

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

**Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education**

**DECISION NO:**

**19/00007**

Unrestricted

Key decision: Yes

**Subject: Review of district governance structures for 0–19 (and up to 25) non-statutory children’s services**

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to:

- a) AGREE the proposed district-based governance structure for 0-19 (and up to 25) years non-statutory children’s services.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

1.1 There are currently three very distinct and separate strategic governance structures in place to support key related elements of the non-statutory Children’s Services offer.

1.2 District Advisory Boards (DABs) are in place in every district to support the partnership working and local delivery of children’s centres (0-8 years). Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) are in place in every district to support the partnership working and local delivery of youth provision (8-19 years) and Local Children’s Partnership Groups (LCPGs) are in place in every district to support the partnership working and local delivery across a range of partnership priorities (0-19 years).

1.3 There are similarities in the organisations and individuals attending the three groups and meetings frequently duplicate areas for discussion. Various group members also described an apparent lack of co-ordination or joint work across the three groups where the potential for shared outcomes is not clearly defined or understood.

1.4 The review explored the current structures and arrangements provided by these three groups which when joined together have significant oversight and influence in the delivery of a range of non-statutory multi-agency service provision across the 0-19 (up to 25) year age ranges.

**Equality Implications**

An EqIA was completed as part of the process. It is not expected that the proposed changes to district governance structures for 0-19 (and up to 25) non-statutory children’s services will have a negative impact on direct service delivery.

Positive impact is expected as a result of the proposed bi-annual conversations (building on the current YAGs and DABs), in that these will facilitate a more meaningful engagement with young people and parents. This is also supported through the proposed Youth Engagement training for LCPG Chairs.

**Financial Implications**

Potential savings will be made by streamlining the meetings.

**Legal Implications**

Governance, where it found that, whilst each group had terms of reference, there was a mixed purpose of both strategic and operational discussions. There was evidence of duplications of discussions, priorities and membership.

It was suggested that improvements in alignment of approaches and a clear reporting line to a countywide strategic Board, such as the 0-25 Health and Wellbeing Board would bring significant clarity to the remit of the groups and would help to ensure a single focus across the whole 0-25 spectrum of need.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

In May 2018, Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Cabinet Committee agreed for officers to undertake a review into the governance structures and remit of Local Children's Partnership Groups (LCPGs), Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) and District Advisory Boards (DABs).

In September 2018, CYPE Cabinet Committee discussed the findings of the review and proposed options where opportunities co-ordination and aligned governance had been identified. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member and officers should continue exploring the identified opportunities and hold robust discussions with the Chairs of the existing groups, to return to Cabinet Committee in January 2019, with a final set of proposals.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

The review explored the current structures and arrangements provided by these three groups which when joined together have significant oversight and influence in the delivery of a range of non-statutory multi-agency service provision across the 0-19 (up to 25) year age ranges. The review was informed by a field work study of the existing arrangements for each of the three groups.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:** None

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**signed**

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**date**