



<b>Title of paper:</b>	Disestablishment of the Senior Officer Group	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Ian Curryer, Corporate Director of Children and Families, Nottingham City Council	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Chris Wallbanks, Programme Manager Early Intervention and Partnerships, Tel: 0115 8764801 Email: chris.wallbanks@nottinghamcitycouncil.gov.uk	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		

**Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objective(s):**

<b>Stronger safeguarding</b> – 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.	✓
<b>Healthy living</b> – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.	✓
<b>Reducing substance misuse</b> – 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.	✓
<b>Raising attainment</b> – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.	✓
<b>Improving attendance</b> – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.	✓

**Summary of issues:**

In previous meetings, the Senior Officer Group has discussed changes to the operational context and in particular, the need to align its activities with those of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Children's Partnership no longer has statutory responsibility for the children's agenda and many existing areas, across the whole of the health improvement agenda, will be within the future remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board if the Health and Social Care Bill receives Parliamentary approval later this year.

In order to maximise resources to drive efficiencies, improve outcomes and prevent duplication, it is timely to consider further possible changes to the Children's Partnership operation.

Discussions were undertaken at the Senior Officer Group meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March and the recommendations within the body of this paper were accepted.

**Recommendations:**

<b>1</b>	Members are asked to acknowledge the disestablishment of the Senior Officer Group with appropriate representation from all organisations transferring to the Children's Partnership Board.
<b>2</b>	Members are asked to accept outstanding items be remitted up to the Children's Partnership Board.
<b>3</b>	Members are asked to recognise the positive action and range of work delivered or influenced by the SOG over the four years it has been in place.
<b>4</b>	Members are asked to acknowledge the fact that the Health and Social Care Bill has not yet been approved by Parliament and should there be significant changes, the Children's Partnership structure will be reviewed.

## 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 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, at that time, to continue the Partnership as the key mechanism to support all partners to work together to deliver a joined up vision for children, young people and families.

### 1.2 The Context for Change

It was agreed at the July SOG that the Partnership's operation needed to reflect the proposed changes in both policy and the economic climate and develop an agreed way forward with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. An interim arrangement for the SOG in terms of frequency of meetings was put in place.

Work has been taking place to resolve the potential overlap in agendas between the Children's Partnership and the new Health and Wellbeing Board and although this work is still developing, there is now more clarity on how resources can drive efficiencies, improve outcomes and prevent duplication and cost.

### 1.3 Next Steps

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will remain the Partnership's collaborative work programme for the next twelve months, setting priorities and objectives. These will continue to be monitored through a robust performance management framework which will need to evolve in order to incorporate relevant aspects of the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

An appropriate governance structure which will clarify the relationship between the Children's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board is still to be identified; in the meantime it is recommended that :

- the Senior Officer Group cease to operate at the end of this financial year;
- any organisations not represented on the Children's Partnership Board be invited to attend at the appropriate level;
- the Board be asked to recognise the value added through the Children's Partnership Senior Officer Group and the successes achieved and
- performance management be developed and aligned with existing and developing structures.

## **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**

None directly identified at this stage.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **5. CLIENT GROUP**

All Nottingham City children, young people and families.

## **6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

None

## **7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

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

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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## Value added by the Children's Partnership since the removal of Trust Status

- Providing a platform for partnership performance management across the strategic and operational objectives of the CYPP –but with a sustained focus on the five complex areas identified as priorities in the CYPP for 2010-11.
- Providing a space for horizon scanning, impact assessment and review of policy as the momentum for change built up following the formation of the coalition government.
- Supporting the annual review of the CYPP so that planning for children and families remained up to date and capable of informing the strategic commissioning intentions being developed by partners.
- Supporting the OFSTED *Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children* (Dec 2010) - the final report assessed the city as good (previous grade was adequate) and commented favourably on the maturity of Nottingham's partnership arrangements for keeping children and young people safe.
- Championing the Early Intervention Programme and family focus and validating the City's role as an Early Intervention leader. National award achieved June 2011. High profile City reputation nationally.
- Developing a policy framework to give meaning to its role as the designated partnership responsible for 'Aspiring Nottingham.'
- Supporting the development of the Child Poverty Strategy
- Agreeing a Partnership approach to the engagement of children, young people and their families to the design and delivery of services through the Family Pledge.
- Supporting the Children's Workforce Development Strategy and measures being taken to improve the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to provide timely and effective intervention for children and young people with problems - this includes setting specific CAF targets between partners.
- Agreeing with the Portfolio Holder to seek ways to support *the Year of Reading Programme* aimed at boosting the literacy of primary school children in city schools.
- Sponsoring the City's Total Place Programme and considering how its findings can be taken forward.
- Completing the year one review of the Children and Young People's Plan, including performance
- Developing a programme to support the Science City initiative as an operational objective of the CYPP.
- Working through Partnership implications of Government announcements
- Receiving reports from the Safeguarding Children's Board and the Child Death Overview Panel. This enables the Partnership to feed the headlines into relevant commissioning intentions, and so ensure that services commissioned are fit for purpose and improve safeguarding and quality across the partnership