

By: *Marilyn Hodges, Director Strategy, Policy and Performance*

To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee -
15 November 2007

Subject: KENT CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

Classification: Unrestricted

File Ref:

Summary: This paper sets out progress made in developing Kent's children's trust arrangements and highlights workforce and other issues related to this significant programme of change.

Introduction

1. (1) The development of children's trust arrangements is part of a national programme of change to improve outcomes for children and young people in line with the Every Child Matters (ECM) framework. This outcomes framework sets out the government's intention that all children should:

- (a) Be healthy
- (b) Stay safe
- (c) Enjoy and achieve
- (d) Make a positive contribution, and
- (e) Achieve economic wellbeing.

(2) Through the Children Act 2004 (section 10) the following services have a duty to cooperate to improve outcomes through effective children's trust arrangements:

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

Children's trust arrangements should also ensure that the voluntary and community sector are actively engaged in improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

(3) As the Children's Services Authority Kent County Council has a lead role to ensure that services comply with this duty and the arrangements for integrated planning and delivery are effective. Accountability for children's services rests with the Children's Services Authority and is secured through the Director of Children's Services, and the lead elected member. A governance framework is being developed to ensure that children's trust arrangements operate within clear structures for accountability and scrutiny.

Background

2 (1) The ECM framework describes children's trusts as ' a set of arrangements across children's services to provide integrated working at all levels, from planning to delivery, with a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people'. The need for better planning, working and communication between children's services was highlighted in Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Through the Children Act 2004 children's trusts are put forward to address the fragmentation between services and to ensure that health, social care, education and other key agencies work better together to improve wellbeing and life chances for all children with a particular focus on vulnerable children.

(2) All Local Authorities are expected to develop effective children's trust arrangements by 2008. It is understood, however, that integrated planning and working across children's services is a long term development agenda. This was highlighted in findings from the national evaluation of local authority children's trust pathfinders published in March 2007. The national evaluation indicates that children's trust arrangements have:

- (a) acted as a catalyst for more integrated approaches across traditional service boundaries,
- (b) enabled joined up approaches to workforce development and training,
- (c) reported early indications of improving outcomes, and
- (d) highlighted the complexity of change management in children's services provision.

Progress in Kent

3. (1) Kent established the Kent Children's Trust (KCT) County Board in September 2006. The KCT County Board meets the requirements of the Children's Act 2004 and operates as a directly linked working group of the Kent Partnership. Membership of the KCT County Board is set out on appendix one.

(2) The KCT County Board has agreed the Kent Children and Young People Plan: Positive about our Future (CYPP) as the single overarching plan for children's services in Kent. This plan has recently been reviewed and reported as part of the Annual Review for the Children, Families and Education Directorate 2006/07.

(3) It has been agreed that there will be one set of children's trust arrangements in Kent including county and local dimensions. The vision is of streamlined and strategic county arrangements with a focus on commissioning improved outcomes for children and young people delivered through a network of local children's trust arrangements. Kent is investing in strong local arrangements to ensure that integrated planning and delivery is responsive to local need and built on meaningful engagement with children, young people, families and local communities.

Local children's trust arrangements

4. (1) The KCT County Board has committed to developing local children's trust arrangements (LCT) across Kent from September 2008. LCT pathfinders are operating across Kent based on the geography of the school clusters in:

- Shepway urban and rural
- Tunbridge Wells, and
- Maidstone cluster 2

(2) The pathfinders were asked to:

- (a) Establish a local partnership board.
- (b) Develop a shared understanding of local needs, issues and priorities using multi agency and 'new' data sources including MOSIAC community profiles.
- (c) Agree a local children and young peoples plan within the framework of the Kent CYPP.
- (d) Ensure the participation of children, young people and parents and or carers.

(3) An interim evaluation of LCT pathfinders was presented to the KCT County Board in July 2007. The purpose of the evaluation was to enable the sharing of knowledge, learning and experience from the pathfinder localities. The evaluation does not set out a preferred model for local children's trust arrangements; this model will be developed through further consultation and be agreed through KCC and the KCT County Board.

(4) The evaluation report highlights learning in the following areas:

- Planning and commissioning
- Engagement of schools
- Integrated processes
- Integrated teams
- Participation of children and young people
- Engagement of parents
- Working with the voluntary and community sector
- Communications

The full evaluation report is available at

http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/lct_evaluationreport.cfm

Integrated processes

5. (1) The government are requiring local authorities to implement a range of integrated working processes to facilitate information sharing, integrated working and 'joined up' support for children, young people and families. These processes include:

- (a) Common Assessment Framework
- (b) Lead professional function
- (c) Resource Directory
- (d) ContactPoint, previously known as Information Sharing Index

(2) Kent has established a multi agency Project Board to manage the introduction of these new processes and project managers have been appointed to coordinate training and implementation. Approximately 6,000 staff across children's services will be trained in the common assessment framework and the lead professional function during 2007/08.

Children's Health

6. The vision for children's trust arrangements in Kent includes developing a radical partnership with both Kent Primary Care Trusts. A new children's health commissioning team has recently been established within KCC, CFE Directorate to reflect the commitment to improving health for all children and young people and reducing health inequalities for vulnerable groups. Through the Kent CYPP the KCT County Board is committed to integrated commissioning of child health services to improve health outcomes.

