

GOVERNANCE OF THE OXFORDSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST & AREA TRUST BOARDS

Recommendations:

To confirm changes to the governance arrangements of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust.

Background

The Children's Plan set out the Government's aim to make England the best place in the world to grow up. The role of each Children's Trust is to turn this vision into reality. In particular Children's Trusts play a central role in bringing together all the services needed to ensure all children are safeguarded.

Since the publication of the Every Child Matters framework in 2003, we have made good progress in working together more closely to support children and young people and meet their needs. But we know we need to go further. The Children's Plan commits the Government to strengthen Children's Trusts so that they deliver real measurable improvements for all children and young people in their local area and Oxfordshire's draft children and young people's plan 2010 -2013 reflects these commitments locally.

To deliver this the statutory guidance in Children's Trusts has already been revised but new legislation is due to go through Parliament in November as part of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Bill.

The Bill builds on the Children's Act 2004 by:

- Requiring every area to have a Children's Trust Board
- Transferring the responsibility for preparing the Children and Young People's Plan from the Local Authority to the Children's Trust Board.
- Requiring the Children's Trust Board to monitor the Children and Young People's Plan implementation (in Oxfordshire this will be through the Performance Sub-Group)
- Extending the range of statutory Children's Trust partners – broad range; will finalise when consultation over.

At the recent OCYPT Executive Group meeting (notes Annex 1) it was agreed that to prepare for this change in legislation and also to reflect local changes, developments and

issues, the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust needs to review its current governance arrangements.

At the time of writing this report the Bill was passing through the Lords. A period of consultation will then take place. It is recommended that the Executive Group respond to the consultation on behalf of this Board.

The remainder of this report outlines some key suggestions for change for discussion and agreement by the Board.

Progress

Changes to the Executive Group

The Executive Board recommends the following changes.

1. The role of the Executive Group will be to:
 - Direct the agenda and plan for the OCYPT Board.
 - Manage reporting arrangements between the OCYPT Board, Area Boards and Sub-Groups.
 - Provide decision making in emergencies between OCYPT Board Meetings.
 - Ensure follow-up in decisions made at the OCYPT Board Meeting.
2. The Executive Board will be chaired alternately between:
 - Director of Children, Young People and Families
 - Director of Service Redesign, Oxfordshire PCT
3. Membership will be extended and include:
 - Director for Public Health
 - Head of Service, CPQA
 - Strategic Lead, Performance
 - Chairs of the four Sub-Groups
 - Chairs of the three Area Trust Boards.
4. The style of the agenda for the Board meeting needs to be revised as follows:
 - The first part of the meeting to be business

- The second part of the meeting should be focussed on action planning, discussion, presentations, with no more than one or two items per meeting. Today's agenda has been drawn up to reflect how this works in practice.
5. A workshop to be held in February to plan for the changes in legislation and joint commissioning and allow for the development of a new constitution by April 2010.

Other changes:

- A Constitution needs to be agreed by March 2010.
- Declarations of interest need to be made at the start of each meeting (as of this meeting).
- Member profiles need to be placed on the website.
- The Forward Plan needs to be revised and to be used to inform the work programme for the Executive at the Board.

Recommendations

The Board are asked to confirm those changes and commit to a workshop in February.

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