

Governance at a co-located centre – Little Vikings

Somerset Council
April 2007

Background and context

The centre is co-located with Knights Templar Primary School. The management of the centre and the advisory board are separate from the school governing body. The lead body is the local authority.

Governance structure

The governance model grew out of the management committee of the Sure Start Local Programme. The centre now has an advisory committee, which works in close partnership with the school governing body. The advisory committee membership includes the head teacher, a school teacher, a member of the school governing body, the children's centre manager, representatives from health visitor services, Jobcentre Plus, local voluntary agencies – who are commissioned to provide some services, two parents who represent the parents' forum, a childcare adviser and foundation stage adviser.

The committee currently reports into the local authority.

This governance model was chosen as it allowed the day care to be fully integrated with the school, whilst allowing the centre manager, through a separate advisory group to develop and manage family support and other services alongside the locality manager. It was felt the breadth of services would be better supported by splitting responsibility, whilst retaining strong partnership working.

Outcomes

The membership has been designed to align with core offer services and provides good opportunities for multi-agency and PVI links.

Any future developments

Consideration is being given to the moving the reporting line of the advisory committee from the local authority direct, to the locality management structure.

The school has recently federated and consideration will now be given as to whether governance could be managed through the school governing body.

A full day workshop is planned to help committee members focus on their involvement, how they can contribute to the SEF and how the centre can move to a proactive model of early intervention.

Contact

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