

ITEM NO: 2**REPORT OF:** Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To update the Barnet Partnership Board (BPB) on the work and priorities of the Children's Trust Board (CTB) and recommend how the BPB can play a role in meeting the challenges faced by CTB.**INPUT REQUESTED FROM BARNET PARTNERSHIP BOARD:** Give consideration to the issues outlined in this paper and suggest areas of joint working to meet the needs of the CTB and BPB. In particular:

- BPB is asked to disseminate learning from the CTB's experiences of taking a **Community Budgets/Whole Place** approach to service provision, and to give consideration to other areas of high cost, low volume spend across the partnership where a similar approach could be taken to overcome some of the challenges we collectively face, through the agreement of shared outcomes and pooling resources.
- The Executive Management Group (EMG), which reports into the CTB, will need to be equipped with sufficient data and performance analysis by all partners in a timely manner, for example to evidence progress against the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) objectives. BPB is asked to reinforce the importance of partners committing to ensuring regular attendance and providing timely performance information.
- There is a role for the BPB to play in ensuring that the work of the CTB is **integrated with the work of other key boards**, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board.

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Heather.Storey@Barnet.gov.uk (020 8359 3057)**Detail:**

The Children's Trust Board (CTB) provides inter-agency governance to ensure that partners in Barnet are working effectively together to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

I. General responsibilities and functions

1. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for the following:
 - To develop and promote a local vision – set out in the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) – to drive improved outcomes for local children, young people and their families.
 - To serve as the strategic forum for brokering agreement of plans and priorities. This includes providing a strategic framework within which partners may commission services in a coordinated way using either joint or aligned budgets. The membership of the CTB is comprised of significant budget holders, and so the potential for added value through joint commissioning is great.
 - To oversee development, delivery and reviewing of the CYPP as a strategic three year vision.
 - To oversee progress in relation to the pooling of resources and funding through a 'Community Budgets' model.
 - To champion the objectives of the CYPP and ensure relevant activities within the plan are implemented by their respective organisations.

2. Responsibilities cover the needs of all children and young people in Barnet under the age of 19, young people aged 20 and over leaving care, and young people up to the age of 25 with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. These responsibilities include effective transition arrangements, where necessary.

II. Structure and Governance

Membership

3. Membership of the CTB is set out in the attached Appendix. The Board is chaired by the Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families. Members are able to delegate a deputy of suitable authority if they are unable to attend, by agreement with the chairman.

Executive Management Group

4. The CTB has an Executive Management Group (EMG) to ensure its plans are delivered. This group is responsible for monitoring performance against the CYPP and for overseeing the development of the annually updated Action Plan, through scrutinising regular reports submitted by member organisations. EMG draws its members from organisations represented on the CTB and meets every two months.

III. Vision

5. The vision of the CTB is articulated in the CYPP:

'All children and young people in Barnet should achieve the best possible outcomes, to enable them to become successful adults, especially our most vulnerable children. They should be supported by high quality, integrated and inclusive services that identify additional support needs early, are accessible, responsive and affordable for the individual child and their family.'

IV. Current Priorities

6. The CTB will focus on the whole 'journey' of the child with the overarching, cross cutting priorities of Early Intervention and Prevention, Keeping Children and Young People Safe and Targeting Resources to Narrow the Gap.

7. The CTB's priorities are set for three years in accordance with the CYPP, which has just been developed for 2013-16 and was approved by Cabinet on 18 April 2013. <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g6752/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Apr-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

8. Current priorities are:

- Early Years: Every child in Barnet has a great start in life, with the security and safety to grow in a nurturing environment.
- Primary: Childhood in Barnet is safe and fun, with lots of opportunities to grow and develop through education, leisure and play.
- Secondary: Children and young people feel supported to achieve and engage, while developing their identities and resilience.
- Preparation for Adulthood: Young people are ambitious for their futures and contribute positively to society.
- Early intervention and prevention: Intervening early improves outcomes for children, young people and families, enabling them to thrive.

- Keeping children safe: Children and young people are safe in their homes, schools and around the borough, with an ability to develop healthy relationships with others.
- Targeted, personalised support for those most at risk of not achieving their potential, helping to reduce inequalities.

Participation

9. It is important to the CTB that the participation of Children and Young People is supported by the Partnership and as such, each meeting includes a 30 minute section where children and young people encountering particular issues present their experiences. For example, previous meetings have included presentations from students at Barnet and Southgate College, young people facing homelessness and young parents.

Community Budgets/Troubled Families

10. The CTB champions the 'Community Budgets' approach to pooling resources to achieved shared outcomes. This is the approach the council is taking, with partners, to deliver its support as part of the 'Troubled Families' programme and this approach is scrutinised by the partnership.

V. Latest Developments and Challenges

- **Safeguarding** remains a key priority of the CTB. During 2013/14 a new joint framework for a multi-agency inspection of services for the protection of children in local authority areas is due to be introduced by Ofsted, CQC and HMIP. Continuing to strengthen information sharing and early identification of safeguarding concerns, including through mechanisms such as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and as part of early intervention work will remain crucial to partnership working. The challenge is to ensure that needs continue to be met in the light of a growing number of children.
- The impact of **welfare reform** and housing benefit changes on existing families and the potential for increasing numbers of vulnerable families to re-locate to Barnet is difficult to quantify. A strong partnership approach is needed to help assess the impact and develop appropriate responses.
- There is a risk that an **increasing population** of children and young people combined with reducing resources across the partnership could pose barriers to delivering on the outcomes of the CYPP. This operating environment acts as a driver for closer partnership working to make best use of resources.
- The **Children and Families Act** is overhauling the Special Educational Needs system to develop a 0 to 25 focus, increase choice for parents and increase joint planning and integration between social care, health and education. A partnership approach is essential to develop a local offer and ensure there are smooth pathways for children, and young people up to 25.

VI. Role for the Barnet Partnership Board

- The Troubled Families programme works across the partnership, with input from Community Budgets (£482,200) and aims to deliver savings to the borough as a whole. BPB is asked to support this work stream by disseminating learning from the CTB's experiences of taking a **Community Budgets/Whole Place** approach, and to give consideration to other areas of high cost, low volume spend across the partnership where a similar approach could be taken to overcome some of the challenges we face in the borough, through the agreement of shared outcomes and the pooling of resources.

- In order to **effectively monitor partnership performance** against the CYPP, EMG will need to be equipped with sufficient data and performance analysis, by all partners in a timely manner, for example to evidence progress against the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) objectives. BPB is asked to reinforce the importance of partners committing to ensuring regular attendance and providing timely performance information.
- There is a role for the Barnet Partnership Board to play in ensuring that the work of the Children's Trust Board is **integrated with the work of other key boards**, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Board. This is especially important in relation to children's health, including public health (which is now the responsibility of local authorities), and to transitions where close working with adult services is necessary. To help facilitate this, the Chair of the CTB and the Director for People are both members of the HWBB. In addition the Chairman of the HWBB is a member of the CTB.