established	It plans to do so but no CYP at present.	No. But we are keeping separate DCS and DAS with adults taking lead on health integration.

16.	West Sussex	<p>Yes, the CT is being reviewed. The CT has been a strong and enthusiastic strategic partnership and delivered positive outcomes through the Children and Young People's Plan (2010-15). An options paper is being presented to the CT Executive in July to propose options of disbanding it, continuing to operate as it is or to remodel into a Think Family Partnership. This will focus on early intervention and prevention and focus not only on children and young people but also their families.</p>	<p>Yes, there are children and young people's forums which are based on the district and borough boundaries. These are facilitated through the district and boroughs and their future is dependent on those operating at a local level. Health and Wellbeing Hubs at a local level are being set up and therefore, the CYPF need to assess their future role in light of this.</p>	<p>The CT produced a CYPP from 2010-15 which is still current and being performance monitored by the CT Executive. There will be no plans to develop a new strategy.</p>	<p>Not yet, this is under current discussion.</p>
17.	Wolverhampton	<p>Yes, 1. An independent LSCB will sharpen it's focus on core Safeguarding business, challenge the CTB as before on safeguarding across the partnership with annual reporting to the HWBB as a minimum; 2. A CTB and/or Children's Executive Group is essential to drive forward the Children's agenda as is a robust, costed and monitored CYPP - we are currently developing the CYPP</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>Yes, we have six priorities for our new CYPP 2011-14 and it looks likely that progress will be driven by three sub-boards of the CTB - multi-agency of course like the H&WBB and LSCB - linking together complementary priorities. We will, of course, make good use of Task- & Finish groups to drive specific work areas.</p>	<p>The Shadow HWBB includes the Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. has oversight of the governance and partnership arrangements for both Adults and Children's safeguarding b. will receive progress reports on the CYPP and c. will review the future and role of the CTB as part of it's Forward Plan - although its not clear for the moment when it will do that.

		implementation plan whose progress will be monitored by the CTB. The City Council Cabinet will receive an annual report from the CTB; there are no current plans for this to go through the HWBB.			
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