Workforce development

Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy

7. (1) The Strategy was also discussed by the Personnel Committee of the County Council in September 2007, who were especially interested in accountability and performance management of the multi-agency workforce at a local level. They also asked for any review of the strategy to take into account the interests of service users more explicitly, not just those of the workforce, and in particular how we provide a single point of contact for parents.

(2) In the meantime we are addressing the priorities of the strategy for 2007-8:

- (a) Commission multi-agency training on Every Child Matters, including support for Common Assessment Framework, Lead Professional and Contact Point.
- (b) Clarify the function of the Lead Professional through staff training.
- (c) Mapping of the existing Qualifications Framework for the whole children's workforce to support retention and career development.
- (d) Build structures and systems to enable multi-agency collaboration on workforce issues.
- (e) Support for continued development of the Early Years Workforce.
- (f) Consultation with children, young people and parents on workforce issues.
- (g) Priority recruitment and retention problems to receive collaborative approach.
- (h) Remove recruitment blocks and support retention.
- (i) Review "grow your own professionals" schemes to support workforce supply in Kent.

(j) Gain agreement on joint professional values to support integrated working.

(3) While there is an expectation that all the agencies pool their resources to address workforce needs, it will be necessary for Kent County Council as lead agency for children's services to continue to provide resources to support this work over the next 2-3 years.

Joint Area Review

8. The Joint Area Review (JAR) of children's services in Kent will assess how effectively KCC and partners work together to improve outcomes for children and young people and the development of children's trust arrangements in Kent will be scrutinised as part of this inspection.

Recommendations

9. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

(a) Note this report and agree to further updates at future meetings

Officer Name: Joy Ackroyd
Title: Trust Development Manager
Contact telephone number: 01622 696031
E-mail address: joy.ackroyd@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents:

- *National Evaluation of Children's Trust Pathfinders*
http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/kct_national_CT.cfm
- *Towards Local Children's Trust Arrangements; Guidance for the LCT pathfinders*
http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/lct_pathfinders.cfm
- *Local Children's Trust Pathfinders Evaluation Report*
http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/Children/lct_evaluationreport.cfm

Appendix 1

Kent Children's Trust County Board Membership

| Name and Job Title | Agency |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Badman, Graham Chair of Kent Children's Trust, Director Children, Families & Education | Managing KCC, CFE |
| Wells, Chris Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Educational Standards CFE Lead Member for Children's Trust Arrangements represented at KCT County Board by Mark Dance <i>see below</i> | KCC, CFE |
| Venner, Rt. Rev. Stephen Vice Chair of Kent Children's Trust, Bishop of Canterbury | The Faith Groups |
| Dance, Mark Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources & Skills CFE | KCC, CFE |
| Honey, Amanda Managing Director, Communities | KCC, CYM |
| Mills, Oliver Managing Director, Adult Social Services | KCC, CYM |
| Anderson, Bill Director: Children's Social Services | KCC, CFE |
| Craig, Dr. Ian Director: Operations | KCC, CFE |
| Hodges, Marilyn Director: Strategy, Policy & Performance | KCC, CFE |
| Murrells, Richard Director: Children's Health | KCC, CFE |
| Parsons, Carol Director: Standards & Achievement | KCC, CFE |
| Wainwright, Joanna Director: Commissioning (Specialist Services) | KCC, CFE |
| Minter, Trevor Director: Kent Partnership | KCC |
| Andews, Sarah Director of Nursing, Eastern & Coastal Kent PCT | Health |
| Thomas, Jenny Director: Strategy / Corporate Governance, West Kent PCT | Health |
| Peachey, Meradin Director: Public Health | KCC, CED |
| Park, Ian Community Development Social Inclusion Manager, Maidstone District Council | District Councils |
| Hughes, David Chief Executive, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council | District Councils |
| Samuel, Richard Chief Executive, Thanet District Council | District Councils |
| Molloy, John Chief Superintendent, Kent Police | Kent Police |
| Cuff, Derek Operations Manager | Kent Police MADAG |
| Kersting-Woods, Alexa Education Manager, Kent Fire & Rescue | Kent Fire & Rescue Service |

Kent Children's Trust County Board Membership

| Name and Job title | Agency |
|---|----------------------------|
| Verity, Rob National Probation Service (Kent) | Probation |
| Slaven, Angela Director: Youth Offending & Substance Misuse | KCC, CYM |
| Bernard, Gordon Chief Executive, Connexions | Connexions |
| Davies, Lesley Area Director, LSC | LSC |
| Blandford, Prof. Sonia Dean of Education, CCUC | Further & Higher Education |
| Clout, Barry Executive Officer, Kent CAN | Further & Higher Education |
| Bennett, Sam Kent CAN | Further & Higher Education |
| Marsh, Rob Kent CAN | Further & Higher Education |
| Barham, Alan Headteacher at Sittingbourne Community College | Schools |
| Gooding, Roland Headteacher at Valence School | Schools |
| Pye, Jay Headteacher at Loose Junior School | Schools |
| Woolley, Rob Director: Kent Children's Fund | KCC, CFE |
| TBC Early Years Representative | TBC |

Supported by:

Joy Ackroyd

Children's Trust Development Manager, KCC, CFE

Joy.ackroyd@kent.gov.uk

01622 696013