

HEREFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD MINUTES

Friday 31 October 2008
2.00pm – 4.00pm at Blackfriars

PRESENT:

Cllr Jenny Hyde, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People,
Herefordshire Council (Chair)
Chris Bull, Chief Executive Herefordshire Council/PCT
Sharon Menghini, Director of Children's Services, Herefordshire Council
Helen Horton, Chief Executive, Voluntary Sector Alliance
Mark Turner, Divisional Commander, Herefordshire Division, West Mercia
Constabulary
Jocelyn Jones, HSCB Chair

IN ATTENDANCE:

Philippa Granthier, Business Manager, Children's Trust
Hilary Hall, Improvement Manager (agenda item 3)
Notes taken by Lauren Keen, PA to the Children's Trust, Herefordshire Council

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

Sue Mead, Non-Executive Director for Children's Services, Herefordshire
Primary Care Trust
Sharon Gray, Executive Director, Learning & Skills Council

2. MINUTES

The minutes of previous meeting were noted as being an accurate record.

3. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The National Children and Adult Services three day conference provided good information and gave the Children's Trust good publicity.

The press are currently being negative towards Children's Trusts particularly in light of the new Audit Commission report. DCS has made a formal response.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee would like more members to attend Children's Trust meetings. The conference made clear that this was not the role of Scrutiny and Councillor Hyde had informed the appropriate members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

4. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Hilary Hall highlighted the summary to the board and emphasized that next years delivery plan indicators where locally prescribed would need to be much tighter on definitions.

Be Healthy delivery plan is currently outstanding due to capacity issues. The Be Healthy Group will focus on Dental Health and Obesity to get the delivery

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plan signed off at the next meeting. **Action: The board asked for a report from the group at January's meeting.** (Initial assessments in social care).

The main concern currently is over the New Social Care system going live in November 2008.

Chris Bull, Chief Executive Herefordshire Council/PCT joined the meeting at 2.25pm.

5. AREA BASED GRANT MONITORING AND 09/10 DECISION FOR COMMISSIONING

Philippa Granthier talked through the Quarter 2 performance report.

Large under spend in quarter two. Concerns expressed using the funding wisely. Do under spends need to be used now? The board agreed that having under spends shows good financial management.

Sharon Menghini emphasised that the Children's Trust as a whole is still learning about delegation of money and need to increase challenges on where money is going and why.

The Management Group had agreed that Outcome Groups can manage their underspends within their delivery plan up to a £50,000 limit without going back to Management Group.

The board then discussed then discussed the proposals for 2009/10 commissioning which need to be submitted by the 16 November 2008.

Three main focus areas for the Herefordshire Partnership's pro-forma.

1. What we must do (in relation to activity funded by existing ABG grants)
2. What you can stop doing/do differently/reduce which will free up funds – but being clear about the risks of not undertaking this work.
3. What you would like to do (additional activity).

Presentation changes will be made, moving away from the old grants and listing activities/ outcomes instead. Need to mature to meet new targets, create new priorities and gain more opinions from the outcome groups. Some choices are out of the board's hands, limited by national government expectations.

Large drop in central funding for Connexions in Hereford and Worcester. Potential to bring Connexions in house to Herefordshire Council from 2010. This could save money and get more advisors on the ground. Connexions are important to children and young people.

Increase in money being put into extended services and positive activities centrally in 2009/10.

Young People's Substance Misuse coming into the Area Based Grant. The Children's Trust will commission these services in the future.

6. FEEDBACK AND ACTIONS FROM AWAY DAY

High level of positive feedback from the away day; particularly comments that communication between members and groups needs improving. Also clarity of what the Children's Trust Board and Management Group's roles are. Too high a number of people are either un-aware of the Children's Trust or do not understand it's role. Work needs to be carried out to increase awareness; focus on publicity and this can be started fairly quickly.

The Board agreed that that it was important to be aware of the need for effective integrated working in the development of locality teams. It was proposed to use the next Management Group meeting in November to do this.

Action: Arrange a meeting in November 2008 for Children's Trust Board and Management Group to meet.

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7. HEREFORDSHIRE'S SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD

On behalf of the board Councillor Hyde welcomed Jocelyn Jones as the new HSCB Independent Chair.

JJ outlines plans to schedule four, half day development days to raise awareness and improve people's knowledge of HSCB. First development day has been scheduled for 1 December 2008, focus will be on arranging priorities and redeveloping the budget. One session will include parents and carers.

Board meetings will now take place once every two months and be held for 2 hours.

JJ expressed concerns over the board's structure and is looking to strengthen the sub-groups.

8. POSITION STATEMENT ON THE WORK ON CARERS SERVICES

Barbara Parkinson introduced herself as Service Group Consultant working with the Local Authority and the Primary Care Trust. Looking to gain support from the Children's Trust to support carers.

Barbara talked through her report. (tabled)

Three clear priorities:

1. Information and Support, single point of contact for carers to get answers.
2. Respite care and short breaks
3. Customised service for individuals.

People aren't aware of how many children and young people are carers.

Barbara and Richard Watson have met and discussed the family support parenting strategy and will report to DLT in January 2009. Need to work closely together through the transition stage; people need directions on where to go for support.

Hereford Carers Support Chief Executive Jacky Bremner was appointed in August 2008. Barbara suggested inviting Jacky to a board meeting update. A question arose whether children and young people know where they can go

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for help. At the moment it is not clear although people have been appointed and work is starting to progress.

High percentage of people turning to the press not professionals for advice and guidance. Need to create a headline and make more use of the media to get information out to carers.

There is currently £800,000 carers funding, £300,000 is for the hub through carers support. 20% spent on children and young people. Possibly going to become a part of the Area Based Grant.

Action: The Board asked Barbara to send a structure of the HUB including names and titles of officers to Sharon Menghini.

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9. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Performance Assessment

The main concern raised was around Safeguarding. Sharon Menghini proposed for herself Jocelyn Jones and services managers to make regular reports to the Children's Trust Board. Councillor Hyde agreed and emphasized that members of the board have equal responsibilities and should be held accountable/ praised for decisions.

Sharon Menghini has met with Cabinet Members to discuss a 6 week independent review to look at Safeguarding. A Report detailing findings and actions will be shared with the Board.

Particular emphasis was on CRB checks; all staff must be CRB checked at the recruitment stage and every three years after that. Large focus on completing all CRB checks for the Children and Young People's Directorate, Herefordshire Council and the schools. After that, further work around partners would need to be considered.

A formal response from the Annual Performance Assessment inspectors is due on 17 November 2008.

The inspectors re-enforced their concerns over CRB checks at the end of the day; they required written notice of the status of all CRB checks within 48 hours, and this was responded to in time.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday 30 January 2009	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Room 3, Blackfriars
Wednesday 29 April 2009	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Room 3, Blackfriars