



meeting Nottinghamshire Children **CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT**  
and Young People's Partnership Board

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## REPORT OF THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

### **Relationship between the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report considers the relationship between Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership ('the Partnership') and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. Within Nottinghamshire both the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the NSCB have significant and linked statutory roles to play in ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place to meet the needs of children and young people. It is important therefore that the relative responsibilities and links between the bodies are clearly understood.

##### **Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Partnership**

3. All local authorities are required to have in place arrangements that lead to integrated working at all levels, from planning through to service delivery, with a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people. As part of this agenda, all areas had to have a children's trust or its equivalent in place by April 2008. This reflects the requirement in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 that each children's service authority must make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, 'relevant' partners and other persons or bodies as the authority consider appropriate who exercise functions or are engaged in activities in relation to children and young people in their area.

These arrangements are intended to improve the well-being of children and young people in the authority's area in relation to the five *Every Child Matters* outcomes.

Within Nottinghamshire, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board fulfils this function in its capacity as the children's trust for Nottinghamshire.

### **Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board**

4. Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 established local safeguarding children boards (LSCB) from April 2006. The core objectives for these boards are:
  - to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established; and
  - to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Within Nottinghamshire, the NSCB fulfils these duties.

### **Areas for consideration**

5. The NSCB has a safeguarding and promoting welfare focus but the wider definition provided in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*<sup>1</sup> takes the Board's scope of interest beyond the 'staying safe' outcome and into the wider role of the Children and Young People's Partnership.
6. Statutory guidance within *Working Together to Safeguard Children* makes clear that LSCBs should not only play an active role in contributing to the work of children's trusts (including being a statutory consultee for the Children and Young People's Plan), but should also be regarded as part of the governance framework of the trust whilst "ensuring the effectiveness of the arrangements made by individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children".
7. *Working Together to Safeguard Children* also states "the LSCB and the wider children's trust arrangements need to establish and maintain an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly". The intention of this is to avoid duplication and/or strategic or operational gaps in policy or service provision.

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<sup>1</sup> *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (Department for Education and Skills, April 2006)

## **Current position**

8. To date the relationship between the NSCB and the Partnership has been positive. The NSCB is taking an increasingly active role in contributing to the development of the Children and Young People's Plan and for considering progress against relevant outcomes of the Plan. However, it is recognised that this is an area for further development. Both bodies have been through a period of transition and the need for the NSCB to more effectively engage the wider staying safe agenda has been identified.
9. Further work is required to embed the terms of this relationship within the terms of reference and governance arrangements of both bodies to ensure the statutory requirements and central government expectations are met.
10. The NSCB considered this at its meeting on 28 April 2008 and agreed that it was necessary to further develop the relationship between the two Boards, through the development of some working applications.

## **Next steps**

11. It is suggested that the following actions should be taken to progress this agenda:
  - a) for a regular reporting mechanism to be developed between the two boards in order that each is aware of the work of the other
  - b) for there to be appropriate cross-representation of membership of the two boards
  - c) for a reporting arrangement to be developed which enable each board to undertake appropriate scrutiny of the other
  - d) enquiries should be made of other local authorities to see how they have approached this issue and whether there are any models of good practice from which we can learn.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

12. It is recommended that enquiries be made of other local authorities' practice, as suggested in the report, and informed by that a memorandum of understanding between the two boards be developed, subject to the approval of both boards.

## **ANTHONY MAY**

Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services