

**MEETING  
14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

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**INTEGRATED WORKING**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee of the development of Integrated teams to improve the early intervention and prevention services in Darlington.

**Summary**

2. The Children Act 2004 and a number of other significant documentation requires the Local Authority with its partners to improve the outcomes for children and young people by reviewing their services and how they are provided, including the integrating of services. The Children's Plan: building brighter futures (DCSF 2007) and Building Brighter Futures: next steps for the Children's Workforce (DCSF 2008) describe a vision that every Children's Trust arrangement is expected to understand and be able to deliver integrated working by 2010.
3. To achieve a holistic approach to the delivery of children's services an integrated model is being established. A paper was agreed by the Children's Trust in January 2009 which outlined how this might be achieved

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that:-
  - (a) The Children and Young peoples Scrutiny note the contents of this report and receive future reports regarding the impact of integrated services on Children, Young people and families.

**Murray Rose,  
Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

Gill Walker : Extension 2878  
MWA

S17 Crime and Disorder	Integrated working should lead to more joined up service delivery and sharing of information which may have some impact on crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	Integrated working and the co-location of health and children's services staff should lead to improvements in health and well being
Sustainability	There are no direct implications arising from this report
Diversity	All groups are included
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The development of integrated teams will require a reconfiguration of current budget arrangements. This supports the policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Integrated working cuts across all themes of the sustainable community strategy and should support the achievement of its vision
Efficiency	Integrated working should lead to more efficient service delivery

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. Children's trust agreed the establishment of a Project Group to prepare proposals around the development of integrated teams in September 2008. The small project group completed a comprehensive consultation with a range of stakeholders these included: Parents/carers, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, Primary heads, Secondary Heads, Academy Head, Social Care managers, Health Professionals, Locality Coordinators, Senior Social Care Staff, Financial Team, SEN Provision, YOS, Children Centre Managers, Children's Services Managers, School Improvement and young people. The team also completed field visits to Nottinghamshire and Leicester City to consider their models and experiences in the development of integrated teams. The outcome of this work was tabled at the CT Development and Commissioning meeting in January 2009.
6. The findings of this group were then submitted and agreed at the full CT meeting in January 2009 – this agreed the development of three areas teams each having one Integrated Service Manager to deliver early intervention and prevention services for children and young people aged 0-19.
7. The development of the Integrated Service Manager roles will improve lines of accountability for services which will have the child, young person and family at its centre. This will ensure that we are confident that we can offer a common core of universal services which provide a swift and easy access to targeted services as required. These areas are based on the existing localities and brings together Localities A & E, Localities B & C and Locality D. One of these posts will be funded by, appointed to and employed by Darlington PCT.
8. Under each Integrated Service Managers will be three Co-ordinators; Children's Services Co-ordinator (0-11), Young People's Service Co-ordinator (12-19) and Family Whole Care Team Co-ordinator. Again the latter post in each area will be funded by, appointed to and employed by the PCT.
9. Some services, currently not included in the integrated teams will be expected to develop, if these are not already in existence, strong links to the integrated teams –the interface between target and specialist services will also be strengthened.
10. These teams will work together to ensure a consistent predictable service is developed and will be tasked with enabling our most hard to reach families access to the services they need. Regular service user feedback will also be built into the annual performance cycle. This development will allow the teams to explore new and innovative methods of working, provide swift and easy access to services with families geographical neighbourhoods and decrease the number of children and young people subject to multiple assessments.
11. Over the next few weeks it is anticipated that the Integrated service managers will be appointed, shortly followed by the team leaders. The first priority for these teams will be establishment of a core predictable service for children, young people and families. We proposed to develop a common offer across the Borough. This will include Parenting support, Affordable childcare, Common opening hours, Family learning, Common core of information, advice and guidance, Access to play and positive activities, Common support for transition (beyond schools), Common language and tools across services and a Single referral route – CAF. Services will be designed to be responsive to the needs of the child

and family and not determined by old service boundaries.

12. A performance framework will be established to monitor progress towards achieving the core predictable service. Further detail will also be scrutinised including national and local performance indicators and information around levels of deprivation of the families accessing these services. We will also develop opportunities for regular service user feedback.

### **Conclusion**

13. Darlington is well placed to meet the expectation of integration of services by 2010. This is a significant next step in term of achieving this aim – we will join up services for children, young people aged 0-19 years in geographical areas of the Borough, we will continue the good work that has began in the locality forums and be able to put some complementary structure around this and we will strengthen the interface between other services to ensure no child, young person or family fall through the net and can access timely, responsive services.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

14. Full consultation has now been completed with all staff and unions to progress this work further. Three teams will be established to focus on early intervention and support services across the Borough for children, young people and families. Each Integrated Service Manager will have responsibility for a range of services for a geographical area of the Borough.