

The Children's Trust Board

In July the coalition government announced its intention to repeal its legislation around Children's Trust Boards and the Children and Young People's Plan. This meant there is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust Board or a Plan. However in August, the partners agreed they wished to continue with the work they had committed to but at the same time recognised that there was the opportunity to have more freedom in the way the partnership worked in the future. The Children's Trust Board met in

October and December to review these arrangements. The Children's Trust Board agreed that the name of the partnership would remain and the Constitution and Terms of Reference were amended to take into account the new legislative changes. The next meeting will be on 2nd March.

This newsletter brings you up to date with the present position and the work discussed at recent meetings.

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

The Children's Trust Board agreed that an overarching plan would still be required to set out partners' joint priorities for children and young people in Worcestershire. The Plan would need to be: high level, expresses the key priorities as a point of reference for all other activity and set out the performance measures so that everyone can see what progress has been made. It was also recognised that issues in the local areas needed to be captured.

Local Children's Partnerships (LCP)

Chris Allen from the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership has been allocated 5 days to work with the Children's Trust Board to develop Local Children's Partnerships. This work will start early in January 2011 and in the meantime the present draft document Outline for Local Children's Partnerships will be updated to reflect changes in legislation.

CYPP Draft Priorities

The draft priorities are now out for consultation and are available on the Children's Trust web site: www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/children. If you wish to comment on these please email Lisa Peaty on lpeaty@worcestershire.gov.uk

Feedback from Children and Young People's Shadow Board

The first meeting on 30th September saw 21 young people representing 11 groups meet to find out more about the Shadow Board, the Children's Trust and also the issues affecting young people in Worcestershire. The key issues raised by the young people included: Need for more understanding of young peoples' needs; Bullying needs to be tackled; Not enough police; Young people enjoying meeting others and finding out about differing needs in different areas; and Recommendations for the further development of the Shadow Board. The Shadow Board met again on November 18th to discuss the draft priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan. These comments have been taken into account and included when reviewing the priorities.

Feedback on the announced inspection

In July Ofsted visited WCC for an unannounced inspection which looked at safeguarding contact referral and assessment processes. This identified areas for concern and a full Ofsted inspection took place between 4th and 15th October carried out in conjunction with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

During the two weeks of the inspection, the inspectors held almost 90 interviews or focus groups, and met with almost 500 members of staff, 43 children and young people, and 40 parents/carers. They read 88 case files and requested over 200 pieces of written evidence or data.

Ensuring our most vulnerable children are protected remains our highest priority. The purpose of these inspections to continuously drive improvement is recognised and we are already working jointly on making the improvements necessary.

The joint Care Quality Commission and Ofsted report has now been published and is available on the Ofsted web site: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/education-and-learning/three-yearly-inspection.aspx> Feedback from the two inspections will be used to drive learning and improvement. A formal letter will follow from the CQC setting out recommendations for Partners.

Joint Commissioning Executive of National Health Service Worcestershire and Worcestershire County Council

The Joint Commissioning Executive continues to meet on a monthly basis and additional areas for pooling resources have been identified. A full report will be brought to the Children's Trust Board at their next meeting in March. In the meantime work had been taking place, with support from the Cabinet Office on a formal agreement under Section 75 NHS Act 2006 for April 2011 onwards.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Children's Trust Board Members

Lead Member with Responsibility for Social Care (Chair) Cllr Liz Eyre	Leader or Chief Executive from one of the District Councils Roger Hollingsworth	Senior person from Acute NHS Trust (with lead role for maternity services) Helen Blanchard
Non-Executive Director of NHS Worcestershire (Vice Chair) Carol Thompson	Head of Youth Offending Service Keith Barham	Chair of Worcestershire Association of Governors Malcolm Richards
Director of Delivery, NHS Worcestershire (Chair of JCE) Simon Hairsnape	Senior person from Job Centre Plus Ann Williams	Representative from the VCS Michael Hunter
Director of Children's Services (Chair of Performance Management Group) Gail Quinton	Head Teacher representative from Primary Schools Vivienne Cranton	Representative from the VCS Sally Ellison
Chief Executive, WCC Trish Haines	Head Teacher representative from Middle Schools Wendy Taylor	Parent/carer representative Sue Onions
Joint Director of Public Health Richard Harling	Head Teacher representative from Secondary Schools Clive Corbett	Second Parent/carer representative or "supporter" Rachel Adams
Senior person from Probation Tom Currie	Head Teacher representative from Special Schools Anne Starr	Associate Director from Worcestershire PCT (with lead role for children and young people) Marie McCurry
Senior person from West Mercia Police Stephen Cullen	Post-16 representative Michael Kitcatt	GP representative Vacancy
Participant Observer: Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board Hilary Thompson		

For more information on the work of the Childrens Trust

contact **Gail Kemp**, by telephone 01905 827441 or email gkemp@worcestershire.gov.uk

or visit: www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/children