

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Recommendations:

- Members are asked to note the new statutory guidance on relevant partners in children's trusts.
- Members are asked to agree to setting up the three local partnerships (as previously agreed) with immediate effect.

Introduction

Good progress has been made on establishing the initial sub-group structure of the Trust. The next step is to establish the three Local Partnerships. This will ensure that the Trust can deliver change at a local level, taking into account the differing needs of the three areas covered by the partnerships; Central, Southern, Northern.

It will also ensure that partners are able to have a direct line of accountability into the Trust, through the Chair of each Local Partnership becoming a member of the Trust. This was agreed at the Trust's meeting in May.

Membership

In December 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published revised statutory guidance on children's trusts and their role in ensuring inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families. In this guidance, the list of "relevant partners" was extended to include maintained schools (and Academies), Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges and Job Centre Plus. It is therefore proposed that membership of Local Partnerships should include as a minimum:

- Children's Centres
- Maternity Services
- Health Visiting
- School Nursing
- Primary, Secondary schools
- Community Paediatrics
- Police

- Primary Care
- Area Service Managers
- FE colleges
- District Councils
- CAMHS teams
- Job Centre Plus

Next step

Area Heads of Service (County Council) are ideally placed to act as 'Chair Designate' to each local partnership until the partnership is in a position to elect a substantive Chair by whatever process they agree.

The aim would be to kick start the local partnerships. The refresh of the CYPP gives an ideal agenda to bring partners around the table. The first meeting of each local partnership would take place by end of April and Designate Chairs would report to the Trust in May.

Conclusion

Establishing the Local Partnerships now, gives the Trust a good opportunity to ensure that all relevant partners are routinely involved in the Trust. There will be considerable local determination around scope and focus of each partnership but each partnership will be formally accountable to the Trust.

Sarah Breton
Lead Officer & Head of Joint Commissioning
01865 336795
sarah.breton@oxfordshire.gov.uk