

## **WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 29 September 2014**

### **The Children's Trust – Moving Forward**

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#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

This paper sets out options for the future of the Children's Trust Board and the Children's Trust Executive group. In summary the options are:

1. Subsume the business of the Children's Trust Board into the Health and Wellbeing Board, LSCB and Community Safety Partnership.
2. Develop an integrated commissioning approach
3. Continue with the current governance approach

#### **2.0 Background information**

Wirral's Children's Trust Board was established in 2007 and is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services.

The Children's Trust Board in Wirral has much strength. It is a broadly- based partnership and attendance at meetings is good. It provides a forum to discuss and agree shared policies and priorities. It has an agreed set of key performance indicators, and regularly reviews and discusses progress.

At the meeting of the Executive in June 2014 and subsequently at the CTB it was agreed that some thought needed to be given as how best to proceed with the Children's Trust Board and its Executive Management group.

The options outlined in the document are being made in response to a number of significant changes being made at both national and local levels, including:

- Removal of heavily prescriptive statutory guidance on Children's trusts.
- Removal of the statutory requirement for a Children and Young People's Plan
- The establishment of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board arrangements
- The publication of Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the associated commissioning partnership arrangements
- The new role of the local authority through the delivery and commissioning of Public Health functions in Wirral
- The development of the Clinical Commissioning Groups landscape in Wirral
- The development of NHS England commissioning role
- Implementation of Vision 2018 project

Many of these changes are ongoing and it is important that any new proposals are flexible enough to cope with any further significant developments in the future that will impact on the activity of the Children's Trust.

#### **3.0 Options for change**

##### **Option 1**

Under this option, The Children's Trust Board and Children's Trust Executive meetings would cease.

The Children's Trust Board would instead meet for one or two half day conference sessions per year to review progress on the CYPP and to refresh priorities and targets for subsequent years. These will be attended by senior officers from all statutory organisations and will include sessions involving children and young people.

An annual report setting out achievements in improving outcomes for children as set out in the CYPP would be produced, published and reported to other relevant groups. They would have no programme of work to transact.

The Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership would ensure that the priorities of the CYPP are effectively integrated into their respective work plans.

### **Option 2**

Under this option the Children's Trust Board is positioned as a Children's Commissioning sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The group is responsible for oversight of integrated commissioning. It will be the responsible representative group and will include relevant partners as stated under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 for example:

- Elected member for Children and Young People's portfolio (chair)
- LA Strategic Director for Children and Young People
- Strategic Lead Commissioner in the LA and Health
- Clinical Lead for Children's Health Services
- Chair of LSCB
- CCG lead commissioner
- Police and Crime Commissioner representative
- Finance leads from various organisations

This model is underpinned by a number of 'Strategic Implementation Groups' (for example Vision 2018 Integrated Children's group) which are the 'doing groups' and a partnership reference group.

### **Option 3**

Under this option the current arrangements would remain. However it is recommended that ways to make improvements are explored.

## **4.0 Children's Trust Executive recommendations:**

The 3 options detailed above were discussed and debated at the meeting of the Children's Trust Executive held on 15 September 2014.

The recommendations of the Children's Trust Executive are to:

- Convene a task and finish group to scope out the proposals illustrated in option 2 – The Children's Trust Board is positioned as a Children's Commissioning sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- A member of the Children's Trust to lead the scoping exercise
- The proposals for the new arrangements are concluded by 31 December 2014.

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**Appendices: None**