

Edition 4: August 2009

Children's Trust Arrangements

The Worcestershire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a theme group of the Worcestershire Partnership. It is accountable to the Worcestershire Partnership for delivery of the children and young people's element of the Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy.

It has developed the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which was launched in May 2008, and is responsible for its delivery.

The local arrangements for fulfilling the co-operation duties set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (Children's Trust Arrangements) come under the remit of the CYPSP.

The CYPSP is divided into two groups: the Partnership Advisory Body (PAB) and the Joint Commissioning Board (JCB). Together they enable partner agencies to work successfully on multi-agency issues whilst remaining accountable to their own governance arrangements.

The purpose of the CYPSP is to ensure services are jointly and efficiently planned, commissioned and delivered to improve the outcomes for children, young people and their families and carers.

The Children Act 2004 required under section 10 for all 'relevant' partners to co-operate under the strategic leadership of the local authority, in order to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people. Worcestershire established a Children and Young People's Partnership in 2004 as an expression of this duty to co-operate.

In May 2008, these arrangements were modified to ensure a stronger focus on joint commissioning [joint use of resources to deliver improved outcomes], and to ensure broader representation and engagement from stakeholders, including schools, parents and carers and young people. The revised constitution of these Partnership arrangements made it clear that the Joint Commissioning Board was responsible for the production, performance management and revision of the Children and Young People's Plan.

In late 2008, DCSF issued guidance stating that it would strengthen the duty to co-operate by requiring the establishment of Trust Boards, and by increasing the number of relevant partners, in order to accelerate the rate of improvement, and in particular to close the gap between the most vulnerable and the majority of children and young people. Alongside this, the Trust would have explicit responsibility for the CYP Plan [already required by section 13 of the Children Act 2004], and would be expected to be held to account for the delivery of the Plan.

Consultations have taken place around the new Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts and on 20 July a workshop combining the Joint Commissioning Group and Partnership Advisory Body discussed these findings. These were as follows:

The key messages from the feedback were:

- Keep it simple
- Use existing arrangements as far as possible
- Build on current participation of young people and parents / carers
- Majority of responses supported a variation on version 2

The 'Givens' from the regulations:

- There must be a Board
- This Board must include all 'relevant' partners as defined by the Children Act 2004
- The Board is responsible for producing, reviewing and revising the Children and Young People's Plan, and ensuring it is delivered.
- The new guidance on the CYP Plan [effective from 1 April 2011] is significantly more prescriptive.

The Trust Board

- Inclusive and representative membership
- Chaired by the Cabinet Member or an Independent Chair
- Meets quarterly
- Focuses on the CYP Plan and progress against that
- Management Group, chaired by DCS, drives the business of the Trust

Parent/carer and children and young people representation

- Parent / carer representation included in the Trust Board
- Need to consider how the meetings are made accessible
- Young people arrangements less obvious and need further development, including a shadow board

Political Representation

- Statutory Cabinet Member on the Board
- Leader of one of the District Councils

Joint Commissioning Executive

- Officer only group
- Initially NHS Worcestershire and WCC, but can broader with other statutory commissioners
- Focus on the formal pooled use of resources
- Accountable directly to the governance arrangements of the commissioners
- Priorities set in the CYP Plan and therefore also accountable to Trust on impact

Local Commissioning

- Local commissioning partnerships [local children's trusts]
- Based on existing children and young people theme groups of LSPs
- Accountable to both Trust Board and their LSP
- Supported by a partnership infrastructure

Continued ...

For more information on the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

- Pete Sugg, Interim Partnership Manager, 01905 775773, psugg@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Partnership web site www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/children

Children's Trust continued from previous page

Relationship with other strategic partnerships

- General principle that everything to do directly with children and young people should be under the auspices of the Trust
- These need to be 'mapped'

Safeguarding Board

- Strengthen arrangements though more formal reporting, but not a sub-group
- Chair of WSCB as a participant observer
- WSCB taking responsibility for managing performance of the 'staying safe' outcome

Performance Management


- Establish a Management Information Group
- Responsibility for performance information, which is reported to the Management Group, and then to the Trust Board
- Also responsible for the JSNA
- Seek to align with other performance arrangements

Infrastructure

- Need to be one
- Preferable joint funded on a proportionate basis
- Support at not only Trust Board level, but also in terms of representative groups and local children's trusts
- Seek out efficiencies with other partnership and infrastructure arrangements

This information along with feedback from the workshop will be fed into the August JCB and PAB meetings where further discussions will take place prior to final approval by the JCB in September. The proposed timeline is:

September 2009	Draft constitution
November 2009	Report to WCC Cabinet and other required governance approval
January 2010	Establish 'shadow' arrangements
April 2010	Fully effective

Partnership Advisory Body (PAB)		Joint Commissioning Board (JCB)	
Members		Members	
Michael Hunter	Chair. Voluntary & Community Sector Representative	Gail Quinton	Chair. Director of Children's Services, WCC
Jenni Stephens	Vice Chair. Head of Specialist Children's Services. Worcestershire PCT	Councillor Marcus Hart	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Helen Allen	Senior Representative from Probation	Richard Harling	Director of Public Health, WCC and Worcestershire PCT
Jim Baker	Senior Representative from West Mercia Constabulary	Richard Keble	Head of Commissioning and Quality, WCC
Keith Barham	Youth Offending Service Manager	Simon Hairsnape/ Lynn Takavarasha	Vice Chair. Director of Planning & Partnerships, Worcestershire
Anne Binney	Head of Integrated Services, WCC	Carol Thompson	Non Executive Director, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust
Bridget Cooper	Service Development Manager Youth Support, WCC	Advisors	
Vivienne Cranton	Representative of Primary Schools Heads	Councillor Roger Hollingsworth	Representative from the Leaders Group of the District Councils
Jane Crysell	Chief Executive, Connexions	Michael Hunter	Chair of the Partnership Advisory Body
Sally Ellison	Voluntary & Community Sector Representative	Åsa Johnsson Humphries	SDM, Commissioning & Contracting, WCC
Richard Keble	Head of Commissioning and Quality, WCC	Susan Haddon	Manager of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
Marie McCurry	Associate Director of Provider Services (Children's Directorate) Worcestershire PCT	Councillor Roger Hollingsworth	Representative from the Leaders Group of the District Councils
Lisa Peaty	Service Development Manager Quality and Performance, WCC	Sue Onions	Parent/Carer Representative (supported by Parent Engagement Advisor, Children's Services)
Malcolm Richards	Representative from Worcestershire Association of Governors	Youth Cabinet Members:	Attending in rotation (supported by Service Development Manager, Youth Support)
Peter Robinson	Representative of Higher and Further Education		
Anne Starr	Representative of the Special School Heads		
Phil Street	Senior Officer Representative of District Councils		
Peter Sugg	Service Development Manager Community Capacity, Interim Partnership Manager		
Wendy Taylor	Representative of Middle School Heads		
Geoff Taylor-Smith	Head of Community Partnership, WCC		
Vacancy	Representative of the Secondary School Heads		
David Waldron	Partnership Director, Learning Skills Council		
Colin Weeden	Head of Raising Achievement and Access to Learning		
Vacancy	GP Representative		