

## The Children's Partnership

20 September 2017

<b>Title:</b> Vision and Terms of Reference	
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Chris Bush, Commissioning Director, Children's Care and Support	
<b>Accountable Strategic Director:</b> Anne Bristow, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration	
<b>Summary</b> <p>The Children's Partnership (The Partnership) is a newly-formed sub-group of the Barking and Dagenham Health and Wellbeing Board. Following extensive discussions with member of the former Children's Trust, the Partnership has been formed to replace the Children's Trust which has now been disbanded.</p> <p>Established to improve the health, wellbeing and outcomes of children and young people in our Borough, the Partnership will seek to do so by leading the way in addressing a small number of priority areas through commissioning, integration, transformation, and innovation.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Children's Partnership is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Note the Vision and ambitions for the future of the Children's Partnership and: a) suggest amendments and/or b) ratify the proposal; and</li><li>(ii) Note the Terms of Reference for the Children's Partnership: a) suggest amendments and/or b) ratify the proposal; and</li></ul>	
<b>Reason(s)</b> <p>The purpose of this reports is to outline the Vision and Terms of Reference for The Partnership, and seek approval to progress in accordance with these.</p>	

## **1. The Vision for The Partnership**

- 1.1 The Children's Partnership is a sub-group of the Barking and Dagenham Health and Wellbeing Board, established to improve the health, wellbeing and outcomes of children and young people in the Borough. It will do so by addressing a small number of priority areas through commissioning, integration, transformation, and innovation.
- 1.2 The Children's Partnership will replace the Children and Maternity Group and the Children's Trust. It will focus on agreeing a strategy for children and young people in the borough as well as considering in detail aspects related to the health agenda for children and young people (while other bodies preside over aspects such as safeguarding e.g. the BDSCB).
- 1.3 In practice, the Children's Partnership will foster a working culture of productive collaboration. This means that its meetings will not be concerned with routine reporting or box-ticking, as previous incarnations have been. Instead, the Partnership will focus on a small number of key issues at each meeting, and undertake in-depth workshops to thoroughly investigate the subject in question and identify potential for future collaboration between partners.
- 1.4 Rather than extensive reports and unnecessary papers, these workshops will be supported with relevant data and summary information. This does not mean that the Partnership will neglect its performance monitoring or reporting responsibilities. All such information and data will be made available for members of the Partnership for scrutiny. However, meetings will only consider focused reports and relevant changes to performance, policy or strategy striving to ensure meetings remain open and productive.
- 1.5 For the same reason, membership of the Partnership will be small and focused, constituted of key stakeholders and never exceeding 10 members. This will encourage a less formal and more productive style of collaboration. This does not mean, however, that relevant experts, guests and partners will be excluded from its work. The Partnership will invite such guests who hold expertise or interest in the subject in question to participate in and contribute to each meeting, ensuring that members are equipped with a complete understanding of the subject and the variety of opinions and priorities held.
- 1.6 It is suggested that The Partnership will identify and focus on a small number of key priorities each year. In its first year, it will focus on the critical challenges of:
  - Children's health and wellbeing and the wider strategy for children and young people in the borough
  - The special educational needs and disability (SEND) agenda, especially for those young people approaching working age and preparing for independence
  - Attainment and post-16 outcomes, including for those not in education, employment, or training, and those unknown
- 1.7 Barking and Dagenham Together: The Borough Manifesto is a shared 20-year vision for the future of the borough, built on the views of over 3,000 residents and developed by partners from across the borough, and across the public, private and

third sectors. The vision of the Children's Partnership aligns with that of The Borough Manifesto and echoes its aspirations, including that Barking and Dagenham should be a place:

- Where every resident has access to lifelong learning, employment, and opportunity;
- With high-quality education and sustained attainment for all residents;
- Which supports residents to achieve independent, healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives;
- Where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to succeed

1.8 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-18 sets out the vision followed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Children's Partnership, as a Sub-Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, shares and seeks to deliver on this strategy through the development of an over-arching strategy for the Children and Young People of Barking and Dagenham. The Partnership agrees with its observation that *'getting off the starting blocks is essential in improving health and wellbeing. This starts with establishing healthy habits in pregnancy and with our children'*. Throughout its work the Partnership will also consider the four priority themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy: care and support; protection and safeguarding; improvement and integration of services and; prevention

1.9 When the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is updated or succeeded, the Children's Partnership will contribute and adhere to its successor.

