

Meeting: Children's Trust

Date: 5 October 2009

Report Title: The Children's Trust: Review and Evaluation

Report of: Director of Children and Young People's Service

Purpose

This report outlines proposals for a six month review of the operation of the Children's Trust Board.

Summary

The Children's Trust Board needs to operate in a different way from the previous Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. This paper outlines proposals for a review of the first six months of the Children's Trust board. It also puts forward a list of outcome measures that could be used in the review.

Recommendations

That Children's Trust board members comment on the proposals.

Financial/Legal Comments

N/A.

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Background

The Children's Trust board needs to operate differently to the previous children and young people's strategic partnership if being a Children's Trust is to be meaningful. Whilst it was recognised that development of the Trust would take time there is also some urgency in ensuring the Children's Trust board is working properly and well and is responding to partnership issues raised by the Joint Area Review concerned with Baby Peter.

In particular the Children's Trust board collectively, and its members individually, need to:

- be clear about their remit and role
- understand fully the scope of responsibility collectively and individually
- be able to participate appropriately and meaningfully

To facilitate this it is important that:

a) meetings are:

- well planned and prepared for with actions followed up by officers and reported back on;
- that papers and topics taken to the Children's Trust board are relevant to the role of the board;
- that papers set out clearly what is required of the Children's Trust board on any particular item;
- that papers provide the required information in a suitable format to enable the Children's Trust board to carry out its role and function;

b) relationships between individuals on the Children's Trust board are developed and mutual understanding and a working partnership relationship is fostered between different agencies.

c) that the relationship and relative responsibilities between the Children's Trust board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are clear.

Review of Children's Trust Board

The Executive Performance Management Group has been considering ways of assessing progress with the development the Children's Trust board after its first six months of operation.

It is proposed that the review should take place in December 2009.

The table below gives suggested outcomes measures to be used for the six month review.

Suggested outcome measures demonstrating operation of Haringey's Children's Trust board after 6 months.

Objective	Outcome	Evidenced by
<p>1. The trust board should be clear collectively and individually of its role and purpose and the scope of its responsibilities and accountabilities.</p>	<p>Individual members can articulate and describe the role of the Children's Trust board and the Area Children's Partnerships and their own role in relation to it.</p> <p>Individual members can describe the Children's Trust board's responsibilities and accountabilities and how this applies to them individually as their agency representative</p>	<p>Question included as part of a short questionnaire to board members</p> <p>As above</p>
<p>2. Individual members are able to participate appropriately and meaningfully.</p>	<p>Members understand how the Children and Young People's Plan of the board and the Executive Management Group links with the role of the board and its accountabilities</p> <p>Members judge agenda items to be appropriate to the role and remit of the board</p> <p>Members judge the papers and presentations to provide accessible and accurate information enabling them to form a view on the matter put before them.</p> <p>Members feel able to entrust that issues raised and suggestions agreed at meetings will be followed up and reported back on</p> <p>Agencies provide representatives at appropriate</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Attendance record for board</p>

Objective	Outcome	Evidenced by
	levels for the board and attendance is consistent.	
3. To develop mutual understanding and a working partnership relationship between different agencies on the board.	Members of the Children's Trust board understand how other agencies work and respect their contributions.	Programme of activities agreed. Face to face survey of a sample of board members
4. To clarify the relationship and relative responsibilities between the Children's Trust board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board	Members of the Children's Trust board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board understand their relative roles.	Appropriate agenda items Protocols for both Boards.

Recommendations

That Children's Trust board members comment on the proposals and the proposed outcome measures.

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