

1.0 Background

The aim of Wirral Children's Trust (WCT) is to work across professional and agency boundaries to make a difference to the experience and life chances of children, young people and their families. The trust will agree priorities and actions for children's services ensuring safeguarding underpins all activity and provide a framework for the effective operation of local arrangements. In order to achieve this partner agencies meet through an agreed structure of working groups. This report outlines the current status of the structure of the WCT groups and plans for further development.

2.0 Introduction

The structure of WCT sub-groups was amended during the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16 to reflect significant changes in partnership organisations. The published structure of WCT is shown in Figure 1. The new plan reflects that as change in the public sector continues WCT will need to continue to evolve including constant review of the structure of sub-groups to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and that key priorities are delivered.

The Children's Trust Executive (CTE) operates as an executive of the WCT Board and is Chaired by the Director of Children's Services. The CTE has made a commitment to review and reform the operation of the current sub-groups to optimise the use of reduced resources across the partnership.

The two key areas to be reviewed are Staying Safe and Achievement and Economic Wellbeing and the associated sub-groups. The review will consider the refreshed partnership approach to preventative and targeted services, new Government legislation and Ofsted inspection changes. At this stage there are no plans to amend the structure and operation of the Being Healthy strategy group and the Strategy Lead and Chair of the Group will remain in place.

The Participation Champion is currently developing a framework to ensure children and young people's voices are integral to the operation of all services. Existing successful engagement forums will be utilised and in addition the new 'Youth Voice Group' has been set up with clear aims:

- Act as an overarching mechanism for young people's engagement/participation.
- To bring together interested young people from other participation groups (such as Children in Care Council or District Youth forums).

This area will be further developed and new Children's Trust engagement work piloted with the existing Being Healthy Group.

The review will be carried out by the CTE and a recommendation regarding the restructure and associated operational changes is proposed to be brought to the CTB in March 2014 with new operation expected to be in place from April 2014.

Although a review is ongoing and changes in the operation of sub-groups are planned the delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan will continue to be monitored by the CTE and overseen by the Director of Children’s Services with quarterly performance reports delivered to the CTB.

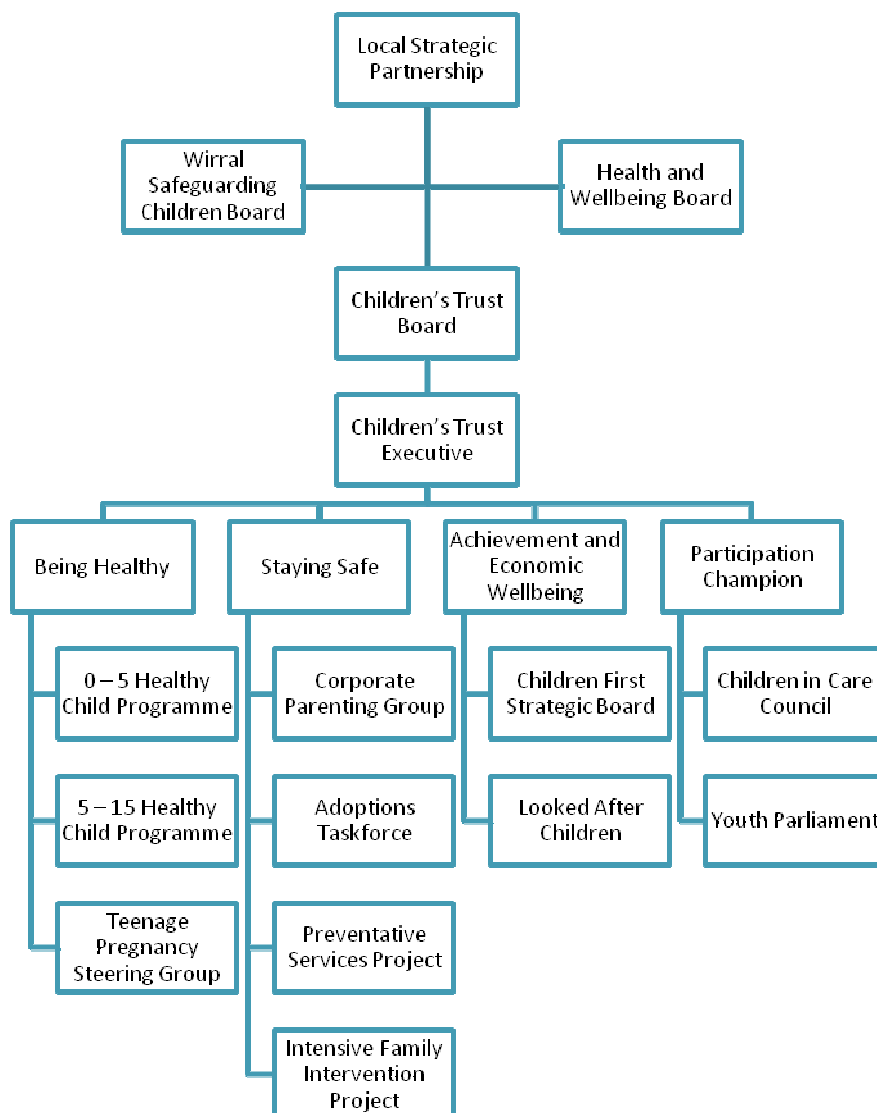


Figure 1: The published structure of Wirral Children’s Trust which is currently under review.

6.0 Recommendations:

- a) That Wirral Children’s Trust Board note the developments underway.
- b) That recommendations regarding a new operational structure for WCT are brought before the board in March 2014

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