

**REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT**

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	Schools' Forum
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Children's Trust Arrangements
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	Clive Yates Business Manager, Children's Trust Board
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<b>IS REPORT EXEMPT?</b>	No
<b>IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?</b>	No

**SUMMARY**

This paper sets out the proposed changes which will enable Lincolnshire Children's Trust Arrangements to comply with requirements provided through statutory guidance '*Statutory Guidance on Co-operation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young Peoples Plan*', which came into effect April 2010

**DISCUSSION**

**In Lincolnshire we have agreed a vision across the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP):**

*Working together, we will ensure that every child and young person, in every part of the county, has the best possible start in life and is able to achieve their potential. We will provide support to those who need it and ensure that all children and young people are able to achieve the five key outcomes:*

- **Being Healthy**
- **Stay Safe**
- **Enjoy and Achieve**
- **Make a Positive Contribution**
- **Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

We will achieve this by ensuring that our strategic themes are implemented:

- **All children achieving potential** – excellence in learning with support
- **Prevention** – early action resulting in a shift of resources from Specialist to Universal
- **A single organisation** – developing integrated working
- **Safeguarding our children** – ensuring children are safe in every environment
- **Participation and aspiration** – listening to and acting on what children and parents/carers tell us
- **Partnership** – creating sustainable futures through collaboration

Lincolnshire's Children's Trust Board (formally the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership) is the statutory board for delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in Lincolnshire.

The new statutory guidance requires Children's Trusts to take a stronger role in agreeing a common strategy on how partners will co-operate to improve outcomes for children and young people. Duties introduced through this updated statutory guidance include:

- Responsibility for developing, publishing and reviewing the Children and young People's Plan – this responsibility passes from the local authority alone to the Children's Trust Board.
- Responsibility for outlining the strategic framework for how Children's Trust partners will co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people.
- Responsibility for monitoring the extent to which the partners act in accordance with the Children and Young People's Plan and to publish an annual report.

The introduction of the new statutory guidance places additional challenges on the relevant statutory partners of Children's Trust Arrangements and the requirement to make ensure that governance arrangements reflect this.

Note: Schools (including Academies, and non maintained special schools<sup>5</sup>), FE and sixth-form colleges and Jobcentre Plus are new statutory 'relevant partners' in the Children's Trust co-operation arrangements from 12 January 2010. This means that like other statutory 'relevant partners' they are required to co-operate with the local authority and its other partners to improve children's well-being through the Children's Trust co-operation arrangements;

This report confirms that the Children's Trust Board (CTB) is now reviewing the current structure. The reasons for completing this review include:

- At a recent CTB Development day, board members reviewed the existing Children's Trust arrangements and reflected on achievements since its creation in 2006. The CTB considered how the CTB was functioning and if its arrangements enabled members to collectively deliver strong, coherent partnership working and improved outcomes for children and young people.
- The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act introduced in November 2009 brought in new statutory requirements with updated guidance about working together for Children's Trusts and Safeguarding. Much of this is effective from April 2010.
- In looking at new Children's Trust arrangements, the partnership wanted to ensure that their structures helped to drive clearer decision making and integrated service delivery. The CTB wanted the partnership governance arrangements to help them to improve the delivery of the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.

As part of new Children's Trust Arrangements, there must be a **Children's Trust Board** in place which oversees the Children's Trust cooperation agreements;

The Trust Board provides the interagency governance to bring partners together through a common strategy outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The CTB consider that, although there are strong foundations of working in partnership, a more streamlined board with a focused strategic investment group could provide greater focus, clarity and accountability.

A copy of the proposals to establish an updated structure is attached in appendix 1.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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The CTB are committed to wide consultation of the proposed new arrangements. The views of the Schools Forum are welcomed to inform the decisions of the partnership.

<b>APPENDICES - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.</b>
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APPENDIX 1	<i>Proposal and Consultation Document</i>
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>
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<i>Statutory guidance on cooperation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan</i>
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