

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

07 December 2023

Children's Trust Board – Update for information

Report by:

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Interim Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Health and Wellbeing board is RECOMMENDED to**

Note the refresh of the Children's Trust Board.

Executive Summary

2. The Children's Trust Board recently held a workshop to reflect on the impact the board was having on the outcomes of children and young people, what was working well and what could be improved.
3. The key outcome from the workshop was that the board would benefit from being refreshed to better equip it to deliver on its primary objectives.
4. This paper describes the revised governance that will be introduced in January 2024.

Introduction

5. The Children's Trust Board brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors to improve outcomes and life experiences for all children and young people who live in the county. The board's primary objectives are to ensure that effective multi agency working is in place at a strategic level across children's services and that the voice of children, young people and their families contributes to these arrangements and to decision making. It also ensures the Health and Wellbeing Board, and other key partnerships are sighted on the key challenges facing children and young people in Oxfordshire.

Children's Trust Workshop – September 2023

6. A Children's Trust Board Workshop took place in September to reflect on the impact the board was having on the outcomes of children and young people, what was working well and what could be improved.

7. The consensus of the group was that the board would benefit from being refreshed, that to better deliver on its primary objective it needed to evolve in both structure (governance and terms of reference) and on its focus on improved outcomes for children and young people.

A Restructured Children's Trust Board

8. Based on the discussions at the workshop the Children's Trust Board will be restructured to enable a stronger focus on overseeing key areas of multi-agency strategic planning for children and young people, and ensuring improved outcomes and life experiences are delivered through targeted workstreams. The refresh of the governance will include:
 - (a) The Children's Trust Board will be streamlined, retaining representation from key partners including the voluntary sector, and will continue to provide regular update reports to the Health & Wellbeing Board.
 - (b) Building on the successes of the Neglect Practitioner Forums, three place-focused Early Help and Locality Strategic Delivery Boards (North, South, Central) will be introduced. Reporting to the Children's Trust Board these boards will be responsible for ensuring the multi-agency delivery of improved outcomes for children and young people, using a locally adapted version of the national supporting families outcome framework¹. The effectiveness of these boards will be assessed and monitored using the Supporting Families: Early Help Systems Guide self-evaluation tool.²
9. Revised governance arrangements and terms of reference for the boards will be developed during December 2023 with the new boards meeting for the first time in January 2024.

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¹ [Chapter 3: The National Supporting Families Outcome Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-supporting-families-outcome-framework)

² [Supporting Families: Early Help System guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-early-help-system-guide)