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**Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services**

**Member Management Committee**

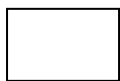
**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Subject: Leeds Children's Trust Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Board**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

All



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report seeks Member Management Committee approval to designate the new Children's Trust Board and revised Leeds Safeguarding Children Board as Strategic and Key Partnerships.
- 1.2 In line with recommendations to Executive Board on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Members are asked to nominate three Elected Members including the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services to serve on the Leeds Children's Trust Board, and the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services to serve on the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board. This takes into account the latest statutory guidance published in March 2010 and will ensure that Member appointments are in place before Board meetings take place at the end of April 2010.

**2.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 2.1 To seek Member Management Committee approval to designate the new Children's Trust Board and revised Leeds Safeguarding Children Board as Strategic and Key Partnerships and appoint Elected Members to serve on them.

**3.0 Background Information**

- 3.1 A report to the Executive Board on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 proposed new Children's Trust arrangements for Leeds from April 2010. This includes setting up a new Children's

Trust Board and revising the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board. It is planned for both the Boards to have meetings later in April, in line with statutory expectations and to allow the new arrangements to move forward swiftly. A copy of the report to Executive Board is appended for information.

#### **4.0 Main Issues**

- 4.1 The proposed make up of the new Children's Trust Board and revised Leeds Safeguarding Children Board includes places for Elected Members of the Council including the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services.
- 4.2 Three Elected Member places on the Children's Trust Board were proposed in the report to Executive Board. This provides consistency with Elected Member places on other key Leeds Initiative partnerships (such as the Leeds Initiative Executive and Healthy Leeds Partnership). Within the existing Children's Trust arrangements the Children Leeds Partnership is one of the strategy and development groups of the Leeds Initiative. Under the new arrangements this will be part of the role of the Leeds Children's Trust Board.
- 4.3 Recently updated statutory guidance published in March 2010 requires both the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services and Director of Children's Services to serve on the Children's Trust Board and Safeguarding Children Board.

#### **5.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 5.1 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:
- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
  - the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
  - the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.
- 5.2 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:
- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
  - Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.
- 5.3 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee.
- 5.4 Members are asked to agree that appointments to the Children's Trust Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Board meet the criteria above and fall into the Strategic and Key Partnerships category.
- 5.5 Members are also asked to make Elected Member appointments in accordance with the recommendations of the Executive Board, namely:

- i. Three Elected Members including the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services are nominated to serve on the Children's Trust Board, and
- ii. The Lead Executive Member for Children's Services is nominated to serve on the Safeguarding Children Board

5.6 The Appointments Procedure advises the Member Management Committee to have regard to the principle of securing an overall allocation of places which reflects the proportion of Members from each Political Group on the Council as a whole and to have regard to a Members current interests prior to making any appointment to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

## **6.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

6.1 The legislative basis for the detailed proposals in the Executive Board report is contained in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Within the Act, the City Council is defined as a children's services authority and has a requirement to establish the Children's Trust Board and Safeguarding Children Board. Recently updated statutory guidance published in March 2010 requires both the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services and Director of Children's Services to serve on the two Boards.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 It is recommended that:

- 7.1.1 The Leeds Children's Trust Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Board are designated as Strategic and Key Partnerships
- 7.1.2 The Lead Executive Member for Children's Services is nominated to serve on the Leeds Children's Trust Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Board in line with the latest statutory guidance
- 7.1.3 Two additional Elected Members are nominated to serve on the Leeds Children's Trust Board to strengthen Elected Member involvement in the new Children's Trust arrangements at Board level

## **Background Papers**

Report to Executive Board 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules