

**Rutland Children's Trust Board
Agenda Item 5
Children's Trust Annual Report 2009-2010**



Recommendations:

1. That the Rutland Children's Trust Board notes the content of this report as a record of the activities and progress of the work of the Rutland Children's Trust in the period April 2009 to March 2010
2. That the Rutland Children's Trust Board approves the completion of the associated Review Action Plan as a way forward to achieve the agreed outcomes.

1. Introduction

Every Child Matters (2003) launched a programme of systemic changes to improve outcomes for all children. The Children's Act (2004) provides the legal framework for this programme and requires Children's Services within Local Authorities and their relevant partners to co-operate to improve outcomes for children. This Act has been further amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009) which has added to the number of relevant partners, made Children's Trusts statutory bodies and made the Trust responsible for the establishment of the Children and Young People's Plan.

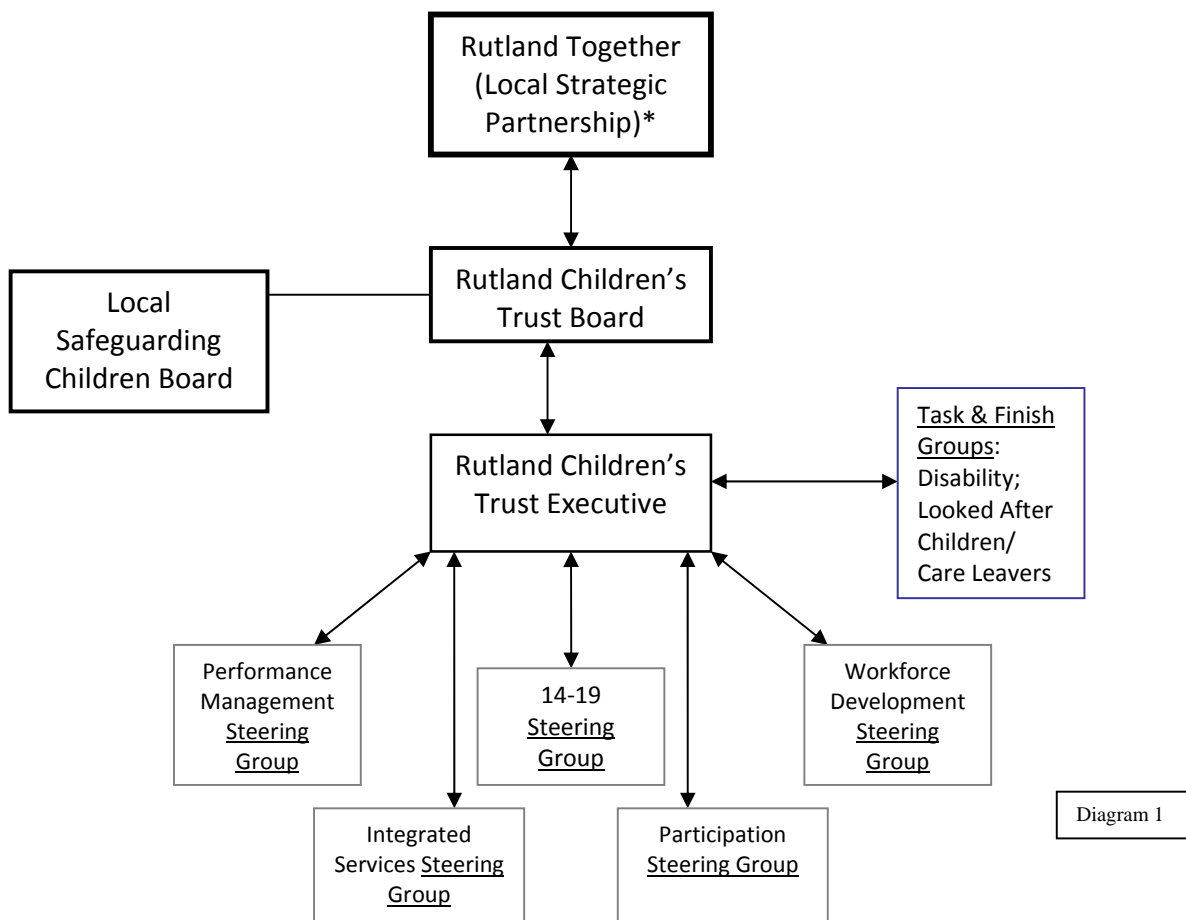
The Children's Trust in Rutland has been in existence for 2 years, having completed a transition from a prior existence as the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership in April 2008 when RCC Cabinet approved the formation of the Trust structure and Terms of Reference for the Board, Executive and Steering Groups, which at that time were 4 in number. The Trust is one of the six thematic groups which together comprise the Local Strategic Partnership (Rutland Together).

