

Blackpool Children and Young People's Partnership: (Draft) Terms of Reference

Scope of the Partnership

1. To provide strategic leadership with responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the children's health and wellbeing agenda on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Blackpool Children and Young People's Partnership will operate as the key strategic group with responsibility for overseeing and shaping the delivery of the children's health and wellbeing agenda on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The BCYPP is responsible for developing and overseeing delivery of a strategy for improving outcomes for children and young people (Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy 2015-19), taking account of the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and evidence in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Strategy will address the root causes of poor outcomes through an upstream approach to population change. This will primarily focus on cross-cutting factors which address the health, wellbeing and life chances of children, including poor dental health, factors leading to poor health outcomes, e.g. nutrition, exercise; child and adolescent mental health; poor educational attainment and the primary/secondary school transition; and development in the early years.

The Partnership will deliver the statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board with regards to children with special educational and complex needs as set out in Department of Health guidance¹.

2. Influence relevant strategies to address wider issues around children's outcomes

In delivering the CYPP Strategy, the role of the Partnership will be to:

- Align partner budgets towards work delivering the priorities;
- Influence the commissioning process;
- Reshape existing plans and services relating to children's outcomes to deliver the transition from downstream to upstream services (see number 5 below);
- Ensure services are delivered in a more integrated and effective way.

There are a number of strategies which are planned or being implemented which the Children and Young People's Partnership will need to shape to bring in line with the CYPP Strategy; these are included in its review plan for 2014-16.

1

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357447/DH_HWB_children_s_guidance.pdf

The Partnership will assess the scale and nature of impact on children of emerging strategies and bids and ensure that it has the opportunity to influence and make recommendations on these at the earliest stage.

3. Act as the project board for multi-agency partnership bids and projects around children

In order to deliver effectively, the Partnership will act as the project board for any national initiatives, projects or funding bids which have improving children's outcomes at their core. This initially includes Head Start and Better Start. These Terms of Reference will be amended to include other multi-agency partnership projects as they are developed.

4. Ensuring evidence-based decision-making and evaluation on children's projects and initiatives

The Children's Strategic Needs Assessment provides the evidence base for the selection of our priorities, and the Partnership has responsibility for ensuring that it is updated and used to inform priority setting and decision making. A public health approach also requires that we implement approaches which are proven, or where this is not possible, which have a scientific rationale.

The government's What Works Network² aims to improve the role of high quality evidence in informing decisions about public services. The Education Endowment Foundation, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the Early Intervention Foundation are the three evidence centres most relevant to the scope of the Children and Young People's Partnership. In determining how the approach to delivering better children's outcomes can move upstream, the Partnership will consider evidence from these and other quality sources, using the findings to shape the approach of individual partners.

5. Direct the transition to upstream services

The shift from resource intensive downstream services towards population-level upstream services needs careful oversight of the projects being delivered and the performance indicators identified as being relevant. The Partnership needs to shape the movement of investment between downstream and upstream interventions. Equally, it needs to be able to identify significant gaps in downstream service delivery which may need to be plugged pending the upstream approaches starting to make an impact.

6. Develop and oversee commissioning arrangements

The Partnership will develop an integrated commissioners' view of the change needed which will include looking at aligned or pooled budget arrangements, and ensuring that funding streams are targeted at initiatives which make the biggest long term impact on improving children's health and wellbeing and life chances.

² More information is available from <https://www.gov.uk/what-works-network>

Governance and Operational Arrangements

Membership

The Partnership is made up of a core membership of strategic leaders at director or deputy director level, with decision making capacity:

Cabinet Member, Children’s Services (Chair)
Opposition Member
Chair, Safeguarding Children Board
Director of Public Health, Blackpool Council
Deputy Chief Executive, Blackpool Council
Director of Children’s Services, Blackpool Council
Chair, Clinical Commissioning Group
Chief Operating Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group
Deputy Chief Executive, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
Chief Superintendent, Blackpool Police, Lancashire Constabulary
NSPCC Blackpool representative (Better Start Director – when appointed)
Primary School representative(or Chair of Schools Forum)
Secondary School representative (or Chair of Schools Forum)

Structure

To ensure delivery of the CYPP Strategy, the Partnership will have oversight of a number of operational-level implementation groups. This approach ensures that there is a direct link between delivering joint initiatives on the ground and implementing the strategy.

Where bids for funding or joint projects are being developed, the Partnership will initially act as the group overseeing this work with responsibility for oversight passing to the implementation group on completion or the award of funding. Examples of this include the Better Start and Head Start projects. The Partnership will receive regular reports on the progress of such initiatives.

Responsibilities

Board members will take responsibility for ensuring the Partnership delivers the strategy by working on the items identified above in the “Scope” section. In addition to this they will take responsibility **within their organisations** for the following aspects of delivering the strategy:

- Provide strategic leadership on children’s issues at an organisational and partnership level;
- Promote integrated working on children’s initiatives through joined up commissioning plans;
- Ensure that the delivery of positive outcomes for children are considered and wherever appropriate built into the plans and strategies of their organisations;
- Work to ensure the support of their organisations for joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements;

And as **board members of the Partnership** for the following:

- Assess children’s general needs and wellbeing by overseeing the development and the refresh of the Children’s Strategic Needs Assessment as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Develop and deliver The Children and Young People’s Partnership Strategy 2015 – 19 based on the CSNA and quality evidence around initiatives which will work;
- To influence the Council’s approach to planning, transport, housing, environment, economic development, community safety and any other relevant areas around positive outcomes for children;
- To ensure funding streams facilitate long term, upstream improvements in children’s outcomes;
- To consider the balance of upstream and downstream services required to deliver the best long term approach to raising aspirations and shape this appropriately;
- To develop and implement appropriate engagement and involvement arrangements with children and young people and groups advocating and representing them.

Meetings

Partnership meetings are currently held every two months. Establishing the role of the Partnership as an early influencer of activity will require a different approach. It is suggested that the two-monthly pattern of formal meetings is maintained, but interspersed with up to four informal discussions and development sessions per year. Standing items will include the review of strategies detailed above in the form of a presentation and debate, consideration of emerging projects and bids, and reports from commissioners.

Support

The development of the CYPP Strategy and Partnership work plan will be led by the Council’s Corporate Development Team. Executive and Regulatory Services will provide administrative support for the meetings.