

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 20th July 2017

Report of: Director of People, Bolton Council

Report No:

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Report Title: **Bolton Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board**

Purpose:

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Bolton Children's Trust and its relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the contents of the report and the intention to develop a borough-wide strategic plan for children and young people.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

1. Background: A History of Bolton Children's Trust

- 1.1 Bolton's Children's Trust has been in existence since 2003 when partners voluntarily agreed to formally work together and prepare joint plans following the publication of the Laming report recommending integration of services for children.
- 1.2 The 2004 Children Act introduced a duty of co-operation to improve child welfare via Children's Trusts. The 'relevant partners' named under this duty were:
 - The Local Authority
 - The Police
 - Probation Services
 - Youth Offending Team
 - CCGs
 - Learning and Skills Agencies, including Connexions
- 1.3 The duty of cooperation was further strengthened under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. This Act extended the list of statutory partners to include schools, colleges and academies and Jobcentre Plus and introduced a duty on the Trust Board to prepare, implement and monitor a joint Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.4 In June 2010 the Bolton Children's Trust was formally re-constituted in line with newly-issued statutory guidance but, by October 2010, the Coalition Government had withdrawn the statutory guidance and revoked the Children and Young People's Plan regulations. At that time the Coalition Government announced its intention to repeal the legislation around LA duties but this never actually happened.
- 1.5 The duty for partners to co-operate, therefore, remains in force to this day, although in practice there is now considerable flexibility in how the named partners implement this. Since 2010, partners in Bolton have decided to continue to work together in the Children's Trust in recognition of the continued and increasing need to share information and to make best use of the total resource available.
- 1.6 In September 2011, Bolton Children's Trust Board agreed the priorities for children and young people in Bolton for inclusion in the Children and Young People's theme of the Borough's Community Strategy 2012-17. These were:
 - Raising attainment.
 - Improving children's health and wellbeing
 - Improving outcomes for looked after children.
 - Reducing the number of children living in poverty.
 - Keeping children safe.
- 1.7 In 2012, following a development day to re-examine its roles and responsibilities, the Trust Board agreed that the Trust would continue to operate in Bolton but that the purpose of the Trust be simplified to "deliver improved outcomes for children and young people". A simplified structure was adopted at that time and meetings were held quarterly with meeting time split between business items and a themed report focussing on one of the above priorities for children and young people at each meeting.

2. Background: Bolton Health and Wellbeing Board

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established health and wellbeing boards as a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. Health and wellbeing board members collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined-up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils.
- 2.2 Each top tier and unitary Local Authority established its own health and wellbeing board in shadow form from April 2012. Boards took on their statutory functions from April 2013. The Health and Social Care Bill mandates a minimum membership of: a local elected council member, representatives of the local Healthwatch organisation, local clinical commissioning group, director for adult social services, director for children's services and director of public health.
- 2.3 The terms of reference for Bolton's Health and Wellbeing Board are to:
 - improve the health and wellbeing of the local population via strong and effective partnerships and by improving the commissioning and delivery of health and social care.
 - prepare and publish the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; in consultation with the CCG and appropriate third parties.
 - influence the Strategy with respect to commissioning and delivery decisions across health, public health and social care.
 - encourage integrated working between health and social care services including advice, assistance and other support
 - be involved in the preparation and revision of the CCG's commissioning plans and to comment on the draft plan.
 - promote integration and partnership across areas, including through the promotion of joined up commissioning and pooled budget arrangements where all parties are in agreement.

