

Health and Wellbeing Board
10 December 2015

Children and Young People’s Partnership Arrangements

Purpose of the report:
The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the review of the partnership arrangements and endorse the next steps. The final terms of reference for the ‘Children and Young People’s Partnership Board’ will be presented back to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

Introduction:

BACKGROUND

- 1. In July 2015 the Children and Young People’s Partnership Strategic Board, chaired by David McNulty, commissioned a review of the children’s current partnership arrangements and associated sub-groups. The aim of this review was to assess the effectiveness of those existing arrangements and ensure they are fit for purpose to support and drive delivery of partnership objectives and the Improving Children’s Health and Wellbeing priority of Surrey’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Currently, at a strategic level, there are Children and Young People’s Partnership Strategic and Operational Groups, which look at systems changes and a Children’s Health and Wellbeing Group looking at joint commissioning that reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This report presents a streamlined structure at a strategic level to support more effective and efficient working to improve outcomes for children and young people. The new structure will see the above three boards/group be replaced by one ‘Children and Young People’s Partnership Board’ to have one strategic group looking at all joint commissioning relating to children and young people, and will report to/enact Health and Wellbeing Board priorities. The revised arrangements will also strengthen working with other statutory boards such as the Surrey Safeguarding Children’s Board and the Corporate Parenting Board.

THE REVIEW

2. The review consisted of three main elements:
 - Mapping the existing structures
 - Best practice research
 - Gathering feedback from partners

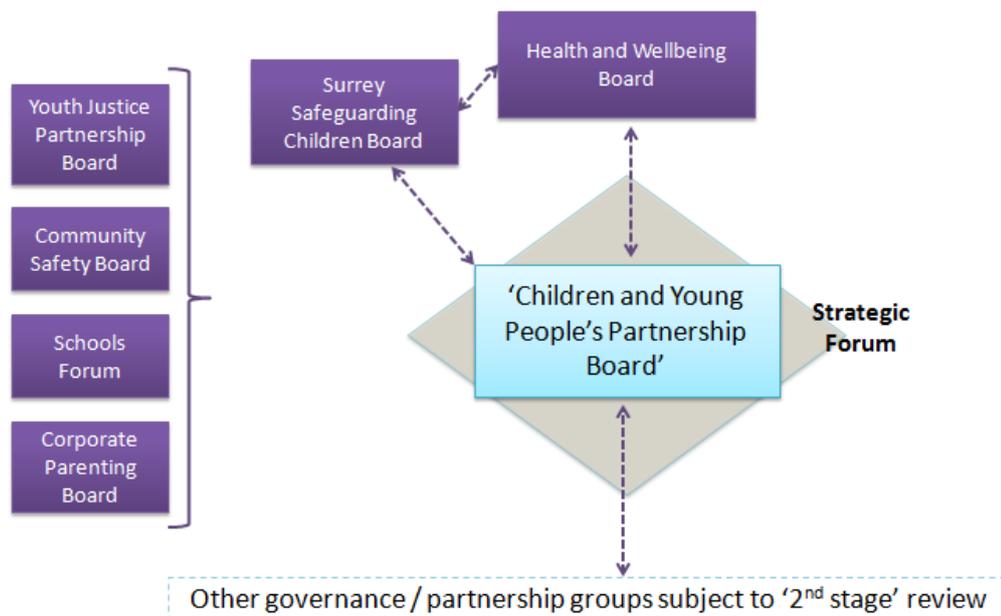
THE FINDINGS

3. The findings from the review, presented to the Children's Health and Wellbeing Group on 3 November and the Children and Young People's Partnership Strategic Board on 5 November 2015, identified a number of areas where the partnership arrangements could be strengthened:
 - Too many meetings with some duplication of work and performance / progress reporting.
 - Opportunities were seen for improving lines of accountability, responsibility between layers and clarifying roles and the purpose of groups / boards – reducing unnecessary burden on partners.
 - Suggestions that a single 'joint commissioning group' that builds on existing priorities and oversees joint work.
 - Strategic partnership meetings are valued for relationship building.
4. The above formed the basis of the feedback from partners but was also supported by the mapping exercise and the best practice research.

<h3>Proposed Approach</h3>

5. The Children and Young People's Partnership Strategic Board endorsed a two staged approach to improving the partnership arrangements:
 - Stage one – establish a new structure at a strategic level and a set of principles to guide the further development of partnership arrangements.
 - Stage two – review and agree new partnership arrangements below the strategic level.
6. The proposals for stage one, endorsed by the current Partnership Strategic Board and the Children's Health and Wellbeing Group, are set out below.

Proposed new strategic level structure



7. Establish a single '**Children and Young People's Partnership Board**' to have one strategic group looking at all joint commissioning relating to children and young people and to take forward the children's priority of the Surrey's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. (I.e. one board to replace the current Children and Young People's Partnership Strategic and Operational Boards and the Children's Health and Wellbeing Group.)
8. Membership for the new Board will principally be drawn from lead commissioning organisations and **focus on where further join up of work and commissioning can improve outcomes**. The Board will have greater oversight and ownership of groups that sit 'underneath' to ensure those groups avoid duplication and are focussed on delivery.
9. A **Children and Young People's Partnership Strategic Forum** will be held. This Forum will bring together partners using a workshop / conference style to move away from traditional style meetings and continue building relationship across all partners.

Principles

10. Principles that will be used to help to define new and developing partnership arrangements include:
 - Where appropriate, no more than one 'ongoing' group per priority (e.g. removing the current 'expectation' for separate strategic and operational groups).
 - Making better use of time limited/task and finish groups.
 - Clearly defined and aligned roles and responsibilities of groups/boards with clear lines of accountability.
 - Membership of each group/board being based on the role of the group/board (reducing the need for the same people being required to attend multiple meetings).

- Ensuring regular and clear communication outside of the meetings (for partners and the public).

11. The new partnership arrangements recognise that where key decisions around commissioning need to be made then these will need to be approved by formal individual governance mechanisms such as each CCG governing body and Cabinet for the County Council.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the review of the partnership arrangements and endorse the next steps. The final terms of reference for the 'Children and Young People's Partnership Board' will be presented back to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

Next steps:

12. The next steps to implement the new approach are as follows:

- Communicate: Share the changes across the partnership landscape including with the statutory boards – during December 2015.
- Work up more detail: Draw up and share draft terms of reference and proposed membership for the new 'Children and Young People's Partnership Board' and the new Forum – during December and January 2015/2016.
- Implement: Implement the strategic changes and begin refining the arrangements below the strategic level using the agreed principles – from January 2016.

Report contact: Andrew Evans, Strategy and Policy Development Manager

Contact details: Andrew.evans@surreycc.gov.uk Tel: 01372 833992

Sources/background papers: None