

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 11

meeting date: 2 NOVEMBER 2010
title: CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: CHRIS HUGHES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To bring members up to date with future arrangements on Children's Trusts.

1.2 Relevance to Council Aims/Ambitions:

- Aims – to be a well-managed council, providing efficient and responsive services based on identified customer needs.
- Ambitions – to make people's lives safer and healthier and, more specifically, to improve outcomes for children and young people.

2 BACKGROUND

In March, Community Committee endorsed proposals for the Council's involvement in the new county-wide Children's Trust Arrangements

3 CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Since March, a good deal of work has been carried out on the detail of how trusts will function and how national, county and local arrangements will interact.

3.2 There have also been legislative changes nationally that no longer make it a statutory requirement to accept new trust arrangements. Given the amount of effort it has taken to get this far, the county council has concluded that, for the time being, the new arrangements will be adopted.

3.3 The funding to operate district trusts is still available.

3.4 The only other differences are structural ones. Rather than having one local partnership, there will be an executive group that will meet six times per year to deal with core business, and a wider partnership group that will meet twice a year to review performance and support action planning. There will also be a number of sub-groups to deal with specific issues. In Ribble Valley these will be:

- Early Intervention
- Performance and Finance
- Young People's Engagement

3.5 The Borough Council will be heavily involved in the operation of the local trust through representation on board, partnership or sub-groups. It will also use the funding provided by the County Council to provide dedicated administrative support.

- 3.6 The County Council will also provide specific support. These have been set out in a service level agreement between both parties (please refer to the appendix).
- 3.7 The Trust will shortly be developing a district Children & Young People Plan to complement the recently revised county plan.
- 3.8 The new arrangements are already showing signs of influencing local delivery. It is hoped that we shall be awarded £210,000 over two years to deliver early intervention work specific to Ribble Valley. This will be a family focussed project aimed at improving outcomes for children within these family units.

4 CONCLUSIONS

It is encouraging that the County Council is supporting the new arrangements as it has and, hopefully, will continue to target resources to deal with local issues. The Borough Council will continue to take an active part in this, and further influence, where possible, the commitment of resources at a local level.

- 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE
Notes the contents of this report



JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ask for Chris Hughes 01200 414479

Statement of Commitment between the District Councils and Lancashire County Council

Aim of the partnership

To improve positive outcomes for children and young people in the Ribble Valley

Objectives

Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council **will work together** to support the priorities/targets of the Ribble Valley Local Children's Trust **by**:

- Promoting the involvement of partner agencies;
- Facilitating access to council services, both local and county;
- Gaining the commitment of my organisation to the policies and practices of the Trust;
- Representing the Trust at other local forums or groups;
- Ensuring linkage with other parts of the Trust, including the County Trust Partnership Board and the relevant Area Commissioning Group;
- Managing the assessment of need and performance data;
- Supporting the local delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan;
- Ensuring that the work of the Trust takes place efficiently and effectively.

Representatives

The successful operation of this partnership between the County Council and the district/city/borough council is the responsibility of the:

Lead Senior Officer on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council;
Directorate Strategic Lead (Directorate for Children and Young People)
on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

Restrictions

The partnership is undertaken on the understanding that the district/city/borough council cannot take or assume any of the legal duties or responsibilities, which rest with Lancashire County Council or the Lancashire Children's Trust.

This statement is a commitment to partnership working; any formal arrangements towards pooling of budgets, changes to accountability and responsibility for services must be covered under a separate agreement

Either party can withdraw this statement of commitment, by giving three months notice in writing; any payments will be apportioned to the date provided in the notice.

Support Arrangements

Ribble Valley Borough Council **will:**

Designated support	Contribution
Senior Lead Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of the trust in line with the principles, governance and aims of the County Children’s Trust. • Encourage a focus within the local trust to achieve better integrated working to narrow identified gaps in provision • Ensure arrangements are in place for inter-agency governance. • Support the development of integrated plans and strategies, including joint commissioning, workforce developments and data sharing. • Support the chair through specific briefings, attending meetings, agenda preparation • Ensure the Borough Council works closely with the local trust and partners to promote better-integrated front line delivery with a focus on early intervention. • Attend meetings of the Ribble Valley Trust Board, Partnership and other sub groups as appropriate. • Co-ordinate the production of the local children and young peoples plan along with associated action plans. • Attend or nominate an appropriate officer to attend ECM theme group meetings.
Other Officer Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputise for the senior lead officer as appropriate • Attend sub group meetings • Attend other meetings with the County Council and partners that support services to young people • Integrate the work of the local trust within the Local Strategic Partnership
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate agenda setting, take minutes and circulate associated paperwork for the Children’s Trust

	<p>Board and Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide or arrange meeting venues • Co-ordinate the circulation of reports and other information to trust members and partners • Support the development of performance management functions as appropriate • Provide financial management support as appropriate • Provide support for specific events organised through the local trust
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Lancashire County Council will:

Designated support	Contribution
<p>Directorate Strategic Lead</p>	<p>Develop and promote the (<i>local</i>) vision for Lancashire Children's Trust;</p> <p>Encourage a focus on achieving better integrated services which narrow gaps in outcomes for disadvantaged groups against a background of improved outcomes for all;</p> <p>Ensure that agreed arrangements are in place for interagency governance;</p> <p>Support the development of better integrated strategies, including joint commissioning, workforce development and sharing of data;</p> <p>Develop and promote better integrated front line delivery, including a focus on prevention and early intervention as support for children, young people and families;</p> <p>Attend Executive meetings of the Trust, support agenda preparation and co-ordinate the County Council's input to the Trust.</p> <p>Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of key issues relating to children and young people that have a county council component, including relevant points of contact.</p>
<p>Children's Trust Development Officers</p> <p>NB Case load of 4 Local Children's Trust Partnerships</p>	<p>Attend meetings of the Trust, including some sub-groups, as appropriate.</p> <p>Guidance to members of the Trust, including point of contact for raising issues and concerns.</p>

	<p>Linkage with the county/area/theme parts of the Lancashire Children's Trust.</p> <p>Promote rigorous performance monitoring with partners.</p> <p>Prepare reports for the Trust and lead on Task and Finish Groups</p> <p>To assist in the review of the CYPP and 6 monthly review of the LAA</p>
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Financial commitment

Lancashire County Council will make the following commitments to the Lancashire Children's Trust co-operation arrangements:

- An annual contribution of £50k to the provision of a Children's Support Team
- An annual contribution of £25k to each of the district/city councils

Ribble Valley Borough Council will make the following commitments to the Lancashire Children's Trust co-operation arrangements:

- An annual contribution of £5k to the provision of a Children's Support Team
- An in-kind contribution equivalent to £20k annually to support the delivery of the relevant Local Trust Partnership.

Declaration of Commitment

Signed by, for and behalf of:

Organisation	
Name	
Position	
Contact Details <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone number• Email	
Signature	
Date	

Organisation	
Name	
Position	
Contact Details <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone number• Email	
Signature	
Date	