

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 16th June 2009

Report Title. Implementation of Haringey Children's Trust within the Haringey Strategic Partnership

Report of : Chief Executive
Signed :

Contact Officer : Tim Dauncey Interim Director of Special Projects

Wards(s) affected: [All / Some (Specify)]

Report for: [Key / Non-Key Decision]

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

1.1 The Joint Area Review report into Haringey's Children Services identified the need to improve governance of children safeguarding arrangements. This report sets out proposals for the creation of a Children's Trust within the Haringey Strategic Partnership to replace the Children and Young People's Partnership. This will help strengthen the commitment and focus of strategic partners on the needs of children and the 5 outcomes within Every Child Matters.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1. There has been widespread support for the establishment of a Haringey Children's Trust from amongst the partner organisations previously on the CYPSP. The Trust Board brings additional representation through the Chair of the LSCB, an opposition member and GP representative, which will strengthen its work.
- 2.2. The creation of the Trust marks a step change in partnership working between organisations delivering services to children in the borough and will lead to better outcomes for children and young people.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1. The changes proposed will strengthen the Council and partners ability to deliver on the Children and Young People's Plan as it impacts upon all children within the borough.

4. Recommendations :

4.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- agree the proposals set out in the report for creating a Children's Trust.
- agree that following further discussion and negotiations with Strategic Partners a further report setting out the detailed governance framework and partnership agreement for the Children's Trust be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. To respond to the recommendations within the JAR Action plan

6. Other options considered

6.1. Options for developing the Trust are considered within this report.

7. Summary

7.1 Background

7.1.1. The Joint Area Review report 2008 into Haringey's Children Services identified the need to improve governance of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.

7.1.2 The meeting of the Cabinet 21st April 2009 considered a report setting out proposals for the creation of a Children's Trust and agreed that the proposals set out be noted and approval granted, following further discussion and negotiations with Strategic partners, to a further report setting out the detailed governance framework and partnership agreement for the Trust to be submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet (16th June 2009). A developmental session for members of the Trust was held to look at the future role of the Trust, what difference it would make to children and young people and how the sub group framework would operate.

7.1.3 The Children's Trust Board (19th May 2009) considered and agreed the proposals for the implementation of the Children's Trust. Draft minutes from the meeting set out the following resolutions :

- That the strap line set out below be adopted: 'Working together for the children of Haringey'
- That one of the two places currently held by NHS Haringey for Non-Executive Directors should be given to a Non-Executive Director of Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).
- That the Children's Trust Board recommend to the Haringey Strategic Partnership that the Children's Trust should be formally established on the basis of the report and protocol attached.

These resolutions and other comments from the meeting have been included in this report.

7.1.4 The Governments Response to Lord Laming ' The protection of Children in England action plan ' published 6th May 2009 gives further clarity to the roles of Children's Trust. In summary the key conclusions for Children's Trusts are as follows :

- There will be stronger central guidance that will make it absolutely clear to every agency and practitioner in children's services, police, health, and other sectors, what they need to do to keep children safe.
- Subject to the passage of legislation, the Children Trust Board will have responsibility for producing a Children and Young people's Plan for the local area informed by a needs analysis and full consultation including with children, young people and their families.
- The Children's Trust Board - drawing on support and challenge from the Local Safeguarding Children Board – will ensure that the Children and Young People's Plan covers strengths and weaknesses in the area, what has been achieved in the last year and what more needs to be done by each partner to improve outcomes in safeguarding. The Plan should also include clear targets for improving outcomes for keeping children safe. A new set of national indicators will be published by September 2009 and will form the basis of targets set by Children Trusts.
- The Children's Trust and the LSCB have important, but distinctive roles in keeping children safe. The Children's Trust is accountable for ensuring that services deliver better outcomes, with the Children's Trust Board being specifically accountable for overseeing the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. The LSCB should be responsible for challenging every member of the Children's Trust on their success in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe.
- The challenge of the LSCB to the Children's Trust will only work effectively if the two bodies are chaired by different people.
- Both the Director of Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People should always be members of both the Children's Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Every year as part of the Children's Trust annual report, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council should make an assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnership arrangements for improving outcomes for children and supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding children.
- Revised statutory guidance for Children's Trust Boards will be prepared following the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to be published in spring 2010.

