

CHILDREN'S TRUST MANAGEMENT GROUP NOTES:

Wednesday 16th January 2008
3.00 pm – 5.00 pm at WRVS, Hereford

PRESENT:

Management Group

Sharon Menghini, Director of Children's Services, Herefordshire Council (Chair)
Shaun McLurg, Head of Safeguarding and Assessment Services, Herefordshire Council
Jane Crysell, Chief Executive, Connexions
Dr Ian Tait, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
John Sheppard, Headteacher, Wyebridge Sports College
Jon Ralph, Community Youth Service Manager, Herefordshire Council (representing Keith Barham)
Marcia Perry, Directorate Manager for Children's Services, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (representing Frances Howie)
Sian Howells, Shadow Board Member
Will Rogers, Shadow Board Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Philippa Granthier, Business Manager, Children's Trust, Herefordshire Council
Notes taken by Julie Teague, PA to the Children's Trust, Herefordshire Council
George Salmon, Head of Commissioning & Improvement – Schools & Services, Herefordshire Council (agenda item 7)
Malcolm Green, Finance Manager, Herefordshire Council (agenda item 8)

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES:

Frances Howie, Associate Director of Health Improvement, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (Vice Chair)
Keith Barham, Head of Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service
Jill Hiscox, Scheme Manager, Homestart, Voluntary Sector

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes agreed as correct.

Citizens Panel

Philippa Granthier to clarify with Gill Swaites (Research Officer, Herefordshire Partnership) regarding the percentage of parent representation and whether Children's Trust can use this group for consultation on parents.

PG

Workforce Strategy

Ian Tait wanted it noted that he had requested that specific commissioned services be mentioned eg GP's.

Local Involvement Networks

Philippa clarified that this related to children's services.

3. ITEM FOR AOB

Ian Tait would like to raise the Every Disabled Child Matters document.

SHADOW BOARD

Will Rogers informed the group that the Shadow Board are going to increase their number on members by inviting representatives from Lady Hawkins' High School, John Masefield High School, St Mary's RC High School , The Minster College, Barrs Court and other special schools.

4. YOU TALK WE LISTEN REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

(report and action plan circulated with agenda)

Jon Ralph informed the group on the consultation with young people held in October 2007 half term and the priorities for action.

The consultation event was commissioned as part of the Herefordshire Connects Transformation Programme for Children and Young People's Directorate with particular emphasis on targeting young people who may not traditionally be involved in consultation exercises. These included young people with special education needs, teenage parents, the traveller communities, eastern European communities as well as primary school aged children.

Jon Ralph informed the group that a conference report and separate action plan have been created containing a full summary of the event and actions. These are being negotiated and implemented through identified managers and where possible integrated into other work plans.

Jon outlined a summary of the key priorities:

- Transport and access to facilities, events and services.
- More information and communication, how young people can get involved and young person friendly language and formats.
- A greater range of consultations and venues so that as many different groups of young people can be involved.
- Improve safety of young people.
- Training and induction of staff – young people to be involved.
- Political leaders being more involved with young people.

A concern raised by John Sheppard was that children with disabilities did not attend on the day and it was important to understand why they felt they could not attend. We need to hear their voice and be creative on how to get their views. Sharon Menghini stated that links are already established eg schools councils but need rationale as to how to reach vulnerable children.

Jon Ralph to bring an action plan to a future meeting.

JR

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008/11

(Draft Plan circulated with the agenda)

Philippa Granthier informed the group that the new plan was out to public consultation until 3 March and that the Outcome Groups were looking at the delivery plan.

Philippa wanted the group to agree on the design competition for the plan and explained that she had met with the Shadow Board in the morning to discuss and for the Shadow Board to own it. By the end of next week a letter will be sent to all School Council's, Headteachers, Heads of Design and Art, College Principals and Citizenship Co-ordinators along with the details of the competition. The competition closing date is 29th February and the judging panel will be Cllr Hyde and 2 members of the Shadow Board.

Sian Howells and Will Rogers explained the age categories, the judging criteria and prizes.

Philippa explained that funding for the competition prizes would be through the Children's Trust budget and a prize giving event will be held in June.

The group agreed.

6. REVIEW OF THE 2007/08 DELIVERY PLAN

(Delivery Plan circulated with agenda)

Philippa informed the group that she had chased up anything outstanding and had received information from Paul Murray that morning. The group agreed that the 2007/08 delivery plan could be signed off.

Sharon Menghini encouraged support from the Outcome Leads in ensuring information was supplied to Philippa Granthier who is tasked with updating for the delivery plan; also Hilary Hall who is tasked with getting information for the LAA.

**Outcome
Leads**

7. SCHOOL REVIEW

(Report tabled at meeting)

George Salmon outlined the proposals for the School Review. George explained the review was a result of falling numbers on roll and therefore resources. He said that the future is unknown but change is needed. The consultation period is until 21st March and the proposals are that 35 primary schools are to close, creating 17 new schools and 4 high schools are to close creating 2 new high schools. At the end of January there will be a re-assessment of the birth rate which will be reflected in the proposals.

At the end of the consultation period there will be recommendations to how Cabinet to see the proposals are to move forward. If Cabinet agree there will be a further round of statutory consultation for 8 weeks in April/May. It will be finalised before the end of July and implemented from September 09 onwards.

Ian Tait recommended that the group declare an interest and Sharon Menghini informed that this group should be part of the strategic consultation.

Declaration of interest from:

Marcia Perry – children at secondary school.

John Sheppard – Headteacher with the Local Authority for the next 6 months before the school becomes an academy. He is a parent of students in school with one in a special school.

Jon Ralph – children in secondary school.

Ian Tait – GP at Bromyard, one child in secondary school outside the county.

Jane Crysell – no interest.

Shaun McLurg – no interest.

Sharon Menghini – no interest.

Sian Howells – student at Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School.

Will Rogers – student at Wigmore High School.

Ian Tait asked how widely the numbers had been checked as the Primary Care Trust (PCT) had very accurate data of the registered population with GP's. In the Bromyard area, where he is a GP, the migrant population is rising but this was patchy rather than replicated fully throughout the county.

George explained that the projected pupil numbers came from children registered with Herefordshire PCT GP's and children registered in our schools at present.

Jane Crysell asked how the conclusions and recommendations had been arrived at. George highlighted Bromyard as an example. Queen Elizabeth High School is not well supported by local population and the 14-19 agenda would be impossible to deliver there.

Marcia Perry asked if transport was being looked at alongside the review.

George informed the group that the bulk of housing would be within 6 miles of a school and that there would be fewer schools with more children entitled to more free transport. George explained that a carbon footprint exercise was underway.

Sharon Menghini informed the group that a report with the new amended proposals fully costed would be presented to Members. She asked the group to engage in the debate and formerly respond using the pro-forma.

ALL

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(item 9 on agenda)

Ian Tait informed the group that the Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) document which is a charter for children with disabilities was an agenda item at the PCT Board and recommended that this document should be brought to the Children’s Trust first.

Marcia Perry outlined the document to the group stating that it was a commitment to disabled children’s services and thought that it had been signed off at Cabinet in Spring 2007. One element of the document had already started.

Philippa Granthier to confirm with Anne Heath if this document went to Cabinet and when. EDCM to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

PG

Ian Tait to send an electronic version of the document to Sharon Menghini.

IT/SM

Sharon to email a response to Ian Tait by Thursday of next week (24th January) as to whether she thinks the PCT Board should agree the document first or pass it to the Children’s Trust for agreement.

Sharon Menghini left the meeting

Marcia Perry took over as Chair to the meeting

9. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) SINGLE POT MONITORING RETURN

(Item 8 on agenda, report circulated with agenda)

Malcolm Green discussed the financial report with the group and informed them that he could not bring a report on performance targets issued by Herefordshire Partnership as it was due for their meeting tomorrow. Philippa Granthier to make sure that this item is synchronised with the Herefordshire Partnership reporting.

PG

The reported overspend of £74,773 is projected largely because of a withdrawal of £57,610 budget by the Herefordshire Partnership in quarter 1 and will be met by the Children & Young People’s Directorate.

Malcolm explained that next year the LAA was going into the Area Based Grant (ABG) to be run through the Children’s Trust and would be adopting a different approach. A request from Ian Tait was that a glossary of terms and services be included in the Area Based Grant.

Connexions funding would be going into the ABG from April 2008. Jane Crysell offered to provide details of the mandatory and statutory elements of their work and would forward to Philippa Granthier.

JC

Area Based Grant to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

PG

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20 th February 2008	3.00 – 5.00	Room 7c, Blackfriars
6 th March 2008	12.30 – 2.00	Room 7C, Blackfriars
16 th April 2008	3.00 – 5.00	WRVS, room 5
20 th May 2008	12.00 – 2.00	Room 7c Blackfriars
18 th June 2008	3.00 – 5.00	Room 7c, Blackfriars
8 th July 2008	12.00 – 2.00	WRVS, room 5