

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 15th JANUARY 2010

WIRRAL DISTRICT BOARDS REVIEW

1.0 Background

A review of the operation of the District Boards was requested by the Director of Children's Services in October 2009.

2.0 Review Process

Meetings were held with Heads of Branch and District Managers to ascertain their views concerning the operation of the District boards. The findings are reported in Appendix 1.

Minutes of the District boards were reviewed to evaluate evidence of impact on outcomes for children and young people through the operation of the boards. The board minutes were found to be variable in content, with minimal actions minuted or progressed. A formal action plan was in existence for one board, Birkenhead (Appendix 2). In addition the minutes of the boards were not reviewed by any governance groups and no formal reporting structure was in operation for the boards.

A meeting between Board Chairs, Heads of Branch and District Managers was held on the 9th of November. The operation and impact on outcomes for Children and Young People and proposals for the future of the board were discussed. The findings are reported in Appendix 3.

The suggestions from the meeting for the future of the boards were:

- It was agreed the boards would be re-formed for one year commencing in April 2010.
- A flexible structure would be adopted with the membership and operation of the boards discussed at each individual board level to match the needs of the District.
- The boards would be aligned with the Youth Forums to ensure consistency of focus and operation.
- The West and South Wirral Boards would be merged.

3.0 Recommendations

1. That Wirral Children's Trust Board reviews the findings from the review and determines the future of the District Boards.

Appendix 1. Review of the District Boards 19th October, 2009.

Appendix 2. Birkenhead District Board Action Plan 2009/10

Appendix 3. Review of the District Boards 1 December, 2009

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