

Consultation

Launch Date 13 November 2009

Respond by 29 January 2010

Ref: Department for Children, Schools and Families

Consultation on New Statutory Children's Trust Guidance and New Children and Young People's Plan Regulations

This document brings together guidance on Children's Trusts and Children and Young People's Plans into one piece of statutory guidance. It also includes further advice arising from the recent changes to the Children Act 2004 made by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009. The document also includes the draft new Children and Young People's Plan regulations. The consultation is on both the draft new statutory guidance and the draft new regulations.



department for
children, schools and families

Consultation on New Statutory Children's Trust Guidance and New Children and Young People's Plan Regulations

A Consultation

To local authorities, district councils, schools, PCTs, head teachers, governors, strategic health authorities, GPs, youth offending teams, probation services, police, FE institutions, Jobcentre Plus, 3rd sector providers, and other interested parties

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Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact David Aickin in the Local Area Policy Unit on:

Telephone: 020 7340 7376

e-mail: NewChildrensTrustsGuidance.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the DCSF e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Consultation Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0870 000 2288.

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 **Children's Trust statutory guidance (Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on co-operation arrangements, including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan) and Children and Young People's Plan regulations : executive summary**
- 1.2 The draft new statutory guidance on Children's Trusts and the draft new Children and Young People's Plan regulations reflect the changes arising from the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (the ASCL Act). These changes, listed below, seek to strengthen Children's Trusts co-operation arrangements to meet the challenge to make this country the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up in.

- 1.3 The ASCL Act adds new statutory 'relevant partners' in the Children's Trust, puts the Children's Trust Board on a statutory footing, and gives responsibility for preparing, publishing, reviewing and revising the Children and Young People's Plan to the Board. Responsibility for implementing the Children and Young People's Plan remains with the individual partners, who are under a duty to have regard to the Plan. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for monitoring the extent to which the partners act in accordance with the Plan and to publish an annual report which sets this out.
- 1.4 The new draft regulations are intended to replace the existing regulations on the Children and Young People's Plan - The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 and The Children and Young People's Plan (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. The regulations cover the content of the Plan, the Plan's publication, and the people and bodies who the Board must consult when drawing up the Plan. The regulations also cover the annual review of the Plan and its revision.
- 1.5 The new draft statutory Children's Trust guidance brings together statutory guidance on Children's Trust co-operation arrangements, and the procedures and functions of the Children's Trust Board (including the Board's role in preparing, reviewing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan). It replaces Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on interagency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families (2008) and the non-statutory Children and Young People's Plan Guidance (2009). It is issued under sections 10(8), 10(10) and 12B(4) of the Children Act 2004 as amended by the ASCL Act.
- 1.6 Part One of the guidance looks at the implications of the new legislation and clarifies further what the Children's Trust co-operation arrangements are, the roles and responsibilities of the Children's Trust Board and how each of the partners should engage. Part Two covers some of the key tools and processes that should be developed as part of the Children's Trust co-operation arrangements to ensure that all children's services are effectively and appropriately commissioned, including those supporting early intervention and workforce development. Part Three provides more detailed and technical advice on setting up the Children's Trust Board and producing the Children and Young People's Plan in line with the provisions in the ASCL Act.

1.7 **Dates of the consultation**

The consultation on the draft new statutory guidance and regulations will run from Friday 13 November 2009 to Friday 29 January 2010. This provides a consultation period of 11 weeks. The shortened consultation

period has been due to a delayed start in order not to launch the consultation before the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill had received Royal Assent and become an Act of Parliament. The end date of the consultation has not been delayed, because it is important that the Department has sufficient time to take all responses on board before publishing the final statutory guidance and regulations prior to the commencement of the requirement for local authorities to establish a Children's Trust Board coming into effect. We expect section 12A of the Children Act 2004 (which requires the establishment of the Children's Trust Board) to come into force on 1 April 2010.

2 How To Respond

- 2.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations by emailing NewChildrensTrustsGuidance.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

David Aickin (consultation response), Local Area Policy Unit, Ground Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

3 Additional Copies

- 3.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Children, Schools and Families e-consultation website at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

4 Plans for making results public

- 4.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DCSF e-consultation website in spring 2010.