

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Children's Services |
| Date: | 11 March 2010 |
| Title: | Hampshire Children's Trust Developing Local Children's Partnerships |
| Reference: | 1329 |
| Report From: | Director of Children's Services |

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to confirm the progress made in developing Local Children's Partnerships to support the Hampshire Children's Trust in delivering the improvements in outcomes for children and young people set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.2. This paper addresses the following key issues:-
 - statutory requirements
 - performance management
 - function and purpose of local children's partnerships
 - the time scale for the development of local delivery plans
 - the emerging configuration of local children's partnerships

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 The existing partnership arrangements are based around the 11 District Council areas in Hampshire and good progress has been made by a broad range of partners in addressing key issues within the Children and Young People's Plan from a local perspective.

- 2.2 These local arrangements have not always achieved a sufficient engagement with schools and colleges and whilst there are some good examples of integrating education and other services to a common sense of purpose and priority the existing arrangements would not support the duty upon each school and college to cooperate in integrating the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 2.3 The proposed development of local children's partnerships is based upon each school and college and all other local partners being engaged in an annual cycle of work to ensure an understanding of outcomes, to identify local priorities for improvement, to agree a delivery plan and to monitor progress in improving outcomes
- 2.4 It is anticipated all partners will engage in this business cycle and that more detailed work may be undertaken by sub groups or thematic groups once priorities have been identified. In those areas with more than one local children's partnership some form of coordinating group will emerge to ensure a link to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in its work to coordinate work on the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

3. Finance

- 3.1. It is intended that in the first year (2010/11) local children's partnerships will have a focus on developing integrated working and establishing priorities for action within their delivery plan, in the context of the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan.
- 3.2. Subsequently, opportunities will exist for partners to consider pooling budgets, for the delegation of management of services and devolution of some resources.
- 3.3. To support these developments the County Treasures Consultancy Service is undertaking an analysis of the use of some Children's Services resources at a local partnership level to reflect the availability and scale of local resource.
- 3.4. It is intended to develop this approach by including the resources of other partners and schools and colleges and to relate the available resource to local deprivation factors, outcomes and performance data.
- 3.5. To support local partnerships in undertaking their work a small budget for 'infrastructure' has been identified and an allocation will be made to each partnership as the budget for 2010/11 is confirmed and the local structure finalised.

4. Performance

- 4.1. The statutory guidance includes a requirement that the Children's Trust shall undertake a self assessment of the impact partnership working is having upon improving outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

- 4.2. In order to support the Children's Trust, arrangements will be put in place for each local children's partnership to undertake an annual self assessment and report to the Trust Board, the first assessment and report being in 2011.
- 4.3. To support both the Trust board and local children's partnerships a Performance Management Framework has been developed and adopted by the Children's Trust Board. This, and other guidance, can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshirechildrenstrust>

5. Statutory requirements

- 5.7 The legal basis for Children's Trust Boards is contained in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. This amends Part 2 of the Children Act 2004.
- 5.8 The Act intends to strengthen local partnership working to improve outcomes for children and young people by:-
- Putting Children's Trust Boards on a statutory footing.
 - Extending the number of statutory relevant partners with a duty to cooperate to include maintained schools, city technology colleges, academies, non-maintained special schools, further education and sixth form colleges and Jobcentre Plus.
 - Introducing a power to pool funds and share other resources between children's trust relevant partners.
 - Ensuring that schools forums and relevant partners will have regard to the local Children and Young People Plan (CYPP)
 - Requiring the Children's Trust Board to develop, publish, monitor and review the CYPP and to publish an annual progress report on the extent to which partners have acted in accordance with the Plan.
 - Establishing a duty on the Children's Trust Board members to supply information to the Board to enable or assist the Board to perform its functions.
 - Ensuring all partners on the Children's Trust Board share responsibility for preparing the CYPP, but the partners are individually responsible for delivering it.
- 5.1 Section 12A of the 2004 Act, as amended, compels Children's Services Authorities to establish a Children's Trust Board for their area. That must include a representative of the Local Authority and each of the relevant partners. Relevant partners includes all schools and colleges and the governing body of a maintained school, by virtue of amendments to s.10 of the 2004 Act.

