

Oxfordshire Children's Trust Arrangements and Board

Terms of Reference (2024-26)

FINAL

		Date
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Reviewed by:	Children's Trust Board	
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THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 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 focuses its actions on four priorities from the Children and Young People's Plan:

- Start Well: Early Help and Early Years
- Live Well: Young Lives; outcomes for Young People
- Achieve Well: outcomes for education and inclusion
- Children's and Young People's Voices and their influence over the services that shape their lives

1.2 The purpose of the Trust is to:

1. Oversee the strategic intent of Oxfordshire multi-agency partners based upon the desired outcomes of Health and Wellbeing Board with a focus upon outcomes and implications for Children and Young People. Along with a focus on effective partnership working across Oxfordshire to best support Children and Young People
2. Drive a long-term Children and Young People's strategy and plan, designed to improve outcomes for children in Oxfordshire in relation to the agreed priority areas of 'Start Well, Live Well, Achieve Well'
3. To receive assurance in relation to the impact and progress of the strategic priorities and to review the impact of other strategic boards and committees in supporting those priorities and progression
4. Champion the involvement of Children, Young People, Parents and Carers in partnership, working with senior managers and politicians
5. Ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partnerships are sighted on the key challenges and outcomes facing Children and Young People in Oxfordshire

This term of reference sets out the strategic, decision making and operational structure of the Children's Trust Board. This document will be reviewed in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the strategic priorities of the Council and any refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 The responsibilities of the Trust are to:

1. Report and inform the Health and Wellbeing Board (this does not preclude consultation and reporting to other committees and boards focused upon outcomes for Children and Young People)
2. Produce an overarching strategy focused upon key high-level outcomes using the delivery work of other strategic boards and committees to drive outcomes
3. Lead on the production, development and updates the Children and Young People's Plan
4. Review performance via the Children's Trust ~~146~~ Asset which is overseen by the Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance Subgroup of both the Trust and Strategic

Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People in Oxfordshire

5. Encourage and promote integrated working between children's services, health and social care and other local services including voluntary and public sector services

3. Structure

3.1 Membership:

3.1.1 Members of the Trust are required to be of sufficient seniority to be able to:

- Speak for their organisation and make decisions
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters
- Hold their organisation to account and lead dissemination of communication into and out from their organisation/agency

3.1.2 The Trust membership is drawn from each of the agencies or organisations set out below:

1. Cabinet Member for Children and Families (OCC)
2. Children Education and Family Services (CEF: DCS and Deputy Directors)
3. Director of Public Health
4. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (2 representatives)
5. The City and District Councils: one mandated representative from the Districted and City Council on behalf of the others
6. Thames Valley Police
7. Oxfordshire Children's Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements: Scrutineer
8. Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
9. Safer Oxfordshire Partnership
10. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
11. Representation from schools and colleges'
12. Members of the Children and Young People's Forum will represent the Third Sector
13. Healthwatch ambassador

3.1.3 Membership will be reviewed in line with CYP strategy updates. Associated colleagues may be invited to attend for specific information and assurance items.

Time limited task and finish groups or specific invitees:

3.1.4 The Trust may, from time to time, establish working groups to pursue particular projects. These groups will be set up on a "task and finish" basis and will be dissolved once the project has been completed.

3.2 The Chair:

The Trust will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, Oxfordshire County Council.

3.3 Vice Chair:

The Vice Chair will be a representative from any of the organisations represented at the Board. The role of the Vice Chair involves chairing and preparing meetings, approving minutes and reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the absence of the Chair and leading on agreed specific pieces of work. The duration of the role can be negotiated but continuity is expected given that the Board only meets four times a year.

4. Administration

4.1 Forward Plan:

The Trust will produce an annual Forward Plan to ensure clearer oversight of key risks

and issues across the system. The Forward Plan will support the overall strategic direction of service delivery with a focus of assurance and escalation of issues as appropriate.

4.2 Meetings:

4.2.1 The Trust will meet four times a year and publish an annual plan for its meetings.

4.2.2 The agenda for three of the meetings will include a focus on at least one of the priorities listed above and include time to consider emerging and core business.

4.2.3 Core business includes:

1. Performance monitoring and assurance
2. Updates from other statutory boards across the partnership
3. New and emerging national, regional and local developments which impact on the business of the Trust.

4.2.4 Agendas will be published in advance of the meeting.

4.2.5 Strategy and Plan review:

The Trust will review the programme of assurance in line with the strategies and direction of Health and Wellbeing.

5. Communication, Consultation and Engagement

5.1 The Trust is responsible via a range of mechanisms across the partnership for engaging and involving Children, Young People, their Families, Carers and other local stakeholders to influence partnership plans that deliver outcomes for Children and Young People.

5.2 To achieve this, the Trust will work with specific partners and agency/partnership mechanisms on a range of participation, engagement, feedback and the output of coproduction activity, to ensure that the voice of Children, Young People and Families influence and inform the priorities and assurance of the Trust.

APPENDIX 1

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

1.1 Information used by the Children's Trust Board and provided to external bodies will be accurate, timely and fit for purpose.

1.2 Members of the Trust are encouraged to share information as required for the purpose of planning, developing and monitoring partnership projects and services by ensuring all data is in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

1.3 All members of the Trust are responsible for communicating any relevant information to their organisation unless that information is deemed confidential to a particular meeting.

APPENDIX 2

Values

The Children's Trust Board will be:

1. Strategic - members of the Trust can take a strategic overview, to implement system change and thinking and to influence decision making and delivery within their organisation
2. Inclusive – the Trust will be a partnership of equals, actively involving all the key players in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and children and young people
3. Outcome focused – The Trust will establish common priorities together with agreed actions and milestones that lead to demonstrable improvements against measurable baselines
4. A body that promotes equality – the Trust will serve the needs of all children and young people regardless of age, sex, disability, race, religion, belief or sexual orientation