- Lord Laming recommended the Children Trusts should ensure that the Governments Information Sharing guidance is applied consistently by all partners.
- Updated guidance on the Common Assessment framework will be issued shortly to help local authorities and their Children Trust partners to implement CAF as part of the development of integrated working locally. will be issued.

7.2 What difference will the creation of a Children's Trust make?

7.2.1 The development session for Children Trust partners was held in May 2009 and discussed how Haringey's Children's Trust would make a difference for key stakeholders including children, parents, partners and staff. Key themes that came from these discussions were as follows:

- The term Children's Trust applies to the whole system of children's services covering the work of partner agencies at every level, from the development of overall strategy to the delivery of front line services. **It is not a separate organisation in its own right.** Each partner retains its own responsibilities while working together to join up services. The Children's Trust Board acts as the body that provides leadership, planning and joint commissioning for the work of the agencies within the Trust.
- Communication with all stakeholders in plain English setting out :
 - What the Trust stands for?
 - What services are available from Trust to children and parents?
 - How do users access the services of the Trust?
 - How will the Trust meet the needs of children and parents?
- The Trust would jointly develop and own the outcomes from the Children and Young Peoples Plan based upon the needs of children and young people. The Trust Board will set the key objectives for the work of the sub groups giving clarity in terms of targets and outcomes for children and Young people. The Trust board working together would set the model for future partnership working.
- The Trust would champion the involvement of parents and children in the workings of the Trust Board and its subgroups ensuring their opinions and views are heard and used to improve outcomes
- The Trust would ensure that there was clarity of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for all stakeholders touched by the Trust. The work of the Trust would be underpinned by a learning culture, influenced by all partners.
- The Trust would have a clear mandate through the Children and Young People's plan to Improved outcomes for children and in particular to focus on safeguarding for all children.
- The Trust will agree a clear mandate for maximising Information sharing amongst

partners based upon full collaboration except for that information that is clearly exempt from being shared. This approach should be used to prevent duplication of data collection and an improved understanding of the overall evaluation of the child's needs.

- The Trust Board will spend less time talking about issues and more time on giving clarity of direction to services and making key strategic decisions to implement the Children and Young People's Plan.
- The Trust Board will commit staffing and financial resources to deliver improved outcomes for Children and Young People as described within in the CYPP.
- The Trust Board will encourage all members to support critical reflection and challenge to other members of the Board to ensure improved performance of all services is achieved.
- The acknowledgement that all staff from all partners work through the Children's Trust for the good of Haringey's Children supported by integrated working including Induction programme for staff non executive Directors and Councillors from all agencies in the work of the Trust.
- The key strap line ambition for the Trust would be all agencies 'Working together for the Children of Haringey'
- The role of the Trust members will evolve over time as the proposed legislative requirements become clearer

7.3 Governance Protocol for Haringey's Children's Trust

7.3.1 The protocol attached in Appendix 1 sets out the terms of reference, priorities, membership and operational requirements for the Haringey Children's Trust which was considered and discussed by Cabinet 21st April 2009.

7.3.2 There will be a need to adequately resource the HCT to discharge its role as set out in this report. Further work will need to be undertaken to evaluate the key activities required to support the effective functioning of the HCT and to analyse the current capacity to undertake this work in the future.

7.4 Operation of North West and South Children's Partnership Group Framework

7.4.1 The creation of an operational sub group structure to the Haringey Children's Trust needs to encompass the facilitation of multi agency delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan in a framework that is understandable to all members of the Trust Board and delivers the outcomes set out in the plan.

The role of subgroups will be to oversee operational changes needed to improve delivery, and to manage and report performance against a set of targets agreed by the HCT Board. The HCT board would also expect sub groups to feedback and assist with policy development for

the HCT. Chairs of the area groups would be selected on the basis of their experience, knowledge and commitment rather than which partner they represented. They would also be represented on the HCT Board.

