



Working together to reach your goals

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust Update

September 2010

Introduction

In August 2010 the Government published a paper called 'Reform of Children's Trusts'- see Appendix 1.

The Government paper recognised the essential role strong multi agency partnerships and joint planning have to play and is very much focused on the local reform of Children's Trusts rather than their abolition.

A key change in the paper proposes that schools will no longer have a duty to cooperate, it does not however remove the duty on other partners.

Buckinghamshire Response

The Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust Board considered the Government paper at its meeting on 26th August 2010.

The Board welcomed the ability to have a more flexible approach to Children's Trusts and Plans.

The Board felt the removal of the duty to cooperate from schools was a negative one, particularly as it recognised the very important input schools have made to the Trust in Buckinghamshire.

There was unanimous agreement by the Board regarding the importance of having a multi agency approach for children and young people's services in Buckinghamshire and that the recently reformed Trust Model met this need.

The Board also agreed that to enable this multi agency approach a joint plan would be needed.

The Board has therefore agreed:

- To have a Trust Board and encourage all relevant partners, including schools, to actively participate in this.
- To maintain and develop the Buckinghamshire Trust Model, recognising in particular the role that the Local Trust Boards have to play. See Appendix 2 for the full Trust Model.
- To continue to develop a Children and Young People's Plan for 2011/14. This will be a more targeted plan focusing on the most vulnerable.

Further information

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Appendix 1: Government Proposed Reform of Children's Trusts

Strong local partnerships are crucial to meeting the needs of all children, but a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. That is why this Government intends to remove much of the bureaucracy surrounding children's trusts and allow schools to choose how best they may engage. The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to:

- remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts via the forthcoming Education Bill
- remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity
- revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, in the autumn.

Further information

Does this mean Children's Trust partnerships are no longer a priority?

No, the Government supports effective local partnerships and is freeing them to address local issues with innovative solutions. The basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed.

What will the proposed changes mean for schools?

Teachers and head teachers will be able to concentrate on teaching and learning. This is part of a wider programme of measures for reducing bureaucracy which we intend to communicate to schools and local authorities in the autumn.

When will the new arrangements come into force?

We intend to introduce legislation to remove the duty to co-operate from schools, revoke the regulations and withdraw the guidance in the autumn. The other proposed legislative changes to children's trusts will follow as soon as possible.

What does this mean for the new CYPP due in April 2011?

Once the regulations are revoked there will be no requirement to produce a new CYPP in April 2011 unless the local area wishes to do so. Also, how the plan is put together and what it contains will be for the local partners to decide.

Background

Children's trusts are local partnership arrangements to improve children's well-being (the five outcomes). They are not defined in legislation but are underpinned by a 'duty to co-operate' in section 10 of the Children Act 2004. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 amended section 10 by bringing schools, colleges and Jobcentre Plus under the duty to co-operate and requiring all local areas to have a children's trust board, which had to prepare and publish a jointly owned Children and Young People's Plan by April 2011.

Appendix 2: Model for Buckinghamshire's Children and Young People's Trust.

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust

