

**Report to:** Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 24 November 2005

**Title of Report:** Update on Children's Services Department and Children's Trust developments

**By:** Director, Children's Services

**Purpose of Report:** To brief the Committee

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**Recommendation:**

**That the Committee notes this update report.**

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### **Children's Services Department**

1. Substantive appointments have now been made to all the posts within the senior management structure. A structure chart with the names of post-holders is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Children's Trust arrangements**

2. As the Committee is aware, new governance arrangements were agreed in the summer, after consultation, to drive the development of children's trust arrangements in East Sussex. In October the first meeting of the Children's Trust Executive Group was held; a copy of the minutes is attached as Appendix 2.
3. The key task over the next few months for the new Executive Group and the other groups within the structure is the preparation of the first Children and Young People's Plan. A briefing note on the Plan, prepared for a recent stakeholders conference (the Stakeholders Forum) is attached as Appendix 3. The conference produced many detailed ideas and proposals, with a good consensus around priority issues. A draft statement of priorities as a basis for developing the Plan will be considered by the Children's Trust Executive Group at its next meeting on 12 December.
4. As well as consulting a wide range of adult stakeholders, we are currently engaged in an extensive consultation exercise with children and young people. Three leaflets have been prepared, for use both by individual children and young people and in group discussions. These can be read and completed online through the ESCC website at the following link:  
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/currentconsultations/childrenyoungpeopleplan/default.htm> Many primary schools will be facilitating discussion with children and encouraging them to complete the leaflets. We will also be discussing this with secondary heads shortly. As an inducement for children and young people, completed leaflets will be entered into prize draws. The deadline for this exercise is 31 January, to allow time for the results to influence the development of the Plan.
5. All papers for the Children's Trust Executive Group and for related groups, including the Stakeholders Forum, are publicly available on the children's trust pages of the County Council website.

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Local Members: All

Background documents: none