1.10 The Children's Partnership will be a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It will, therefore, report the outcome of each meeting to the Board and take direction, where given, from the Board. As a forum for in-depth, strategic collaboration, the Partnership will also act as a base of intelligence and development for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **2. Terms of Reference**

### **2.1 Remit**

2.1.1 The Children's Partnership – hereby referred to as the Partnership – exists to improve the health and wellbeing, and outcomes of children and young people in Barking and Dagenham. It is a forum for strategic collaboration among partners, and a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.1.2 The Partnership, being constituted of partners from across those organisations which deliver public services for children and young people in Barking and Dagenham, will devise, encourage and oversee commissioning, integration, transformation and innovation where it improves life chances and outcomes.

### **2.2 Statutory Foundation**

2.2.1 The requirements to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of children are set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004. These duties demand

the promotion of cooperation between the local authority, relevant partners and, as appropriate, other bodies working with children. These duties are to be made with a view to improving the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in the authority's area.

- 2.2.2 The duty to have regard to the joint strategic needs assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy is prescribed in section 7 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Additionally, sections 8 and 9 of the Act confirm that clinical commissioning groups are under duty in section 3 of the Health Service Act 2006 to arrange for the provision of services.

## **2.3 Functions and Responsibilities**

- 2.3.1 Act as the strategic body that provides a strong influence on children's issues, advising, and advocating on key commissioning, integration, transformation, and innovation matters in the Borough.
- 2.3.2 Provide an informed and balanced assessment to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other governing bodies of the likely impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people; make recommendations which address the needs of all children and young people.
- 2.3.3 Provide expert advice to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and all other appropriate mandates, plans and strategies.
- 2.3.4 Provide a forum for productive collaboration, problem-solving and identifying solutions through focused workshops, addressing a small number of priority issues.

## **2.4 Membership**

- 2.4.1 Membership of the Partnership will not exceed 10 members, and will be decided by the Partnership itself, with the approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Membership of the Partnership, at the time of establishment, will be constituted of:
- 4 Representatives of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham – hereby the Council – specifically:
    - The Commissioning Director for Children's Care and Support (Chair)
    - The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration
    - The Director of Public Health
    - The Commissioning Director for Education
  - The Deputy Director of Nursing for the Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
  - The Director of Young People and Families for Lifeline (CVS Representative)
  - The Integrated Care Director of the North-East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT)
  - The Head Teacher of Sydney Russel Comprehensive School (Secondary School Representative)
  - The Head Teacher of Gascoigne School (Primary School Representative)

2.4.2 Advisors to the Partnership will have standing invitations to each meeting of the Partnership, but will not hold decision-making power. Upon establishment, appointed as advisor to the Partnership will be:

- The Council's Head of Performance and Intelligence, Children's Care and Support: responsible for providing intelligence, data and policy information.
- Head of Commissioning, Children's Care and Support: responsible for leading the response to decisions taken by the Partnership.

2.4.3 The Partnership may invite guests, specialists and experts to attend any meeting where deemed relevant and useful by any member. Non-members in attendance may contribute fully to each meeting, but will not hold decision-making power.

## **2.5 Attendance and Quorum**

2.5.1 The Partnership may invite guests, specialists and experts to attend any meeting where deemed relevant and useful by any member. Non-members in attendance may contribute fully to each meeting, but will not hold decision-making power.

2.5.2 Due to the focused nature of its membership, there is an expectation of full attendance at meetings of the Partnership, which is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure. However, if a member cannot attend a meeting of the Partnership, they must nominate a substitute.

2.5.3 A meeting of the Partnership will be considered to have quorum when at least the following members are in attendance:

- The Chair
- 1 representative of the Council, not including the Chair
- 1 representative of the CCG
- 1 representative of NELFT
- 1 representative of the borough's schools

## **2.6 Meetings and Decisions**

2.6.1 The Partnership will meet at least 4 times per year, but may meet as frequently as the Chair deems necessary and suitable. Due notice, the agenda and all relevant materials must be distributed to all members at least one week prior to each meeting.

2.6.2 Decisions taken by the Partnership must gain unanimous support from those members in attendance.

## **2.7 Secretariat**

2.7.1 The Council's Partnership Boards Business Manager will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Partnership. This will include the coordinating of meetings, the circulation of meeting papers and timely production of action points, to be circulated within two weeks of the meeting.

## **2.8 Accountability**

2.8.1 The Partnership will be a Sub-Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. All reports of the Partnership, including reports of each of its meetings, will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The vision and priorities of the Partnership will align with that of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2.8.2 In the unlikely event of any unresolvable disputes, the matter will be escalated to the Health and Wellbeing Board Executive Planning Group.

## **2.9 Changes to Terms of Reference**

2.9.1 These Terms of Reference may be amended by the Partnership itself, with the approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board.