- 5.2 The legislation provides that to promote co-operation, relevant persons or bodies may provide staff, goods, services, accommodation or other resources to another relevant person or body, and/or make contributions to a fund out of which relevant payments may be made.
- 5.3 The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and The Hampshire Children's Trust Board have established that the development of local children's partnerships will assist the Trust Board in the delivery of integrated services to address the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan. Local Children's Partnerships will operate within the powers set out in the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act.
- 5.4 Governance arrangements for local children's partnerships are under consideration. Whilst partners are unlikely to need to amend their own existing internal arrangements, to enable the local partnerships to operate in a transparent, robustly managed way which allows for effective scrutiny, further work is being undertaken to consider the appropriate framework.
- 5.5 Governing Bodies of schools and colleges have been asked to consider a resolution that confirms the willingness of the school to become a member of a local children's partnership.

6. The purpose and function of local partnerships

- 6.1 Previous reports to the Executive Lead Member have confirmed the intended purpose of local children's partnerships in Hampshire to be the local delivery and commissioning capability of the Children's Trust by coordinating and influencing the delivery of services to improve outcomes. The core functions are summarised below
- Ensure educational inclusion
 - Strengthen and develop local networks
 - Develop a detailed understanding of local needs and outcomes
 - Responsibility for coordinating delivery locally of defined outcomes, e.g. teenage pregnancy and reducing child poverty
 - Influence improvement for all outcomes for all children
 - Co-ordinate prevention and early intervention activities

7. Time scale for developing local partnerships

- 7.1. Good progress is being made with a range of local partners to identify the most efficient and effective configuration of local children's partnerships to ensure engagement by all local partners.

- 7.2. It is intended that local children's partnerships are in place by April 2010, and that a summary level delivery plan is agreed by partners by July 2010.
- 7.3. It will be important for all partners to be clear on the contribution they can make to improving outcomes. Whilst the majority of the performance areas within the Children and Young People's Plan are educational targets the ambition for local partnership working and the development of integrated delivery is that all partners consider how they can make a contribution to all outcomes. In this way a better focus will be developed upon integrating the educational 'journey' of all children and young people from 0-20yrs+ and also upon how the resources of other partners can be better coordinated to impact on those factors which inhibit good education, health and social care outcomes, which in them selves may limit educational outcomes. This approach will better support a focus on the most vulnerable, including children in care.
- 7.4. In this first year of developments it is intended that each local children's partnership will focus on a limited range of key performance areas as summarised below. The performance measures for these priorities, and a reference to the Children and Young People's Plan priorities they support, are included in more detail in Appendix 1 to this report.
- Reducing teenage conceptions – NI 112
 - Reducing those not in employment, education or training - NI117
 - Increasing the number of children in care in employment, education or training - NI 148
 - Improving the educational attainment of vulnerable children, including Children in Care. e.g. NI 102 – the educational achievement gap for those on free school meals
 - Reducing education attainment gaps, potentially primary phase literacy
 - Reducing the impact of poverty
- 7.5. In subsequent years the Children's Trust Board will identify a similar number of key outcome areas all local children's partnerships should consider and it is anticipated that partnerships will identify other priorities for action to reflect their local circumstances.
- 7.6. In order to support local children's partnerships in their work the following guidance has been made available:-
- Governance arrangements, including seeking a resolution from each Governing Body to be engaged in a local partnership in order to full fill their duty to cooperate
 - Performance Management Framework, including self assessment and model delivery plan formats
 - Performance data will progressively be made available at a local partnership level

- Guidance on the role and function of local partnerships
- Guidance on the role of local managers to support and challenge local partnerships
- Guidance upon membership and the commitment made by members of the Trust Board to ensure local engagement
- Business processes and reporting arrangements

8. The emerging configuration of local partnerships

- 8.1. Consultation with local partners is continuing in order to reach agreement on the most efficient and effective local configuration. In many areas these arrangements will be based upon extended services clusters or education improvement clusters of schools.
- 8.2. Over time it is envisaged that much of the partnership work currently undertaken in separate arrangements could be 'rationalised' within the emerging local children's partnerships: extended services being an early potential example: whilst the more specific work of 14-19 strategy groups involving secondary school and colleges may require the emphasis of the existing arrangement still in their early stages of development.
- 8.3. Area Directors and District Managers are continuing discussion with local partners and the following summarises the current position: It is emphasised that the position is not yet considered final and should be taken as 'work in hand' as the local arrangements are finalised and put in place by April 2010.
- 8.4. In all areas, particularly where more than one local children's partnership is proposed with a District Council area, consideration is being given to a representative steering or coordinating group to maintain coherence across the whole area, and to ensure a strong link to the LSP. Membership of these coordinating groups will include the chairs of local children's partnerships along with other partners necessary to ensure strong local leadership.
- 8.5. Local children's partnerships are identifying interim leaders and arrangements are in place to hold initial meetings with local managers and interim leaders of partnerships in order to commence the more detailed development work necessary.
- 8.6. In view of wide travel areas, many Colleges will maintain links with more than one local children's partnership.
- 8.7. As the local arrangements are confirmed it will be possible to hold further discussions with partners, within the County Council and in Children's Services to identify the most effective point of engagement for a broad range of partners and managers to ensure support to the development of delivery plans and to the integration of service delivery.
- 8.8. The following section summarises the emerging configuration of local children's partnerships and remains work in hand whilst local discussions continue.

South Hampshire

Gosport

- 8.9. A single Local Children's Partnership has formed by merging existing children's partnership arrangements with the existing Gosport Education Improvement Partnership, involving all schools and colleges locally

Fareham

- 8.10. Subject to further discussions a single local children's partnership is being considered with a number of clusters of schools and other partners across the area to undertake the detailed work.

Havant

- 8.11. Subject to further discussions a model is emerging of a single local children's partnership supported by a number of clusters of schools and other partners. Consultation is continuing and includes the potential alignment of some schools in the East Hampshire Council area in Horndean with schools and colleges in the West Havant area.

North and East Hampshire

East Hampshire

- 8.12. In East Hampshire it is proposed to form three Local Children's Partnerships and arrangements are being considered to ensure a link with the East Hampshire LSP. There is also consideration of maintaining the link Horndean schools have with the Havant area in view of local community networks. Subject to further local discussions three local partnerships would be based upon extended school clusters as summarised below:-

- Alton local children's partnership, where there is also consideration of how some schools in Four Marks might align with a proposed partnership based upon Perrins Secondary School (in the Winchester District Council area) in view of local community connections.
- Bordon local children's partnership
- Liphook, Liss and Petersfield local children's partnership

Basingstoke and Deane

- 8.13. In Basingstoke and Deane it is proposed that the existing Children's Partnership based on the District Council area and the existing Education Improvement Partnership merge to form a single Local Children's Partnership. This arrangement would be supported by potentially four clusters of schools and other partners to take forward detailed work on identifying local priorities and integrating local delivery. These groups would

potentially be based on existing extended services arrangements to build upon existing partnership working and to ensure the engagement of all school, colleges and community partners at the appropriate level

Hart

8.14. A single Local Children's Partnership is proposed in the Hart District Council area together with three local cluster groups based upon existing extended services groups, summarised below

- Odiham, Hook and Hartley Witney

- Fleet

- Frogmore and Yateley

Rushmoor

8.15. Subject to further discussion it is proposed that a single partnership is formed in Rushmoor based upon existing arrangements, including the Education Improvement Partnership. Cluster arrangements, based upon extended services partnerships may be necessary to undertake the necessary detailed work.

Western Hampshire

Test Valley

8.16 In Test Valley, Two partnerships are proposed. One for the North Test Valley area including Winton, Harrow Way and John Hanson Secondary Schools and their primary school clusters. This partnership would also include Icknield, Wolverdene and Mark Way Special Schools and Andover College, which would also link to the Winchester partnership.

8.17 A second partnership is proposed for South Test Valley area including Mountbatten and Romsey Secondary Schools and their primary school clusters. The position in relation to the best engagement for the Test Valley Secondary School in Stockbridge and the primary schools cluster in being considered.

Winchester

8.18 In Winchester two partnerships are proposed; one to include Kings, Westgate and Henry Beaufort Secondary Schools and their primary cluster schools. This partnerships would also include Peter Symonds College, Sparsholt College, Osborne Special School and Shepherds Down Special School.

- 8.19 A second partnerships would be based around Alresford on Perrins Secondary School and the primary school cluster, including some schools in the Four Marks area of Alton
- 8.20 In view of the local circumstances Swanmore Secondary School, in the Winchester District Council area, is considering alignment with a group of Eastleigh schools.

Eastleigh

- 8.21 In Eastleigh two local partnerships are being considered. One partnership would involve Thornden, Crestwood, Quilley, Wyvern and Toynbee Secondary Schools and their primary school clusters. The arrangement would also include Eastleigh College and Barton Peveril College, Lakeside Special School and the Bridge Education Centre.
- 8.22 A further local children's partnership is proposed to include Swanmore, Wildern and Hamble Secondary Schools and primary cluster schools together with continued engagement with Barton Peveril and Eastleigh Colleges.

New Forest

- 8.23 In the New Forest area a single local children's partnership is proposed with two sub clusters of schools and other partners, based upon existing extended services arrangements to support the detailed work. It is proposed there would be full engagement of all schools, colleges and other partners in the local cluster arrangements.
- 8.24 A west area cluster could involve Priestlands, Ringwood, Arnewood and Burgate Secondary Schools and primary cluster schools. This arrangement will also include Brockenhurst College.
- 8.25 An eastern area cluster could involve Hardley, Noadswood, Applemore, Hounsdawn and Testwood Secondary Schools and their primary cluster schools, along with Totton College, special schools and an education centre

9 Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Executive Lead Member notes the progress being made in establishing local children's partnerships and endorses the configuration emerging in consultation with local partners with a view to final agreement being reported in April 2010.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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| Hampshire safer and more secure for all: | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Maximising well-being: | yes |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | |
| Enhancing our quality of place: | no |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | |

Other Significant Links

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | | |
| <u>Title</u> Developing Local Children's Partnerships | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Date</u> 15 th October 2009 |
| Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives | | |
| <u>Title</u> The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 | <u>Date</u> | |

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

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| <u>Document</u> | <u>Location</u> |
| None | |

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The arrangements to improve local partnership working and the development of integrated working will support a better focus on reducing inequalities and ensuring better outcomes for all children and young people, with a focus on the most vulnerable

2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 The development of local children's partnerships will provide a better focus at a local level on priorities within the LAA, including crime reduction strategies

Appendix 1

Children and Young People's Plan Priorities 2009-12 and Local Children's Partnerships Key Priorities 2010/11

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| CYP priority 1 | Reducing the incidence and impact of poverty on the achievement and life chances of children and young people |
| LCP Priority: | Reduced proportion of children living in poverty |
| Measures: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of children who live in families in receipt of workless benefit • Take up of formal childcare by low income working families • Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and GCSE • Percentage change in the rate of conceptions from the 1998 baseline (per 1,000 girls aged 15-17) • The percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) |
| CYP priority 2 | Securing children and young people's physical, spiritual, social, emotional and mental health, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing inequalities |
| LCP Priority: | Reduced teenage conceptions |
| Measure: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage change in the rate of conceptions from the 1998 baseline (per 1,000 girls aged 15-17) |
| CYP priority 3 | Providing opportunities to learn that raise children and young people's aspirations, encourage excellence and enable them to enjoy and achieve beyond their expectations |
| LCP Priority: | Improved educational attainment of vulnerable groups |
| Measures: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage (LAA target) • Children in care achieving Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 (LAA target) • Children in care achieving Level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2 (LAA target) • Children in care achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE, including English and maths • Key Stage 2 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups • GCSE attainment for black and minority ethnic groups |

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| CYP priority 4 | Ensuring that children and young people are safe and feel safe, enabling them to build resilience and personal confidence |
| CYP priority 5 | Providing vocational, leisure and recreational activities that provide opportunities for children and young people to experience success and make a positive contribution |
| CYP priority 6 | Removing barriers to access, participation and achievement and not tolerating discrimination and abuse |
| LCP Priority: | Increased number of young people in education, employment and training |
| Measure: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) |
| LCP Priority: | Increased number of care leavers in education, employment and training |
| Measure: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training at age 19 |