



NHS North Central London

<b>Meeting:</b> Children's Trust Board	<b>Date:</b> 24 July 2014	<b>Agenda Item No:</b>
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**Terms of reference**

**Summary of paper:**

- The paper sets out two options for the future of the Children's Trust Board and its Executive Management Group:
  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.

**Action required by board:**

Partners at the Children's Trust Board are asked to agree to an approach for the future of the Children's Trust Board and its Executive Management Group.

**Author of paper**

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## **Background**

- 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).

## **Current purpose of the Board**

- 1.3 The current terms of reference for the Children's Trust Board sets out that it is accountable for:
  - Developing and delivering the Children & Young People's Plan.
  - Ensuring that the collective resources of the partners are being used to the best effect to meet the priorities in the Children & Young People's Plan.
  - Resolving issues that block progress against the priorities.
- 1.4 These are all still very much required but there is a predominant view that the current arrangements for the CTB and EMG are not optimal for their achievement.

## **Findings of survey**

- 1.5 A survey of members of both CTB and EMG has recently been undertaken. Views as to the effectiveness and necessity of the CTB and EMG were mixed, but some of the stronger messages are summarised below:
  - The majority of respondents agreed that the business of the CTB could effectively be subsumed into the Health and Well-being Board and the Safer Communities Partnership Board.
  - Just over half of respondents felt that CTB meetings were valuable.
  - The CTB would benefit from more regular senior attendance from all member agencies.
  - Only a third of respondents found the EMG meetings to be valuable.
  - 90% of respondents felt that we do still need a children and young people's plan

## **Options**

- 1.6 Based on the feedback received above, two options for the future of the CTB have been developed. These are outline in the boxes below.

***Option 1 – develop an alternative governance approach to achieve the partnership’s objectives***

Under this option, the quarterly CTB and EMG meetings would cease.

The Children’s Trust Board would instead meet for one or two half day conference sessions per year to review progress on the CYPP and to refresh priorities and targets for subsequent years. These will be attended by senior officers from all statutory organisations together with representatives from Youth Board; CommUNITY Barnet and parent representatives. These will include sessions involving children and young people.

An annual report setting out achievements in improving outcomes for children as set out in the CYPP would be produced, published and reported to the a smaller group at the end of these sessions. They would have no programme of work to transact.

The Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Well-being Board and the Safer Communities Partnership Board would ensure that the priorities of the CYPP are effectively integrated into their respective work plans.

***Option 2 – continue with the current governance approach but with a range of changes***

The alternative option explored has been to make improvements to the current arrangements. If both bodies were to continue, a range of improvements could be made based on feedback given. These would include:

- A challenge session at each Board on a priority area from the Children & Young People’s Plan.
- Agenda setting responsibility is rotated amongst the council, the CCG, the Police, school representatives and Community Barnet.
- No substitutes to be permitted at meetings to ensure consistency of attendees.
- Re-focusing the Executive Management Group on delivery issues faced by statutory agencies – turning it into a ‘getting the job done’ group. Core membership would be reduced to a senior, decision making officer from Barnet Council, Barnet CCG and the Metropolitan Police.