



**Department for Children, Schools and Families**

**Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on co-operation arrangements including the Children's Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Plan**

Please accept this letter as a response to the above consultation and rather than responding to the questions individually, we would like to provide an overall view of our position on this matter.

Working through a network of accommodation and learning centres, also known as Foyers, the Foyer Federation develops transformational programmes and campaigns filling gaps in community services, inspiring policy and decision makers to make a more effective investment in young people as they make their journey from adolescence to independent adulthood. There are over 130 accredited Foyers operating in both rural and urban communities across the UK, providing safe and quality assured environments with pathways to better health, learning, employment and training opportunities.

The Foyer Federation welcomes the establishment of a Children's Trust Board and the consultation makes a clear distinction between the role of the Board and the Trust. We welcome the intention to ensure third sector representation on the Board. With the third sector known for its ability to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society, we believe by having the right representation, local needs should be met, thus enabling positive outcomes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. We would therefore strongly encourage that appropriate measures are in place to enable local authorities to identify the most appropriate organisations. With regard to the commissioning of services, we strongly recommend measures are in place to ensure there are effective lines of communication between the commissioner, service provider and service user so they are not in isolation of one another.

For further information, please contact Harman on [harman@foyer.net](mailto:harman@foyer.net)