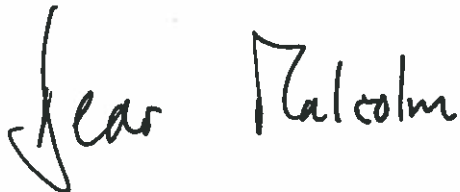


3rd June 2019

Via email



Consultation on Children's Trust for Northamptonshire

Healthwatch Northamptonshire has been following the developments in children's services in the county over several years with considerable concern. We have noted the recent announcement about your recommendation that a county-wide children's trust should be created to manage children's services when the two unitary authorities are created. I did comment favourably on the proposal on Radio Northampton during the week it was announced, whilst recognising the considerable leadership challenges involved.

Healthwatch Northamptonshire has published several reports and made a number of submissions about children's services in recent years and have a representative on the LSCB as well as being a statutory member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Young Healthwatch Northamptonshire has won two awards in recent months recognising our effective work monitoring health and social care for children and young people. At the recent Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, which received the annual report of the LSCB, I expressed our concerns about the reliability of safeguarding arrangements in the county, comments which were picked up in the local media. Healthwatch Northamptonshire was therefore very surprised that, as a statutory partner actively involved in this field, we were not formally consulted about the trust proposals before publication.

We can see the rationale for the recommendation and our Board is likely to support this proposal as a mechanism for service continuity as it works to improve over the coming years.

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Connected Together
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I would like to suggest that it would be helpful to arrange a meeting with yourself and the new Director of Children's Services to take stock of the current situation and explore ways in which Healthwatch Northamptonshire can assist the strengthening of children's services across our communities.

Yours sincerely



Dr David N Jones CQSW, RSW

Chair, Healthwatch Northamptonshire

CC: Theresa Grant
Sally Hodges