7.4.2 The favoured approach considered at the previous Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Board was a sub group structure based upon the Children's Area Networks. It is proposed to call the sub Groups North, West, South Children's partnerships. However it was recognised that this approach did not fit all the needs of the Trust's work and is to be supplemented by a small number of Borough wide bodies which will deliver cross cutting initiatives as set out below:

7.4.3 Three sub-groups based on the 3 Children's Networks: North, South and West within the Borough. The groups remit would include the following as part of a core offer,

- Children's centres.
- Parenting.
- Play.
- Early years (including childminding , nurseries etc).
- Extended schools.
- Safeguarding and Children in Care .
- Schools.
- Youth Service.
- Maternity Services.
- Services for disabled children.
- Services for children with life limiting conditions.
- Voluntary Organisations.
- Mental Health Services.
- Health Visiting and community health services.
- Supplementary schools.
- Community Safety .
- Post 16.
- Youth Offending service.

7.4.4. Borough wide areas of work will include the following as permanent groups with other task and finish groups will be set up as the need arises:

- Sexual health and Teenage Pregnancy
- 14-19 Education
- Workforce Development
- Mental Health
- Joint commissioning of services

These groups would not only be cross cutting and Borough focussed but also area focussed to ensure local needs are prioritised .

7.5 Local Safeguarding Children's Board

7.5.1 The Local Safeguarding Board is a statutorily required Board, responsible for the protection and well being of children and young people in Haringey. The Board forms part of the Children's Trust arrangements but is an independent body in its own right. It will be essential that the LSCB communicates and works with all groups and partners within the Trust. The independent chair will be a member of the Children's Trust Board. The Director and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Service will also be members of the LSCB.

7.6 Next Steps

7.6.1 The timetable for the next steps are as follows:

- **Agreement of implementation of the Governance Model, membership and sub group framework**
 - Cabinet 16th June 2009
 - Haringey Strategic Partnership 23rd June 2009
- **Delivery of Children's Trust**
 - Children's Trust Meeting 13th July 2009
 - Children's Trust Executive Performance Management Group - TBA
 - Children Trust Sub Groups - TBA

7.7 Conclusion

7.7.1 The creation of the Children's Trust will support and strengthen both the successful delivery of the Multi agency Joint Area Review Action plan and future integrated working by all partners to ensure all our children remain safe and have bright future.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1 One of the purposes of the Trust is to develop integrated strategy, joint planning and commissioning and pooled and aligned budgets to deliver the CYPP. The detailed financial arrangements around this area will need to be clearly established across all of the Trust partners in order to ensure both that equitability is achieved and that the delivery of the Children and Young People's plan is sustainable over the long term.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 21 April Members favoured a "collaborative" model for the Children's Trust that did not require the participating organisations to cede authority to the Trust. The Trust would not be a separate legal entity in its own right (minute CAB 174).

- 9.2 The Protocol for the Haringey Children's Trust (HCT) has been drafted on this basis. This means that the Council, in common with the other partner organisations, will retain legal responsibility and accountability for its own service delivery. Decisions on expenditure and procurement involving Council resources will remain subject to the Council's own Financial Regulations, Contract Procedure Rules and the Forward Plan requirements. It follows that some policies approved by the HCT will require ratification by the Cabinet, the Cabinet Procurement Committee or individual Cabinet Members as appropriate.
- 9.3 The HCT will not have the power to direct its partner organisations but it will have the right to bring concerns to the attention of the relevant partner and if necessary report serious problems to the appropriate Government Department. Notwithstanding the collaborative and voluntary basis of the HCT, the partner organisations signing up to the HCT Protocol will be demonstrating a key commitment to improving children's services and (where this applies) to discharging their statutory duty to co-operate in making arrangements to improve the well being of children in the Borough.
- 9.4 The Protocol provides for a Trust Board comprising all the representatives of the partner organisations to be the main decision-making body for the HCT. There will be a smaller Executive Performance management Group of the HCT to co-ordinate forward planning, undertake performance management and to take urgent decisions between Trust Board meetings.
- 9.5 The HCT Trust Board will not have the status of a Council Committee and therefore it will not be subject to the statutory "Access to Information Rules" which determine when meetings are open to the public and press and when reports and papers must be publicly accessible. The Protocol for the HCT makes alternative provision for these matters in a more flexible manner giving greater discretion to the HCT's Chair.
- 9.6 It should be noted that information held by the Council relating to the HCT will potentially be subject to the Freedom of Information Act unless it can be shown that specific information is only held on behalf of another body. In any event the usual statutory exemptions from disclosure will apply so that personal information about individual children or employees would be subject to data protection rules.

10. Equalities &Community Cohesion Comments

10.1 The implementation of a Children's Trust In Haringey by all agencies involved in 'Working together for the Children of Haringey ' should provide a clearer understanding for all parents and children of the services and responsibilities of each of the agencies involved in providing services to children in the borough .

11. Consultation

11.1. There has been extensive consultation with members of the current Children's and

Young People Strategic Partnership Board and the Performance Management Group within the Haringey Strategic Partnership.
12. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs 12.1. Appendix 1 – Protocol for Haringey Children’s Trust
13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 13.1. None

Appendix 1

PROTOCOL FOR THE HARINGEY CHILDREN’S TRUST

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This protocol sets out the terms of reference, priorities, membership and operational arrangements for the Haringey Children’s Trust (HCT).
- 1.2 While the protocol is not intended to be legally binding, the partner agencies have all individually agreed the protocol and the establishment of the HCT. They are all committed to collaboration in order to achieve the outcomes for improving children’s services intended by the establishment of the HCT.

2. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 The HCT has been established in recognition of the duties imposed on the partner agencies by the Children Act 2004 and the “Every Child Matters” (ECM) framework in order to secure the integrated delivery of children’s services by the partner agencies. Section 10 of the Act creates a specific duty to co-operate in making arrangements to improve the well-being of children in the Borough.
- 2.2 The HCT is a sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership, known as the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP). The HSP membership includes senior representation of all partner agencies with responsibilities for children’s services in the Borough.

- 2.3 The aim of the HCT is to provide strategic leadership for all Haringey's children's services covering all aspects of partnership working and the delivery of frontline services. The HCT is set up to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of children's services and to improve outcomes for all children and young people in line with the 5 key outcomes in the ECM framework.
- 2.4 The HCT is not a separate organisation or legal entity in its own right. Each partner agency represented on the HCT retains its own legal responsibilities and its own existing lines of accountability for service delivery. Although the HCT does not have the power to direct its partner agencies, it will bring any concerns to the attention of the relevant partner and, if necessary, report any serious problems to the appropriate Government Department.
- 2.5 The main decision-maker for the HCT will be its Trust Board comprising representatives of all the partner agencies. The Trust Board will report regularly to the HSP.
- 2.6 The HCT Trust Board will appoint an Executive Performance Management Group to co-ordinate its agenda and forward planning. This is provided for in section 8 below.
- 2.7 Sub-groups of the HCT are established to facilitate multi-agency delivery of the Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in a framework to be agreed by the Trust Board. This is provided for in section 9 below.
- 2.8 The HCT has adopted the Nolan Committee's seven principles of public life. All representatives and partner agencies will have regard to these principles in the work of the HCT. These principles are:
- (1) Selflessness
 - (2) Integrity
 - (3) Objectivity
 - (4) Accountability
 - (5) Openness
 - (6) Honesty
 - (7) Leadership

3. VISION

- 3.1 The vision of the HCT is as follows :

"We want every child and young person in Haringey to be happy, healthy and safe with a bright future."

