

Review of the Children's Trust Board Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

Following the decision at the Board meeting on 16th May 2016 this report proposes revised Terms of Reference for Wirral Children's Trust Board.

The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference, role and function of the Board include:

- A change of name to Wirral Children's Trust;
- Clarification of Wirral Children's Trust as a multiagency network of key leaders who will work together to ensure that the development and implementation of services for children, young people and families across Wirral leads to measurable improvements in outcomes;
- A greater emphasis on the Trust's transparent and highly visible role to scrutinise, challenge and hold partners to account for the pace of change, and the measurable impact of joint commissioning arrangements;
- An emphasis on Wirral Children's Trust's role to act as a champion for the voice of children, young people and families, and as critical friend on their behalf.

2.0 Introduction

The Wirral Plan 2020 sets out 20 pledges which the council and its partners will work together to achieve by 2020 focusing on three key themes:

- Protecting the most vulnerable
- Driving economic growth
- Improving the local environment.

The Children Young and Families and Improving Life Chances Strategies, agreed in April 2016, aims to deliver four of these pledges:

- Children are ready for school
- Young people are ready for work and adulthood
- Vulnerable children reach their full potential
- Reduce child poverty

3.0 Joint Commissioning

The Children's Joint Commissioning Group (CJCG) was established in April 2015 to oversee joint commissioning across partners, with oversight from the Children's

Trust Board. The Terms of Reference for the CJCG were reviewed in April 2016 to provide a sharper focus on the effective implementation of the joint commissioning required to achieve the ambitions set out in the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Strategy. The CJCG will oversee and monitor the delivery of Children's Joint Strategic Commissioning Framework and the associated action plans to translate ambition into action, providing leadership and where necessary challenge to partners across Wirral to secure measurable and sustained improvements in outcomes.

The recent Ofsted inspection of services for children in Wirral noted that:

Strategic plans to develop joint commissioned services are at an advanced stage, but joint commissioning across the spectrum of children's services is not yet apparent, indicating slow progress by the local authority and clinical commissioning group.

These proposals for revised and refreshed terms of reference for the Children's Trust Board will contribute directly to addressing this inspection finding, ensuring that joint commissioning arrangements are now taken forward at pace, with the full commitment of partners, and that these actions make a measurable difference to the lives of children, young people and families across Wirral.

4.0 Challenge and Scrutiny

From April 2016 the Children Young People and Families Strategy 2016 – 2020 supersedes the Wirral Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The revised Terms of Reference continue to emphasise a key role for the Wirral Children's Trust to scrutinise and challenge the progress and impact of partners' actions to achieve measurable and sustained improvements in outcomes. The Trust will take a 'deep dive' approach, reviewing and scrutinising in detail an area or theme central to the delivery of the CYPF Strategy. The Children's Trust Board received performance reports on the CYPP at each meeting, and it is proposed that these 'deep dives' will be supported by detailed and relevant performance reports and analyses. This will enable the Children's Trust to continue to hold partners to account in a transparent and highly visible forum. The Children's Trust will play an important role in ensuring partners step up and maintain the pace of change to achieve the shared goals set out in the CYPF Strategy.

As the Children's Trust's role develops it is likely to have an increasing interest in areas of work beyond services for children, young people and families. Decisions on the built environment in the borough or economic development, for example, have the potential to impact on the lives and well-being of Wirral families. The Children's Trust will have a mandate to challenge and scrutinise all areas of the Council's work with its partners to truly act as a champion for children, young people and families.

5.0 Governance

At the Children's Trust Board meeting in May 2016 it was agreed that the protocol between the Wirral Joint Commissioning Group, the Children's Joint Commissioning Group, the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Health and Well-Being Board be brought forward alongside the revised Terms of Reference. However, the recently-published report of the Ofsted inspection of services for children and the WSCB now needs to inform the development of these revised protocols. Work on this commenced in advance of the publication of the inspection reports on 20th September but is not yet complete. It is proposed that these are brought to the Children's Trust meeting in February 2017 for discussion and ratification.

6.0 Cycle and focus for meetings

The annual cycle of meetings are proposed as follows:

End of September/October	Themed deep dive
January/February	Themed deep dive
June	Annual stakeholder event

The focus for the themed deep dives will be agreed with the Chair of the Children's Trust supported by a small planning group who will meet bi-monthly to review and agree the agenda.

7.0 Recommendations

- That the Children's Trust Board approve and adopt the revised Terms of reference, including a change of name to Wirral Children's Trust;
- That a small planning group is established, meeting bi-monthly, to agree the Children's Trust workplan and deep dive focus;
- That following further work on the protocol between the Children's Trust, the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board and the Health and Well-Being Board these be presented to the next Wirral Children's Trust meeting for adoption.

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1

Draft Wirral Children's Trust Terms of Reference

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