



**NOTTINGHAM
CHILDREN'S
PARTNERSHIP**

PROUD OF NOTTINGHAM'S CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Title of paper:	Future Operation of the Children's Partnership	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	May 25 th 2011	
Accountable Officer:	Ian Curryer, Corporate Director of Children and Families, Nottingham City Council	Wards affected: All
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Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objective(s):		
Stronger safeguarding – With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.		✓
Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		✓
Reducing substance misuse – Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.		✓
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		✓
Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		✓
Summary of issues:		
<p>This paper summarises the changing context in which the Children's Partnership is operating and in particular the need to align its activity with the emerging Health and Well Being Board, which will have statutory responsibilities across the whole health improvement agenda.</p> <p>This first paper will provide an overview of the key changes which need to be taken into consideration and notes the imminent review of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). A second, more detailed report will provide an update on relevant changes to the commissioning of health and related health improvement services and options for the future operation of the Children's Partnership.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board is asked to consider and comment on the current context for partnership work and the opportunities to move forward in alignment with the new arrangements for the delivery of health services.	
2	The Board is invited to discuss the potential for aligning and pooling budgets with particular regard to Total Place and the Early Intervention initiative.	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 Background

Nottingham's Children's Partnership was established in April 2009 to formally take on the responsibility for overseeing all services for children, young people and families in the City. The Partnership was developed and has operated in accordance with the statutory guidance set by the former Department for Children, Schools and Families (now the Department for Education).

Following the change in government and the decision that Children's Partnerships (Trusts) would no longer be statutory, Nottingham agreed that the Children's Partnership would remain to be the key mechanism to support all partners to work together to deliver a joined up vision for children, young people and families.

The One Nottingham Partnership has also reviewed its role in the light of new Government policy directions and has resolved to continue its work as the over-arching partnership for joint action to implement the 2020 objectives of the Nottingham Plan. The Children's Partnership is one of the 'theme partnerships' reporting to the One Nottingham Board and has specific responsibilities for the 'Family Nottingham' and 'Aspiring Nottingham' policies. This arrangement will continue through 2011-12.

Significant progress has been achieved through a shared vision, effective joint working and sponsoring of cross-cutting targets. Shared accountability and inter-agency cooperation has meant that issues are tackled more thoroughly throughout the City and resources are beginning to be used more effectively.

The revised Children and Young People's Plan should provide the foundation for developing the local authority's strategic commissioning intentions and aligning commissioning activity across the Partnership.

1.2 The Context for Change

The Partnership's operation now needs to be adapted to reflect the changes in both government and the economic climate. The most pressing task is to develop an agreed way forward with the Health and Well-Being Board which will be established in shadow form in July. Its draft terms of reference have been established, but the discussion on its role and functions is not yet closed. Work is now underway to resolve the potential overlap in agendas between the Children's Partnership and the new Board. This will have an important, possibly decisive, bearing on the future operation of the Children's Partnership.

This work will provide clarity on how well resource is aligned to priorities and areas for joint commissioning, and facilitate work with partners to identify where joint planning, commissioning and pooled budgets and resources can drive efficiencies, improve outcomes and prevent duplication and cost.

In addition to work with the Health and Well-Being Board, any future changes to the Children's Partnership will need to consider:

- The implications of government announcements and financial cuts.
- The transfer of Public Health functions to the local authority
- Joint planning and possibly commissioning with the GP Consortia
- The strategic relationship with maintained schools and free schools as they develop
- The final report and recommendations from the Munroe Review of Safeguarding and Social Care
- Implications from other major Government sponsored reviews (e.g Tickell (Early Years); Wolfe (14-19 Education) and Allen (Early Intervention))

- Changes to Partnership working – in particular from the further development of Total Place
- The need for further work to properly embed accountability and sharpen performance reporting so the potential of partnership support is fully realised
- Views of partners on gaining maximum value from Partnership meetings

1.3 Next Steps

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will remain the Partnership's collaborative work programme, setting priorities and objectives which will be monitored through a robust performance management framework. A separate paper is on this agenda presents the year one review detailing progress to date, key milestones, new drivers for 2011/12 and recommended changes and proposes the draft be consulted on during the summer.

Looking to future organisation of the Board's business, there is likely to be a renewed focus on pooling budgets to effectively deliver strategic commissioning intentions. Both phase 2 of early Intervention and the approach modelled in the Total Place pilot anticipate a greater role for pooled and aligned budgets. Board members may wish to share their views on this before more detailed proposals are prepared.

Because of the need to work through issues with the Health and Well Being Board it is premature to consider in detail changes to the Governance of the Children's Partnership. However, it is proposed that a paper is brought to the Children's Partnership Board in September which will provide an update on the work now underway (and outlined in the preceding section) together with some options for the future operation of the partnership.

The September meeting of the Partnership Board will also then be able to sign off the Year One Review of the CYPP, following the equality impact screening undertaken over the summer. It will be able to ensure that any recommendations on governance are consistent with the changing role and responsibilities of the Children's Partnership Board ..

2. RISKS

Not responding to the changing climate risks losing partner engagement and opportunities for joint commissioning, planning, and resourcing, which is essential for achieving improved outcomes for the City's children, young people and families.

Not taking into consideration the various changes in government legislation, including the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board, could result in duplication and inefficiency.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Consultation with partners will determine opportunities for pooled budgets/resources.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. CLIENT GROUP

All Nottingham City children, young people and families.

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), which sets the priorities for the Partnership, has a specific aim to address inequalities of outcomes for vulnerable groups. The Equalities Screening Assessment of the CYPP concluded that if implemented successfully, it would substantially improve outcomes for these vulnerable groups. The imminent review of the Plan will include consultation with the Equalities Community Forum.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

Directly affects all priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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