(this vision is taken from the current CYPP and is likely to change with the development of a new plan)

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 The terms of reference of the HCT are as follows:

- (i) to develop and publish a child and family-centred outcome led vision for all children and young people in a Children and Young People's Plan which incorporates all partners' strategies related to children and young people.
- (ii) to put in place robust arrangements for inter-agency governance and performance measurement of all the Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people.
- (iii) to develop integrated strategy, joint planning and commissioning and pooled and aligned budgets to deliver the Children and Young People's Plan.
- (iv) to deliver child safeguarding services through integrated processes, and effective multi-agency working underpinned by shared language and shared processes.
- (v) to develop and promote integrated frontline delivery of services organised around the needs of the child, young person or family rather than professional or institutional boundaries.

4.2 These terms of reference are subject to review by the HCT Trust Board after 12 months from the agreement of this protocol.

5. KEY PRIORITIES

5.1 The key priorities of the HCT derive from Haringey's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and they are as follows:

- (i) identifying children and young people at risk of harm or failure and securing early intervention to ensure that they are safe and can thrive.
- (ii) narrowing the gap, especially in educational attainment, between vulnerable children and others while improving the lives of all children.
- (iii) reducing child poverty.

5.2 The achievement of these priorities will be facilitated by the commitment of the partner agencies to:

- (i) listen to the views of children and young people, and their parents and carers, about the services they need and to involve them all in the delivery of those services.
- (ii) promote joint working between all professionals having responsibilities for children and young people.
- (iii) ensure effective commissioning, planning and delivery of services for children and young people based on a robust analysis of their needs and to use resources flexibly and creatively.
- (iv) overcome barriers to sharing and using information.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE H.C.T. TRUST BOARD

6.1 The membership of the HCT Trust Board comprises the following partner agencies with the representatives as indicated:

- (i) 4 +1ex officio Members of Haringey Council i.e.
 - the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
 - the Leader of the Council (ex officio)
 - the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Enforcement
 - a Majority Group Councillor
 - a Minority Group Councillor
- (ii) 3 officers of Haringey Council i.e.
 - the Chief Executive
 - the Director of Children and Young People's Services
 - the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities (for the Youth Offending Service)
- (iii) The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- (iv) 3 representatives of the Teaching and Primary Care Trust i.e.
 - the Chief Executive
 - the Executive Director

- non-executive Director
 - (v) Haringey Police – the Borough Commander
 - (vi) Mental Health Trust – Chief Executive/Director of CAMHS
 - (vii) Whittington Hospital – Chair of Trust/Chief Executive
 - (viii) North Middlesex Hospital - Chair of Trust/Chief Executive
 - (ix) 2 representatives of the Great Ormond Street Hospital – Partnership
 - the Director of Operations
 - non executive Director
 - (x) General Practitioner representative
 - (xi) 3 representatives of the Haringey Voluntary Sector via Community Link
 - (xii) College of North East London – Principal
 - (xiii) Learning and Skills Council – Chief Executive
 - (xiv) 3 chairs of the Area Children’s Partnerships
 - (xv) 2 nominations from the Haringey Youth Council
 - (xvi) 3 representatives of Haringey Schools – 1 x primary, 1 x secondary & 1 x special
 - (xvii) 1 representative of the Sixth Form College
 - (xviii) 1 representative of Job Centre Plus.
- 6.2 The Chair of the HCT Trust Board will be the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services.
- 6.3 The Trust Board will elect a Deputy Chair to undertake all the functions of the Chair in the event that the Chair is absent or unable to perform them for any reason.
7. MEETINGS OF THE H.C.T. TRUST BOARD

