

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>29 July 2014</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Future of the Children's Trust Board</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Strategic Director for Communities</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A - Future of the Children's Trust Board – paper to 24 July 2014 Children’s Trust Board meeting</p>
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<p>Summary</p>
<p>The Children’s Trust Board has been established since 2007 and has had an important role in developing the Children and Young People’s Plan and ensuring partners work together to improve outcomes across a number of priority areas.</p> <p>Recently, all partners agreed that the Board could be more effective and so a short review was undertaken. This produced two options for the future of the Children’s Trust Board and its Executive Management Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an alternative governance approach to achieve the partnership’s objectives. 2. Continue with the current governance approach but with a range of changes. <p>The Children’s Trust Board meeting on 24 July 2014 is scheduled to review these options and to recommend a preferred approach.</p>

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the view of the Children's Trust Board on 24 July 2014 regarding its future and make a decision on a preferred approach to the future governance arrangements for the board.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Barnet's Children's Trust Board (CTB) was established in 2007 and is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services, who is now also the Chairmen of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee.
- 1.2 At the April meeting of the CTB it was agreed that some thought needed to be given as to how best to proceed with the CTB and its Executive Management Group (EMG). The findings of the review and proposed options can be found in the Children's Trust Board paper attached (Appendix A).

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The options developed have been informed by the views of all the partners represented on the CTB. By endorsing the recommendation of the Board, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is giving Barnet Council's formal approval of the approach agreed by these various partners.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Two main options were reviewed and included in the Children's Trust Board paper.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The decision will be implemented immediately and officers will amend the forward plan of the Children's Trust Board accordingly.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Positive outcomes for children and young people are a key part of the new Corporate Plan and priorities for 2013 – 16 include:
 - To create better life chances for children and young people across the borough.
 - To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS, so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health.
 - To promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities.

5.1.2 The measures in the Children and Young People Plan are consistent with the Corporate Plan, which provides a statement of the Council's contribution towards the partnership's outcomes.

5.1.3 The Council is a major provider and commissioner of services for children and young people but also has a more significant local leadership role. Through chairing the Children's Trust Board the Council exerts strategic leadership, provides accountability to other agencies working in Barnet and is the driving agent of development in the system.

5.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 There is no budget set aside for the Children's Trust Board. There are no material resource implications of either of the options outlined in the Children's Trust Board paper.

5.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires local authorities to make arrangements to co-operate with relevant partners and individuals and bodies who exercise functions or engage in activities with children in their area in order to improve the well-being of children. Section 12A requires local authorities to establish a children's trust board with representation from the local authority and relevant partners. Section 12B confirms that the function of the Board is to prepare and publish a children and young people's plan and monitor the extent to which relevant persons and bodies are acting in accordance with the plan. The Board must publish an annual report about the extent to which those persons and bodies have acted in accordance with the plan.

5.4 **Risk Management**

5.4.1 There is a risk that key initiatives within the Children and Young People's Plan will not be carried out, which could adversely impact on the council's reputation. In order to mitigate this risk, any new arrangements will need to ensure a continued focus on achieving the priority outcomes that it sets out.

5.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 There is a risk that with any change in governance arrangements the focus on issues affecting children and young people could be diminished, leading to adverse impact for this group. . In order to mitigate this risk, any new arrangements will need to ensure a continued focus on achieving the priority outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 A survey of all members of the Children's Trust Board and its Executive Management Group was undertaken to inform the options set out.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 N/A