

# HEREFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008  
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm at Blackfriars

## **PRESENT:**

Sharon Menghini, Director of Children's Services, Herefordshire Council  
Sharon Gray, Executive Director, Learning & Skills Council  
Sue Mead, Non-Executive Director for Children's Services, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust  
Kevin Purcell, Superintendent, West Mercia Constabulary (representing Mark Turner)

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Philippa Granthier, Business Manager, Children's Trust, Herefordshire Council  
Notes taken by Julie Teague, PA to the Children's Trust, Herefordshire Council  
Margaret Dennison, Interim Head of Community Operations (agenda item 4)  
Ellen Mitchell (work experience)  
Jessica Birch (work experience)

*Every Child Matters Family and Friends Care leaflet and Briefing Report on Ofsted Inspection of Herefordshire's Fostering Service by Nick Dunster circulated at meeting for information.*

*Sue Mead Chaired the meeting.*

## **ACTION**

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Jenny Hyde, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Herefordshire Council (Chair)  
Mark Turner, Divisional Commander, West Mercia Constabulary  
Helen Horton, Chief Executive, Voluntary Sector Alliance

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Children and Young People's Plan**

The Board endorsed the positive feedback that had been received about the plan and the launch.

##### **Children & Young People's Directorate structure**

Sharon Menghini informed the Board that 2 Heads of Service had been appointed to the directorate and will take up their posts in September.

##### **Review Of The 07/08 Delivery Plan, APA Self Assessment and 07/08 Performance Management**

An exercise looking at the 07/08 plus LAA/ LPSA had been undertaken and the 08/09 plan amended accordingly. The Be Healthy section has been amended after consultation with Marcia.

### **Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)**

Philippa informed the group that the update on Safeguarding will be at the next meeting.

#### **Action:**

**Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) to be a standing item on the agenda.**

**PG/  
SMcL**

### **CAF Action/Implementation Plan**

Sharon Gray informed the Board that there had been some confusion about the Reward Grant money. Herefordshire Partnership would look at the request and come back to the Board.

Sharon Menghini informed the Board that she had enhanced the budget to CAF, through her internal budget.

Sue Mead felt the Trust Board should have more clarity on the “resource envelope” for children, so there is a sense of what is being spent on children and where in the county – both revenue and capital.

#### **Action:**

**Exercise to start looking at funding available.**

**PG /  
ALL**

Philippa Granthier introduced Ellen and Jessica to the Board. They are doing work experience with the Trust Office for this week.

### **3. ITEMS FOR AOB**

Consultation of Children’s Trust proposal of statutory duty on schools – key messages. (Discussed under agenda item 5)

### **4. UPDATE ON STRATEGIES**

#### **Children with Disabilities Strategy**

(Report and Aiming High for Disabled Children & Young People papers circulated with agenda)

Margaret Dennison presented her report and recommended the Board approve

- The Herefordshire Strategy for Disabled Children and Young People 2008-2011.
- The Herefordshire Strategy for Disabled Children and young People Delivery Plan 2008-2011.
- The Herefordshire Children’s Trust “Aiming High for Disabled Children and Young People” “Local Core Offer” 2008-09 Delivery Plan.

Sharon Menghini outlined the background and details of the strategy, informing the Board that the strategy had been refined with SMART objectives. This had been approved by the Management Group but was not presented in its final form to the Board. Additionally support was needed for proposals around the Core Offer and for awareness around the activities and better Short Term Breaks for children with disabilities.

The Board discussed their earlier concerns with the strategy; they wanted reassurance that it was now ‘fit for purpose’. Margaret reassured them that she had cross referenced the Core Offer to the delivery plan and recommended that this strategy needs to be approved and concentrate on the deliverables.

Margaret informed the Board that the revenue for 08/09 of £40,000 was to lay the foundation of the strategy this year, identify a lead and to build a gateway. Key players to put together a job outline to recruit an Operational Lead. The Board wanted clarity about responsibility and accountability.

#### **Action:**

**Margaret Dennison to link the process of accountability.**

**MD**

The Board agreed to endorse the strategy and delivery plan and to support the plan that is to be submitted in response to the core offer in order to ensure that funding opportunities were not lost.

The Board wanted to know how to progress the strategy. Margaret advised she wanted the Board to agree the leadership arrangements to be with the Be Healthy Outcome Group which would make the group the accountable body. Margaret informed the Board that on the ground the services working with children with disabilities had huge potential, they were so well integrated; Children's Trust was in a promising position.

The Board agreed this was promising news and discussed the leadership arrangement. They acknowledged the relevance of the Be Healthy Outcome Group but further discussion was required outside of this meeting. This is a "cross cutting" strategy so the Management Group may be more appropriate.

**SMe /  
PG**

### **CAMHS Strategy**

Margaret gave a verbal update on the strategy and reported that Yvonne Clowsley and Amanda Edwards were the best people to talk to on this. The strategy is currently out for consultation which will be completed at the end of August. Philippa Granthier advised that the strategy was going back to the Management Group in September.

#### **Action:**

**Yvonne Clowsley, Amanda Edwards and Margaret Dennison to bring the Strategy back to the Board in October.**

**YC/AE,  
MD/PG**

### **Family Support/ Parenting Strategy**

(Draft strategy circulated with the agenda)

Margaret Dennison advised the Board that this document is the first re-draft of the old strategy and made the Board aware that in last years APA it stated that this strategy should be completed and implemented.

The Board agreed that more work was needed on the strategy particularly timescales and content and would endorse it as a work in progress which needs to connect more to a wider network of families and professionals. Margaret suggested that she would be the Commissioner for this piece of work and wanted more feedback from Outcome Groups. The board agreed this approach.

#### **Action:**

**Margaret Dennison to speak to Hilary Hall regarding actions and targets and to develop core expectations.**

**MD**

## **5. CHILDREN'S TRUST GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

(Report and appendices circulated with agenda)

Philippa Granthier outlined her report to the Board and wanted them to consider and discuss what changes are required to ensure it is effective in delivering the new Children and young People's Plan and government expectations of Children's Trusts. Philippa had had some interesting responses to a questionnaire she had sent out about the review of governance of the Children's Trust and wanted the Board to agree to the proposal for an away day on 30<sup>th</sup> September, to which the board would attend in the afternoon. The Board agreed that the right people needed to be members and that there needed to be clearer priorities and sharper accountability for delivery. A process was needed to hear views about how to raise the profile of the trust and sharpen its role in the improvement of children's services. Schools and colleges also need to be more engaged.

Sharon Menghini advised that some things had gone extremely well overall and had made good progress from the previous Partnership into the Children's Trust but was worried about cross agency involvement. Children's Trust

should make key decisions. Sue Mead emphasised a strong leadership role was needed in the Trust and to have a well defined purpose. The Board agreed to endorse the process that Philippa Granthier outlined and to continue in present arrangements for the meantime. An extra meeting to be arranged for late summer to prepare for the APA and agenda for the away day.

**Action:**

**Philippa Granthier to arrange for an additional meeting to be arranged for late summer.**

**PG /  
JT**

**6. Date of Future Meetings – Room 3 at Blackfriars**

28 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	9.30 am – 11.30 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2008	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm at WRVS
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2008	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
30 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
29 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm