

**Divisions Affected – N/A**

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**–26 September 2024**

### **Update of the Children’s Trust Arrangements and Board.**

#### **Report by Director of Children’s Services**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is **RECOMMENDED** to

- a) **To review the progress on the reestablishment and reset of the Children’s Trust Arrangements (CTA) in Oxfordshire and to note the information contained within the report.**

### **Executive Summary**

1. The Children’s Trust Arrangements are the strategic partnership mechanism for identifying and monitoring the progress of improvements, in key high-level health and wellbeing outcomes for all children within the County of Oxfordshire. The Children’s Trust Arrangements are the child and young people’s focused branch of the Health and Wellbeing Board and therefore works closely with and reports to the Health and Wellbeing board.
2. The Children’s Trust Arrangement are delivered through the Children’s Trust Board, which is a small number of strategic leaders across the children’s partnership who have authority, responsibility, accountability and decision-making powers. The Children’s Trust Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services.
3. During a period of systems change and changes in leadership within the partnership, the Children’s Trust Arrangements continued to operate some meetings and workshops in 2023, however these arrangements needed to be re-evaluated and to refine its strategic intent.
4. The first meeting of the Children’s Trust Board and arrangements is planned for 24 October 2024 and will meet four times per year. Development is underway to consider whether one of these meetings should expand to include a whole children’s partnership conference for wider partners in the children’s system. A review of the progress against the Strategic objectives will occur annually.

## **Development of the Children’s Trust Arrangements and Board: principles of Strategic Intent.**

5. The terms of reference of the Children’s Trust arrangements have been refreshed. It is not the role of the Children’s Trust Arrangements to directly deliver operational work, but instead as a focus for the progress and delivery of the many other and already existing statutory and strategic boards and duties. For instance, the priorities for the safeguarding of children are the strategic and statutory duty of the Children’s Strategic Safeguarding Partnership under Working Together 2023, currently known as the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board.
6. A range of statutory and strategic Boards already exist within the Council and across the Children’s partnership in Oxfordshire. Each board has a range of legal duties, and each board has a focus around a medium-term strategy, typically three to five years of planning and delivery. It is the role of the Children’s Trust Arrangements and board to seek assurance and progress against each board’s strategic objectives and review evidence of progress in improving outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire.
7. The Children’s Trust Arrangements has a requirement to develop a high-level strategy or plan which identifies improvements in key areas impacting all children and young people in Oxfordshire. This strategic intention is based upon already established evidence such as the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis, and upon the existing priorities and strategies of a range of other statutory boards, legal frameworks and data. It is for the Children’s Trust Arrangements to gain assurance of change and improvements against the strategic intent and intended outcomes for children.
8. In developing the Children and Young People’s strategic Plan, the existing ambitions and priorities of existing strategies, data and improvement needs, have been accepted as the basis for the key high-level changes that the Children’s Trust Arrangements would champion and adopt. The existing priorities and ambitions can be found in a range of plans and operational delivery for example:
  - The Council’s Strategic Plan priorities and Plan 2023-2025, [strategic plan 2022 - 2025 \(pdf format, 3.6Mb\)](#)
  - The existing priorities for the current Health and Wellbeing Strategy in respect of children’s outcomes, under Start Well.
  - The Youth Justice plan 2024
  - The outcomes and recommendations of the Education Commission 2023.
9. There are four broad areas of the Children and Young People’s strategic plan:
  - Start Well and Early Help
  - Live Well: Young Lives

- Achieve Well
- The voices of children and Young People.

## Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. As the Children and Young People's focussed branch of Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children's Trust Arrangements and the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Plan meets the vision, values and strategic priorities of the Council's corporate plan.(see [Corporate Plan](#)), with an obvious and direct link to priority 7, *Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.*

There are other clear links to priority 2: *tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire*; priority 3: *prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents*, and working with the 'Future Generations' commitment, priority 8: *Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy*, by recognising that children and young people are residents and that their outcomes and wellbeing should be influenced by listening to young residents about what matters to them in Oxfordshire.

## Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications of this report

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering,  
[thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications of this report

Comments checked by:

Naomi Bentley-Walls, Head of Law (Childcare)  
[naomi.bentleylawson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:naomi.bentleylawson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Staff Implications

13. There are no staff implications in this report

## Equality & Inclusion Implications

14. This report outlines the strategic vision and mechanism for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Oxfordshire. This report shows the focus and mechanism for tackling a range of disadvantage and differential outcomes.

## **Sustainability Implications**

15. There are no sustainability implications in this report

**Lisa Lyons**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Annex: Children and Young People's Strategic Plan

Contact Officer: Lisa Lyons, [lisa.lyons@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.lyons@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

September 2024