



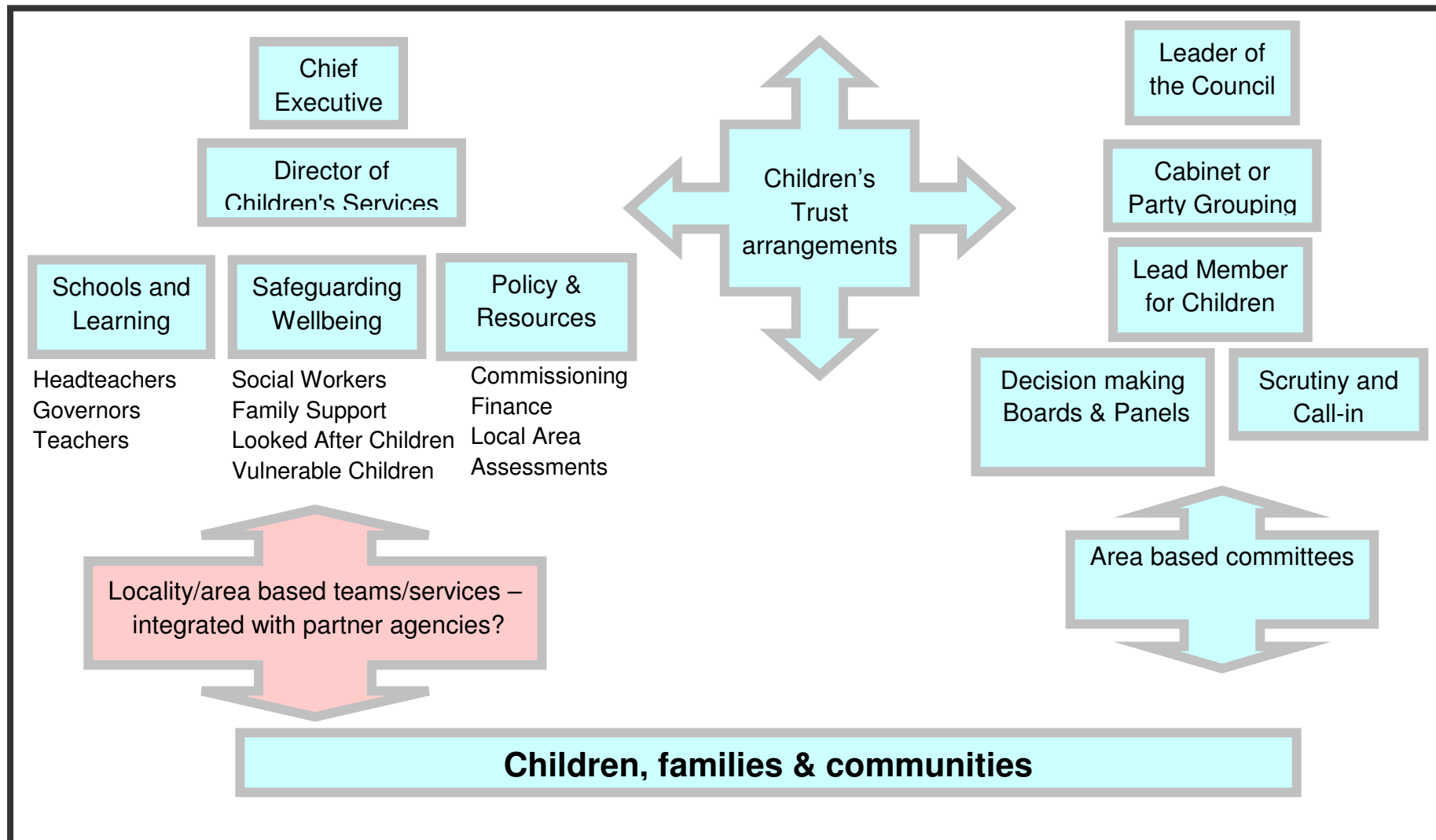
4. Who should we engage with in Children's Services and in Health?

What: a product to help you to identify who you might engage with to further integration of health and Children's Centres in your area

How: by providing an illustration of the organisational structures that may make up Children's Services and local Health structures along with some accompanying explanations...

Who should we engage with in the Local Authority and in Health sector?

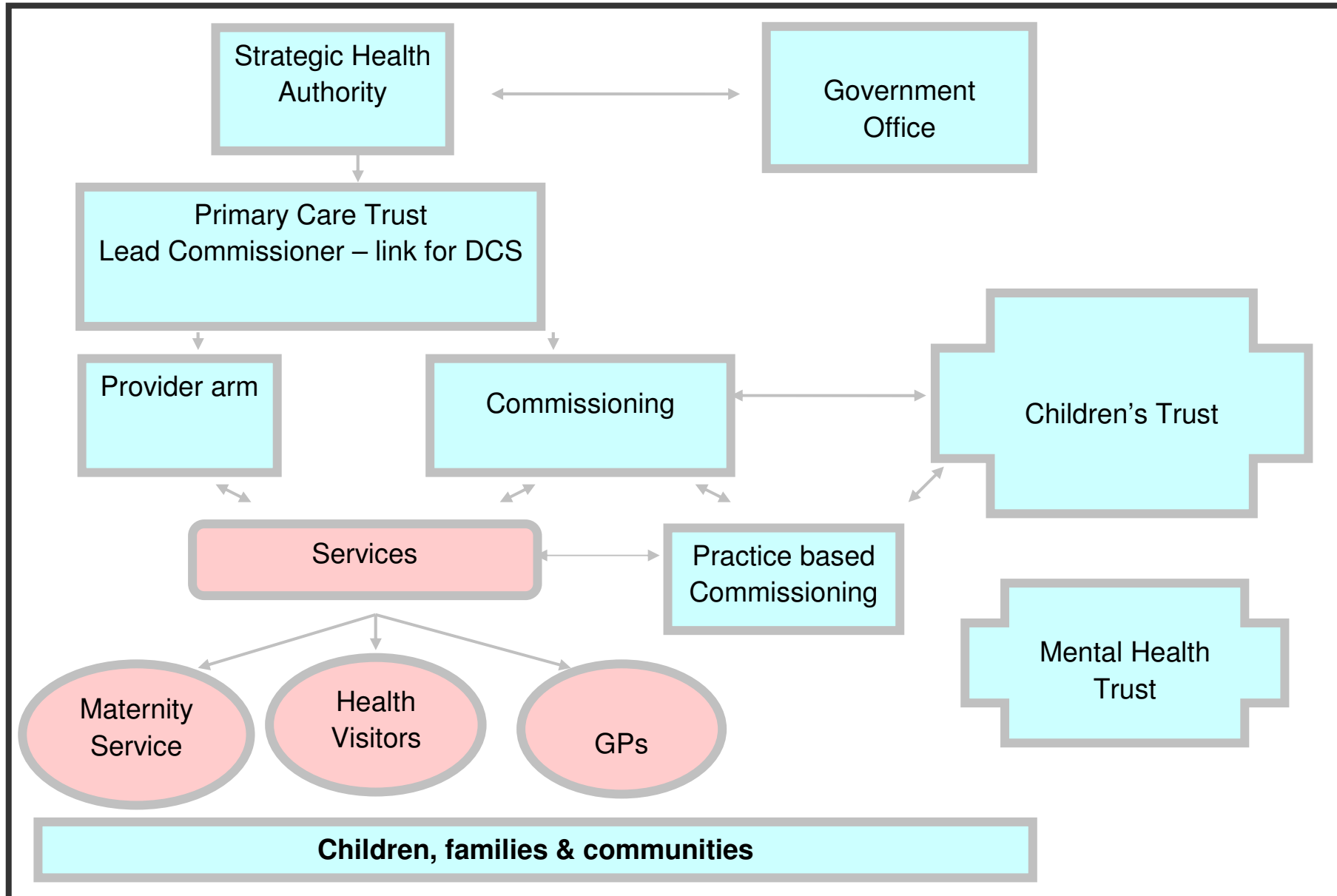
LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES: AN ILLUSTRATIVE IDEA OF THEIR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



POINTERS

- Generally, Children's Services departments are structured around schools and learning, safeguarding and well being and policy and resources as indicated in our diagram. Not every Children's Services department will look exactly like this, but this provides an idea of how they may be organised.
- It would help if you can get a feel for the structure below the Director of Children's Services in your area – this will make accessing the right person much easier
- Remember the political dimension within a Local Authority which can provide useful advocacy and support e.g. Lead Member for Children
- Identify any joint posts e.g. Commissioning posts, and work closely on shared agenda with these post-holders.
- Ensure you understand any Local Strategic Partnership position on commissioning
- Determine the strength of the Children's Trust arrangements and the appropriateness of accessing support there
- It is important that clarity is obtained on internal structures and the decision making processes within the local authority, including the political processes and timescales
- There is a need to know who the lead officers and politicians are in your authority

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES: AN ILLUSTRATIVE IDEA OF THEIR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



POINTERS

- As with the Local Authority Children's Services diagram, not every local health service will be organised exactly like this. The diagram provides you an illustration as to how local structures may look to provide you with a starting point.
- Remember the role of the Regional Government Office as a conduit between central and local government in relation to the dissemination of policy in relation to integrated services and objectives.
- Recognise local differences, for example, some local health services may be provided by the Primary Care Trust, whilst others may be provided by Acute Trusts. Public Health sits in the PCT but is sometimes jointly managed within Local Authority
- Identify where the agenda is being pushed/pulled within Health – who has the local commissioning role?
- Try and find out where the power sits within PCT. For example, where are GPs strong?
- You will need to engage both hearts and minds with professional executive committees. The benefits of integrated working for Health colleagues may not be viewed as “immediate” but this is changing, for example, childhood obesity
- Identify shared valued and targets, and focus on joint outcomes. Outcomes Based Accountability exercises can assist in this process
- Your Children's Trust needs to understand Children's Health Commissioning. Is there a Lead Commissioner to be identified?
- Be mindful of co-terminosity issues (eg through Practice Based Commissioning clusters for Children Centres) and of the consistency of messages between your Local Authority and local Health Services.
- Consider where you need to engage with Mental Health Trusts to ensure provision of a range of child and mental health services at the local level