3. Structure and Role of the Current Bolton's Children's Trust

- 3.1 The Bolton Children's Trust is currently one of the six high-level strategic partnerships in the Borough forming the Bolton Vision Strategic Partnership responsible for the development and the implementation of the Borough's Community Strategy.
- 3.2 Structurally, the Children's Trust has equal status to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and, since the inception of the HWBB, there have been close links between the two partnerships with the DCS and the LMCS being represented on both Boards to ensure that the interests of children and young people are not overlooked within the all-age health agenda.
- 3.3 In more recent times a Children and Maternity Strategy & Planning Group has been established as one of the HWBB's 'transforming' sub-groups to provide joined up working between children's health providers and commissioners. It has been agreed that the Early Years Strategic Group (overseeing the Start Well Service) will report directly to the Children and Maternity Strategy & Planning Group.
- 3.4 The Children's Trust oversees strategic outcomes for CYP as follows:
 - Raising Attainment – delivered by schools, academies and colleges and monitored via the Education & Learning Division of People Services

- Children and Young People's Health & Wellbeing – delivered by the CCG, Bolton NHS FT, Bolton Council and monitored via the Starting Well and Developing Well Groups
- Outcomes for Looked After Children delivered by the Staying Safe Division of People Services and the Virtual School and monitored via the Corporate Parenting Group.
- Safeguarding Children and Young People delivered by all partners and monitored via the Safeguarding Executive which also provides a link to Bolton Safeguarding Children's Board
- Tackling Child Poverty task and finish groups have supported Bolton wide Anti-Poverty strategies
- The Trust provides overview and scrutiny of outcomes for Children & Young People with SEND and the borough-wide implementation and impact of SEND reforms by overseeing the work of the SEND Reforms Steering Group

4. Benefits of a Formal Partnership

4.1 Bolton has seen a number of benefits from the Children's Trust, including:

- **Collective strength to champion outcomes for children and young people in wider arenas**

Examples of this strength include successful lobbying for the inclusion of a dedicated children and young people theme in the previous Community Strategy and a focus on children's oral health at Health and Wellbeing Board that could otherwise have been lost within all-age discussions.

- **Information sharing**

Partners are able to share latest developments and, more recently, details of savings programmes at an early stage so that, collectively, impacts, alternatives and possible new ways of working can be identified.

- **Holding multiple agencies to account for poor outcomes for children and young people**

Examples of this include in-depth studies into the local causes of infant mortality and a now historic rise in the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

- **Evidence of strategic-level partnership working for inspection**

Importantly, the Children's Trust is regularly cited as evidence of effective strategic partnership working in self-assessments and external inspections of services across the Borough.

5. Moving Forward with Vision 2030

As stated previously, the Children's Trust identified the strategic priorities for Bolton's children and young people in the 2007-17 Community Strategy and has worked on the identification of new priorities for children and young people in the Vision 2030:

Our Children are school-ready
 Our children are safe, healthy and active
 Our children are prepared for life
 Our looked-after children aspire and achieve
 Poverty amongst families and children reduces

Research has indicated that active Children's Trusts in other areas have retained dedicated Children and Young People's Plans which a Board develops and monitors. It is intended, therefore, that the Bolton Children's Trust will develop a strategic plan for children and young people and a work programme for the Board supported by multi-agency task and finish groups to deliver these ambitions for children and young people in Vision 2030.

Possible areas that could benefit from this kind of multi-agency scrutiny and development include:

- Mental health of Children & Young People
- Participation of children and young people in service planning and development
- Child Poverty Reduction
- Support for a sustainable self-improving system for schools
- Joint Commissioning Arrangements for Children & Young People
- Area wide SEND Reforms
- Public Sector Hub developments
- Development of the wider children's workforce.

In developing this Children & Young People's Plan, the Trust Board will need to work closely with the HWBB particularly in those areas relating to children and young people's health and wellbeing to ensure that work is neither duplicated nor overlooked. Clear areas of overlap between the Bolton Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board are around health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people and commissioning arrangements for health and wellbeing services for children and young people. This is illustrated in the diagram below.



It is suggested that, in developing the Children and Young People's Plan, the Bolton Children's Trust Board identifies the most appropriate governance structures for this area and brings a further report to the health and Wellbeing Board with recommendations for implementation.

6. Recommendation:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the contents of the report and the intention for the Bolton Children's Trust to develop a borough-wide strategic plan for children and young people.