
Cabinet

20 October 2020

Scope of Services for a Proposed Children's Trust

Report by Chairman of the Task and Finish Group – Scope of Services for a Proposed Children's Trust

Electoral divisions: All

Summary

The Scope of Services for a Proposed Children's Trust Task and Finish Group (TFG) was established by the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee. Its purpose was to scrutinise the proposed Cabinet decision on the proposals for the set-up of a Children's Trust, including the scope of services to include in the Trust, the start date and length of operation and the proposed governance arrangements.

The TFG undertook its work at a single meeting on 9 October with the conclusions being forwarded for consideration by Cabinet on 20 October through this report.

The TFG comprised the following members: Cllr Ann Bridges, Cllr Heidi Brunsdon, Cllr Stephen Hillier (Chairman), Cllr Kirsty Lord, Cllr Sujan Wickremaratchi and Cllr Jacky Pendleton.

The TFG considered the draft decision report and made its conclusions as set out below:

Conclusions

The Task and Finish Group:

1. Supports the rationale for the inclusion of children's social care, early help and education services into the scope of services of the Children's Trust.
2. Highlights the importance of ensuring the make-up of the Trust Board includes a wide range of skills and expertise that represents and supports education, social care and early help.
3. Recommends that the future running and potential termination costs of the Children's Trust are highlighted as a risk in the decision report as conversations are ongoing with the Department for Education, and that this is considered as an area for future scrutiny.
4. Recommends that disruption to staff and the implications for morale and retention are highlighted as a potential risk in the decision report, given that staff will be moving into the Trust.

5. Supports that the Trust is implemented for an initial period of five years with an implementation date of 1 October 2021, recognising that the operating period of the Trust may change subject to the performance of the Trust.
6. Supports the proposal that the County Council's Executive Director of Children, Young People and Learning be appointed as Chief Executive of the Children's Trust.
7. Requests that detailed consideration be given in the Service Level Agreement of how the Trust will engage with other services within the County Council, upon which Children's Services rely; and how these relations will be managed.

Stephen Hillier

Chairman of the Task and Finish Group

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