2. Commentary

Since April 2008 the Board has met on 3 occasions, in July 2008 and in June and November 2009, and the Executive has met 5 times, beginning with an inaugural meeting in October 2008, followed by meetings in July and October 2009 and January and March 2010. The Board continues to meet twice each year, and the Executive has recently agreed to increase the frequency of its meetings to six times per year.

The steering groups meet approximately every 2 to 3 months, although this schedule has been adjusted in several cases to accommodate the various work streams and tasks that have been undertaken. In the autumn of 2009 a fifth steering group to progress the priorities associated with the 14-19 agenda in Rutland was included within the Trust structure. This group was already in existence and its identity was retained, membership has been augmented to ensure that representation adequately reflects the needs and priorities of young people aged 14-19 in the county.

The current structure of the Trust is as shown in diagram 1 below.



Membership of the various groups within the structure has changed over the past year, mainly due to individuals changing roles or sometimes organisations. Representation from the various recommended partner agency organisations has not always been present and we have found securing attendance of representatives at the appropriate level within the relevant organisation to be something of a challenge. With the introduction of the ASCL Act and the new statutory status of Children's Trusts from April 1st 2010 there is even greater onus on Trust members to cooperate to deliver actions and priorities that improve outcomes for children and young people.

Governance and Commissioning

Members of the Board and Executive worked together in October 2009 to develop a framework for governance, and subsequently a Memorandum of Understanding has been introduced. This makes clear the roles and responsibilities of Trust partner agency members, wherever they sit within the Trust structure. Also during October 2009 a Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework was developed, and has been approved by the Trust Board. The framework outlines procedures on how we will work together to secure provision which improves outcomes for children and young people. This document will be supported by a more detailed Commissioning Strategy which will provide guidance on how the intentions and priorities in the Children and Young people's Plan will be delivered using the Commissioning Framework. The Framework is being tested during 2010 using the work of the Casterton

cluster Wrap Around Team, and feedback will be presented to the Trust Executive on a regular basis.

Children and Young People’s Plan

There has been an annual review of the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) on each anniversary of the current plan, which spans the period 2007-11. This plan was originally developed as a 3 year plan, subsequently amended to a 4 year version in light of the introduction of revised requirements being implemented in 2011. A new plan will be developed for the next 3 year period using a needs assessment which all partners will contribute towards.

The primary duty of the Trust has been to monitor performance against the eighteen priorities within the CYPP and to instigate action to address any issues arising in the event of performance failure, and this has been informed by the work of the Performance Monitoring Steering Group.

Key developments over the past year have been:

Priority 1: Ensure children and young people choose healthy lifestyles and increase physical activity – an integrated approach to bring together several existing work streams has been implemented

Priority 4: Ensure children and young people are safe – the profile of safeguarding in every aspect of the work of CYPS has been raised

Priority 14: develop the children and young people’s workforce – this work has been supported by a grant from the Children’s Workforce Development Council

Priority 18: Improve the performance management framework – developments in this area have furnished the Trust with improved information for performance monitoring

Key dates for the next twelve months:

Comprehensive information on performance against the Children and Young People’s Plan 2007-2011 will be presented in the 2010 Annual Plan Review which will be available in June 2010.

April 1 st 2010	Children Trust Boards on a statutory footing, taking responsibility from Local Authorities for the production of the Children and Young People’s Plan
April-May 2010	Review of Trust membership to ensure all requirements of new statutory duties are met and changes proposed prior to Board meeting on June 8 th
July 5 th 2010	Annual Review of CYPP 2007-2011 plan to Children’s Trust Executive
September 2010	First Annual Conference of the Rutland Children’s Trust
October 2010	Joint Needs Analysis including Child Poverty needs assessment
November 17 th 2010	Needs Assessment and draft CYPP 2011-2014 to Children’s Trust Executive
March 2011	Publication of Child Poverty Strategy

Additionally, there may be further dates and tasks associated with the recently introduced Child Poverty Act, which gained royal assent in March 2010. Each Local Authority with its partners is required to co-operate to reduce poverty in the local area, including the production of a child poverty needs assessment and child poverty strategy. These two documents will impact on the work of the Trust partners and the content of the Children and Young People's Plan from 2011 onwards. Children's Trust Boards are required to ensure that actions to combat child poverty are targeted at neighbourhood, community and individual levels. Continued integrated working of the Local Authority within the Local Strategic Partnership and with other agencies will contribute towards the delivery of these outcomes.