

ARE WE THERE YET? AUDIT COMMISSION SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR CHILDREN'S TRUSTS BOARDS

Background

In November 2008 the Audit Commission published a report on progress nationally with Children's Trusts. As well as identifying success in some Children's Trusts there were some key messages focused on strengthening the governance arrangements to ensure that Children's Trusts boards are able to make best use of public resources for the benefit of children and young people.

In order to support local areas in strengthening governance the Audit Commission also produced a self-assessment tool. At the Children and Young People's Trust meeting in November members agreed that a benchmarking exercise would be carried out and a process for progressing this is outlined below.

Overall Process

There are seven key domains covered and it is proposed that with the exception of the first domain, a nominated sub-group carries out the initial benchmarking. Results will then be presented to the next meeting of the Trust.

It is proposed that this meeting considers the first domain and a process for doing this is outlined in the next section.

1. How far does the children's trust focus on improving outcomes for children and young people?

Board

2. How does the board oversee the effective use of resources?

Commissioning Sub-Group

3. What are the roles of the children's trust partners in delivering improvement?

Performance Management Sub-Group

4. How does the board effectively consult, engage with, and involve key stakeholders?

Participation Sub-Group

5. How does the board support local capacity building and capability development?

Workforce Sub-Group

6. How are good governance and the principles of public life demonstrated by the board?

Performance Management Sub-Group

7. How does the board manage risks and exercise proper controls?

Performance Management Sub-Group

Scoring System

In the absence of a specific scoring system in the Audit Commission self-assessment it is proposed that we adopt the Ofsted Judgement Terms detailed below:

Grade 1	Inadequate
Grade 2	Adequate
Grade 3	Good
Grade 4	Outstanding

Action Required

Attached as appendix 1 is the first domain and members are asked to discuss and score Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Trust against each area for completion at the meeting.

Mike Simm

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APPENDIX 1

How Far Does The Children's Trust Focus On Improving Outcomes For Local Children And Young People?

	GRADE
How clear is the board about what it has to achieve for local children and young people?	
What does the board know about whether outcomes for local children and young people are improving?	
How do local targets take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities, as well as equalities, disabilities and human rights legislation?	
How will the Children and Young Peoples' Plan enable a reduction in the gaps in outcomes between the most vulnerable – and the majority – of children?	
How does the children's trust board ensure that desired outcomes for local children and young people are clearly defined and consistent with other local strategies?	
How do partners use shared performance management frameworks to oversee, and deliver, better outcomes for local children and young people?	

- Grade 1 Inadequate
- Grade 2 Adequate
- Grade 3 Good
- Grade 4 Outstanding