

# **Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People**

## **Governance and Terms of Reference**

**June 2020**

## **1. Introduction**

The Strategic Alliance is within the context of the new Dorset Council Unitary Authority. We have strong ambition for all our children, we want there to be no limits to what they can achieve and in reaching their potential.

We recognise the need for transformation; to try new and different ways of working; to innovate – together we are committed to improve outcomes for the children and young people of Dorset, for our children, for their future.

## **2. Purpose of the Strategic Alliance**

The Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People is a strategic commissioning partnership which shares the responsibility for improving outcomes for children, young people and their families across all partners who provide services centred around them. It is the forum at which all partners hold each other to account.

We, the Strategic Alliance, are the group who will make change happen for children and young people in Dorset.

We will make child centred decisions around resources that will support better outcomes for children and young people (A Memorandum of Understanding will be produced and signed by the Executives across the partnership to facilitate this).

## **3. Aims**

- To provide strategic leadership that creates the conditions to support children, young people and families in Dorset to thrive
- To support and influence other strategic plans that have an impact on outcomes for children
- To promote and encourage greater integration between communities, organisations and partnerships
- To support place based/locality led approaches to work
- To ensure that the needs of children, young people and their families are embedded in all key strategies and plans to improve health, economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Dorset
- To ensure that the needs of children, young people and their families are embedded in all key strategies and plans to improve health, economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Dorset
- To consider how best to deploy our collective resources to meet the needs of children, young people and families
- To escalate risks and concerns about the system
- To share service changes that have an impact on the system
- To take account of commissioning issues identified by the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

## 4. Activity

The Strategic Alliance will:

- Produce a 3-year Children, Young People and Families' Plan, monitoring progress towards priorities within the plan and review/refresh the plan annually as appropriate.
- Work towards the development of a single commissioning approach and agree joint strategic commissioning intentions across all partners that align with the Children, Young People and Families Plan.
- Determine a focused set of key outcomes to be delivered based on strategic needs assessments and other intelligence that will be used to understand the impact of the work of the partnership.
- Identify joint key priorities and support delivery of activities to address these through existing partnerships or newly created work programmes.
- Discuss and receive reports on areas of activity requested by the Chair or members of the Alliance.
- Act as a consultative forum for strategic plans that have an impact on children and families.
- Determine joint workforce skills development and planning priorities (linking to Dorset Workforce Action Board).

## 5. Membership

The following senior leaders have been identified as core members of the Board:

Councillor Peter Wharf	Deputy Leader of Dorset Council and Chair of the Strategic Alliance	Dorset Council
Theresa Leavy	Executive Director Children's Services	Dorset Council
Rebecca Kirk	Corporate Director Housing	Dorset Council
Jo Wilson	Head of Programmes, Public Health Dorset	Public Health Dorset
Alison Montgomery	Corporate Director Children's Social Care	Dorset Council
Mark Blackman	Corporate Director Education and Inclusion	Dorset Council
Claire Shiels	Corporate Director Commissioning and Partnerships and Strategic Lead Officer for the Board	Dorset Council
Councillor Andrew Parry	Lead Member for Children's Services	Dorset Council
Amanda Buttle	Partnership Manager	Department of Work and Pensions
Dave Thompson	Chair and Representative	Dorset 0-19 Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
Seth Why	Head of Prevention, Area Manager	Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
David Webb	Youth Offending Services Manager	Dorset Youth Offending Services
Sally Sandcraft	Director of Primary and Community Care Directorate	Dorset CCG
Julie Fielding	Assistant Chief Constable	Dorset Police
Stewart Dipple	Chief Inspector	Dorset Police
Caroline Naughton	Superintendent	Dorset Police
Kate Harvey	Service Director Children and Families	Dorset Healthcare

Elaine Okopski	Parent/carer Representative	Dorset Parent Care Council
TBC	Chair of Local Alliance	TBC
Philip Jones	Chair of Schools Forum	Schools Forum Representative
Lorraine Clarke	Early Years Representative and Director of Hopscotch Pre-school	Early Years Provider Forum Representative
Karen Wrixon	Primary School Representative and Head Teacher of William Barnes Primary	Dorset Primary School Representative

In exceptional circumstances, and with the prior permission of the Chair, a suitable senior executive may deputise on behalf of their named representative.

## 6. Accountability

The Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People will be required to report progress to the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Strategic Alliance will provide overarching governance (to be determined on an annual basis) for Local Alliance Groups and agreed programmes of work that relate to the priorities within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan.

Through the Statutory Duties of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services, Dorset Council has the responsibility for establishing and maintaining the cooperation and partnership arrangements for the safeguarding of children, young people and their families and facilitating the inclusion and participation of all key partners in the arrangements.

## 7. Relationship with other Partnership Boards

Delivering the Children, Young People and Families Plan will be achieved in participation with the following Boards/Strategic Groups:

Pan-Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board  
Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Arrangements  
Local Alliance Groups  
Dorset Community Safety Partnership  
Early Years, Schools, Academy and Further Education Forums  
Voluntary and Community Sector Groups

## 8. Commitment to engagement and communication

Whilst the Strategic Alliance will have leadership and oversight of the partnership's work to deliver the Children, Young People and Families' Plan to improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people in Dorset, the involvement of a wider range of partners will be crucial to the successful shaping and delivery of plans.

A wider membership will be created and maintained for information sharing, networking and attendance for specific meetings, this will be reviewed annually and will include:

- Members of Local Alliance Groups
- Acute Trusts
- Primary Care Networks
- Youth Offending Service
- Housing Associations
- Adult Health Services

Children, young people and their families will be intrinsic to the work of the Strategic Alliance including the development of the Children, Young People and Families' Plan which will be co-produced with children, young people, parents and carers.

## **9. Operating arrangements**

### **Chair and Vice Chair**

The Board is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council. In his absence TBC will take the Chair.

### **Quorum**

All organisations commit to prioritising the availability of their representative to attend Dorset Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People meetings. At least 50% of Board Members should be present for the meeting to go ahead.

### **Frequency**

Board meetings take place quarterly. The Board may agree to hold an Extra-ordinary meeting if their urgent focus and input is required to address a matter that cannot wait for the next planned meeting.

### **Support**

Administrative support to the Board will be provided by Dorset Council Children's Services.

### **Meeting Papers**

The agenda and supporting papers will be circulated to Board members one week prior to Board meetings. On occasions where essential additional/refreshed documents become available after the agenda and papers have been circulated, additional documents will be provided at least 48 hours before the meeting takes place.

### **Confidentiality**

Papers and information discussed are confidential to the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People Board, but Board Members may make a judgement on what information to cascade. Documents should be kept, transferred and disposed of in a secure manner and in accordance with data protection and information governance legislation.

## **10. Meeting Format**

Initially the Strategic Alliance will be focused on the development of the new Children, Young People and Families' Plan.

Once the plan is complete, the main focus of the Alliance will be to monitor progress of the plan, providing support and challenge on each of the partnership's priorities and the actions that have been agreed within the Children, Young People and Families' Plan.

## **11. Review of the Board**

The Strategic Alliance will review its Terms of Reference and Governance on annual basis to ensure the arrangements remain fit for purpose to enable the Alliance to deliver its strategic objectives and ultimately make an evidenced difference to outcomes for children and young people in Dorset.