- 7.1 Meetings of the Trust Board will take place on 6 occasions in the year in accordance with a calendar agreed annually in advance. The Chair may agree to summon additional meetings if necessary or may cancel meetings depending on the volume of business.
- 7.2 Quorum. A Trust Board meeting will have a quorum if [8] accredited representatives are present including at least one of each of the following:
- (i) the Chair or Deputy Chair of the HCT
 - (ii) an officer of Haringey Council, and
 - (iii) a representative of the Teaching and Primary Care Trust.
- 7.3 Representatives of non-partner agencies or other specialists who are not members of the HCT may be invited by the Chair to attend meetings for specific items or purposes.
- 7.4 Advance consultation with partners on all significant decisions or proposals is expected. Draft reports or papers should be circulated to other partners for comment 14 days before presentation to the Trust Board.
- 7.5 The agenda and all written reports/papers for each meeting will be forwarded to the Chair for clearing at least 7 clear working days before the meeting. Although the Chair can request a partner agency or representative to amend or withdraw or defer a report, any disputes will be resolved by the Executive Performance Management Group.
- 7.6 With permission of the Chair in cases of genuine urgency, a report or paper may be considered by the Trust Board if it is impracticable to comply with paragraphs 7.4 and 7.5 above.
- 7.7 All representatives on the HCT Trust Board will declare any personal interest they may have in any agenda item or other matter under discussion at the start of the meeting. This would include any case where there was a real possibility of personal gain for a representative or the representative's family or close friends. It would not include interests of a strategic or general professional kind or the publicly known/accessible interests of a partner agency. Unless the representative decides to leave voluntarily, the Chair will determine whether the representative must leave the meeting for that item. The test is whether an informed and objective observer would reasonably regard the personal interest as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice the representative's judgement of the public interest.
- 7.8 Whenever possible decisions of the Trust Board will be reached by consensus. If necessary, and in the discretion of the Chair, a disputed decision will be put to

the vote by those representatives present. In the event of a tied vote the Chair will have a casting vote.

- 7.9 A full minute must be kept to record all decisions or actions agreed by the Trust Board and the reasons for them.
- 7.10 The Chair has the right to determine all questions relating to the procedure and conduct of meetings.
- 7.11 The public and media have no right to attend meetings but, in the discretion of the Chair, they may be allowed to attend part or all of a meeting. There is a presumption that meetings will be open to the public unless it would not be in the public interest to permit this.
- 7.12 When required by the sensitive nature of the matter under discussion, the Chair will indicate that oral or written information must be treated as confidential by all representatives at the meeting. Confidential information shall only be released to those persons within a partner agency having a genuine need to know and must not be released into the public domain.
- 7.13 It is the responsibility of each representative on the Trust Board to be clear about the scope of the decision-making powers delegated to them by their partner agency and to make this known when relevant at meetings of the Trust Board.
- 7.14 When decisions of the Trust Board require a further formal decision, or ratification, by a partner agency to become legally effective, it will be the responsibility of the relevant representative to ensure that the matter is duly referred on to the formal decision-making body of the partner agency and to report the outcome to the Trust Board.

8. EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT GROUP

- 8.1 The Executive Performance Management Group (EPMG) of the HCT will have the following roles:
 - (i) to direct the agenda and forward planning for the HCT;
 - (ii) to manage and monitor the implementation of the Joint Area Review Action Plan;
 - (iii) to manage reporting arrangements between the HCT, its Sub-groups and the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
 - (iv) to make decisions in cases of genuine urgency between meetings of the Trust Board;

- (v) to undertake performance management of key issues and outcomes from the Children and Young People's Plan and local area agreement.
 - (vi) to ensure follow up of decisions made at Trust Board meetings.
- 8.2 The membership of the EPMG will comprise the following:
- (i) the Chair and Deputy Chair of the HCT Trust Board;
 - (ii) the Director of Children and Young People's Services;
 - (iii) a representative of the Metropolitan Police;
 - (iv) a representative of the Teaching and Primary Care Trust; and
 - (v) a representative from the Haringey Voluntary Sector.
- 8.3 Quorum. A meeting of the EPMG will have a quorum if [3] accredited representatives are present including either the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the Trust Board.
- 8.4 The EPMG will report its actions to the meetings of the Trust Board but any decision taken by the EPMG in cases of urgency will be valid and capable of immediate implementation (where this is otherwise legally possible) without ratification by the Trust Board.
- 8.5 The EPMG will be subject to the rules of procedure for the Trust Board as set out in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.14 above except that meetings of the EPMG will not generally be open to the public or media.
- 8.6 Meetings of the EPMG may be summoned by the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the HCT Trust Board as and when necessary, but the expectation is that the EPMG would meet once between each meeting of the Trust Board.
9. SUB-GROUPS STRUCTURE
- 9.1 Working Sub-Groups will be established to support the HCT in undertaking its responsibilities. Reporting between the Trust Board and its Sub-groups will be managed by the EPMG.
- 9.2 There are to be three Sub Groups known respectively as the North, West and South Children's Partnerships and based upon existing Children's Area Networks. These will be supplemented by additional sub groups, to be established as and when needed by the Trust Board that would have a Borough wide remit.

10. FINANCE

- 10.1 The HCT will influence the way in which funding available to partner agencies is used to improve outcomes for children and young people and their families.
- 10.2 The HCT will make plans for the integration and alignment of budgets including, where appropriate, the use of prescribed arrangements under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 for the procurement of staff, goods and services.
- 10.3 The HCT will influence the way in which mandatory pooled funds, such as CAMHS, KDAAT and YOT, are allocated in order to improve outcomes.

11. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS BY PARTNER AGENCIES

- 11.1 Partner agencies commit themselves to meet the obligations set out below to the best of their ability and in the manner most appropriate for each agency:
 - (i) Taking responsibility for developing, publishing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP);
 - (ii) Ensuring that the "duty to co-operate" is understood and acted upon within each partner agency;
 - (iii) Ensuring that the needs assessment that informs the CYPP is regularly reviewed with particular attention paid to those children in need of protection;
 - (iv) Ensuring that all assessments of need for children and their families include evidence from all the professionals involved in their lives and must include direct contact with the child;
 - (v) Ensuring that in respect of safeguarding children:
 - (a) all referrals to Children's Services from other professionals lead to an initial assessment including processes to require direct involvement with the child or young person and their family and direct engagement and feedback with the referring professional;
 - (b) core group meetings, reviews and casework decisions include all the professionals involved with the child;
 - (c) records are kept of such meetings including the written views of those unable to attend;

- (d) formal resolution procedures are in place for managing conflict of opinions between professionals from different agencies;
 - (e) all agencies have well understood referral processes which prioritise the protection and well being of children;
 - (f) named representatives from the police service and the health service are colocated and active partners within the Children and Families Division of the Council's Children and Young People's Service.
- (vi) Representing their agencies and bringing experience and knowledge about other sectors and organisations subject to the primary duty to act in the interest of children and young people;
 - (vii) Ensuring that all staff within their agency who have contact with children are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and are supported to carry out any designated role with regard to partnership work including integrated working, CAF, area based projects and sharing information;
 - (viii) Ensuring that actions to support the HCT are firmly embedded within their agency and that for all staff who work with children there are adequate skills, training and professional development in understanding child development and recognising potential signs of abuse and neglect;
 - (ix) Ensuring that there is multi-agency training in place to create a shared language and understanding of local referral procedures, assessment, information sharing and decision-making across all services who work to protect children;
 - (x) Ensuring that their agency makes an appropriate contribution to the resourcing of the delivery of the CYPP;
 - (xi) Ensuring that partners consistently apply the Information Sharing Guidance published by the DCSF and DCLG;
 - (xii) Ensuring that appropriate consultation takes place with parents and other stakeholders on the work of the HCT;
 - (xiii) Ensuring that reports, policies, procedures and decisions of the HCT are disseminated effectively within their agencies;
 - (xiv) Contributing to the development of robust and effective monitoring and performance arrangements;

- (xv) Committing to attend a minimum 50% of meetings and to nominate a named deputy, who has sufficient seniority to discharge the role, to attend the balance of the meetings in the year;
- (xvi) Actively supporting the work of the HCT, particularly that of the sub-groups, in undertaking any necessary research or additional work;
- (xvii) Actively contributing to the Joint Area Reviews of Children's Services.

11.2 These undertakings may be amended by the HCT Trust Board after the first 6 months of the operation of the HCT.

12. INSPECTION

12.1 Joint Area Reviews will inspect partner agency engagement in the HCT arrangements especially with regard to those partners under a statutory duty to co-operate.

13. REVIEW

13.1 This Partnership Protocol, including the membership of the HCT, will be subject to annual review by the HCT Trust Board and each partner agency.