

Report of the Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 27 January 2016

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Subject:

Update on the development of the Children's Trust

Summary statement:

This report provides an update following on from the survey of the Children's Trust Board arrangements held in Spring 2015 and subsequent development work of the Board in Autumn 2015 which culminated in a development day for Board Members on 14 December 2015. It will also outline the next steps for the Trust as it moves into its next three year cycle 2016 -2019

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1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update following on from the survey of the Children's Trust Board arrangements held in Spring 2015 and subsequent development work of the Board in Autumn 2015 which culminated in a development day for Board Members on 14 December 2015. It will also outline the next steps for the Trust as it moves into the next three year planning cycle

2. Background

2.1 Bradford Children's Trust

2.1.1 The term "Children's Trust" applies to the whole system of children's services, covering the work of partner agencies at every level, from the development of the overall strategy to the delivery of front-line services.

2.1.2 The Children's Trust Board brings together partner organisations with a shared commitment to improve outcomes for children and young people by working together more effectively. The priorities agreed by the Children's Trust Board are set out in the Children's and Young People Plan (currently a one year bridging plan 2015 -16).

2.1.3 The legal framework underpinning Bradford and Districts Children's Trust arrangements is the 'duty to cooperate' set out in S10 of the Children's Act 2004, to help shape them to ensure that co-operation results in improvements in all areas of service delivery and in associated outcomes for children and young people

2.1.4 Representatives from member organisations make up Bradford and Districts Children's Trust Board which keeps a strategic oversight of the Children and Young People Plan. Each organisation has agreed to be responsible for implementing this plan.

2.1.5 The Trust will be one of five other key Partnerships that make up a Family of Partnerships which relate to the Bradford District Partnership and link to a New Deal theme.

These include:

- Children's Trust - Good School and a great start for all our children
- Safer Stronger Communities - Safe, clean, active communities
- Producer City - Better skills, more good jobs and a growing economy
- Health and Wellbeing Board - Better Health Better Lives
- Public Sector Reform Board - Poverty (Fairness and Inclusion)

2.2 Purpose and Functions

2.2.1 The Trust Board is accountable for:

- Developing and delivering the Children and Young People's Plan and providing leadership of the "Good Schools and a great start for our Children" a key New Deal priority.
- Ensuring the collective resources of the partners are being used to best effect to meet the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan
- Setting the strategic direction for the development of integrated commissioning of services for children and young people
- Resolving issues and barriers that block progress against those priorities

This includes shared responsibility for:

- Jointly developing, delivering and resourcing strategies and action plans necessary to meet the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Seeking opportunities where appropriate to jointly commission services to meet priorities
- Addressing barriers to meeting the priorities and to identifying future needs, including communication, information and data sharing
- Ensuring safeguarding underpins all activity and to provide a framework for the effective operation of local arrangements
- Focusing on preventative and early intervention services for children and young people and families
- Monitoring and evaluating performance against the agreed priorities of the Children's Trust and to ensure that actions are taken where outcomes are not improving
- Using performance monitoring information, statistical data, intelligence and evaluation to inform future planning, commissioning and decision making and maintaining an overview of progress towards achieving the stated outcomes and targets
- Keeping the Children's Trust workforce informed and involved, providing clear direction, development and training as necessary
- Ensuring that children, young people and families have a voice in decision making that affects them
- Clarifying and simplifying governance structures and decision making
- Building upon good practice and developing an evidence-based approach to what works
- Improving outcomes for children, young people and families through multi agency re-design where this is the best way forward

The Trust's remit includes the needs of all children and young people in Bradford and District 0 -19 years, young people up to the age of 25 leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. These responsibilities include effective transition arrangements where necessary.

3 Next Steps

3.1 The recent Trust Development Session took place on 14 December 2015. The key areas of focus were the :

- Trust's relationship with other key partnerships and the synergies with the Bradford District and Council Plans
- Children's Services Performance Framework
- Agreement of the priorities for 2016 -19
- Relationship with other key strategic partnerships
- Views of Children and Young People

The session provided a clear direction for the Trusts work over the next three years. Over 60 young people attended and were robust in their comments and their challenge to the Board; this will be fed into the Board's work as it moves forward.

3.2 The Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) 2016 – 19 will have 6 Key Priorities:

- Ensuring that children start school ready to learn
- Accelerating educational attainment and achievement
- Ensuring young people are ready for life and work
- Ensuring that there is education, employment and skills for all
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and providing early support to families.
- Reducing health and social inequalities

3.3 The CYPP and Performance Framework will be finalised and be presented alongside the Plan to the Trust Board at its next meeting in March 2016. This will be supported by action plans for each of the priorities. These plans will be based on existing plans where they already exist, for example the OFSTED School Improvement Plan.

3.4 The Trust Board will receive regular reports of progress against the action plans. These reports will be by exception. Lead officers will report on any areas of concern or of poor performance.

3.5 The Board will also receive reports related to key areas of development, for example progress of Journey to Excellence and Early Help.

3.6 A formal programme of engagement with Children and Young People will be finalised and be agreed by the Board in March 2016.

3.7 A final governance structure which clearly identifies who holds responsibility for key performance indicators and the priorities in the Plan will be presented to the Trust Board in March 2016.

4 CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 The Trust priorities reflect the New Deal priorities and will complement those of the District and Council Plans as well and the plans of our partners

Better Skills More Jobs and a Growing Economy: with thriving businesses which create high quality, high-skill jobs.

Good Schools and a Good Start for All Our Children: where children start school ready to learn, and young people leave school prepared for an adult life of work and self-responsibility.

Better Health, Better Lives: where healthy people live as independently as possible in safe and supportive families and communities.

Safe, Clean and Active Communities: where strong, self-reliant communities live in safe, clean neighbourhoods.

4.2 The Trust proposes to focus on specific priorities within the 2016 -19 Children and Young People's Plan - '**Good schools and a good start for life for all our children**'.

Specifically it will work on:

- Ensuring that children are school ready

- Accelerating educational attainment and achievement
- Ensuring young people are life and work ready
- Ensuring that there is education employment and skills for all
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people and providing early support to families
- Reducing health and social inequalities

4.3 These will be the Children's sector contribution to New Deal for Bradford. The Children's Trust will help to make this happen by:

- listening to children, young people and families and to the children's sector staff that work with them
- providing strong leadership to the children's sector – keeping us focused on the most important issues and on working together
- Building good links with the other sectors that provide services and support to parents and communities, and that improve the neighbourhoods in which children live.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Members are requested to consider and note the information provided. There is a further update report in six months.

6. APPENDICES

None

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Children and Young People's Plan 2015 -16
 Children and Young People's Plan 2015 -16 Summary