

**Southend: A Better Start
Governance and co-production**

Background

Over the summer, the Programme Director carried out a review of the programme's existing governance arrangements and this included an early discussion with the Health and Wellbeing Board in August on a proposed structure that put co-production with parents at the heart of the approach. Co-production is based on the premise that people and local communities have the potential to do more for themselves, but that statutory and voluntary sector service providers have a key role in identifying, supporting and tapping into that capacity and capability. In addition, there is clear evidence from the field that where parents are involved in the design and delivery of services, this leads to better outcomes for their children.

In September, the Executive Board agreed a refreshed governance structure with co-production embedded at all levels. This was considered by the Community Partnership Group comprising parents and community and voluntary sector representatives in October and, whilst the structure remained the same, the style and presentation of the process was further refined. The diagram at Appendix 1 illustrates the governance process and how decision making is linked at each stage. This is a multi-layered process which is still evolving, and will continue to do so as it is set up over the next few months. We don't expect to get it right first time and ensuring the right sequencing of meetings is just one of the challenges.

Refreshed governance model

We know that different parents want to be involved in decision making in different ways and the five stages in the structure provides a range of opportunities for this as follows:

- 1. Parents and community groups**
Contributing ideas for improving outcomes for children within existing groups and networks
- 2. Local meetings in each ward**
Coming together with voluntary sector colleagues and other stakeholders to consider ideas in the wider local context
- 3. Development groups**
Directly challenging / feeding back to professionals, commissioners and subject matter experts on what does and doesn't work and what is and isn't needed
- 4. Partnership Board**
Contributing to the strategic direction, management and priorities of the programme
- 5. Health and Wellbeing Board**
Currently, providing individual accounts of personal experiences

Progress to date

We are making steady progress in developing our refreshed governance model and co-production at stages 1 to 4:

1. & 2. Parent groups and Ward meetings

We are currently procuring a local provider or consortium of providers to develop a Southend co-production strategy which will include a Parent Champion and volunteer training programme and pathway mapped against existing and progressive volunteering opportunities; and to develop and operationalise parent and ward forums. As we

discussed in August, it is anticipated that local councillors may wish to be involved in the local ward meetings.

3. Development groups

A group of statutory and voluntary sector colleagues from across the system met in mid-November to consider the culture and operating style of the Development Groups, including the approach, skills and aptitude that members should have, and how the programme team can support and develop this group. This work is on-going.

4. Partnership Board

The refreshed Partnership Board will meet on 15 December, then monthly to the end of March 2017 and quarterly thereafter. It comprises the strategic partners across Southend who are able to lead and drive change through their respective organisations or sectors, and have the potential to contribute financially to the programme ((leverage). Current membership is Southend Borough Council, Southend CCG, SEPT, the NHS Hospital Trust, Essex Police and the University of Essex, plus the Pre-school Learning Alliance as the lead organisation. SAVs was not invited to sign a partnership agreement in November 2015 when membership was established and there is no representation from housing.

A group of trained Parent Champions who will be developed and supported through the co-production project outlined previously, and will be invited to join the Partnership Board from April 2017.

5. Health and Wellbeing Board

The current arrangement is for one or two parents to attend the HWB and to date this has taken the format of parents sharing their personal experiences.

The Board is asked to:

1. **NOTE** progress in developing the refreshed and expanded governance structure.
2. **AGREE** which, if any, additional partners should be invited to join the Partnership Board to ensure cross-system representation and leadership.
3. **CONSIDER** how it would like parents to be involved / engaged on the Health and Wellbeing Board. (What might that look like? What might the existing Board need to do differently to make this engagement meaningful?)
4. In addition, formally **APPROVE** to delegate approval authority for the programme to the current Executive Board, and then to the Partnership Board when it assumes responsibility in April 2017. This delegation has been implicit to date but we are seeking explicit approval for the record.

Appendix 1 – ABSS programme governance and co-production

