

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD & SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Context

This partnership agreement replaces the original agreements between the South Eastern Education & Library Board (SEELB) and the former Down & Lisburn Health & Social Services Trust (2000) and the SEELB and the former Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust (2004).

It is required due to the recent merger of the two Trusts into the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SET) under the Review of Public Administration for Northern Ireland.

The agreement will remain in operation throughout the period October 2007 until March 2009 when it is anticipated that the SEELB will be integrated into the new ESA.

South Eastern Education and Library Board

The mission of the SEELB is

'To raise the standards of learning and levels of achievement of the people of its area through the provision of high quality Education, Library and Youth Services.'

It has consistently worked in partnership with other organisations and intends therefore to continue to build on the positive experiences of working together and good service delivery and to widen its network of partnerships. It has long acknowledged the close and important links between health and social care and education and accordingly seeks to develop strategic and operational partnerships with the health and social care trusts within its area.

One of its strategic goals (Corporate Plan/Business Plan 2007-8) is to streamline internal processes by providing *'coherent, joined up services within the Board and with education and other partners'*. In that context it has reviewed its previous partnership agreements with the former DLT and UCHT to take account of the restructuring of health and social care.

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

In May 2007 the SET outlined its corporate direction for the period 2007-2008.

Among its key priority areas is partnership working, aiming to *'focus on the development of partnerships with other statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations to meet the objectives of Investing for Health and thereby contribute to the health and well-being of the population.'*

Another priority area is Children’s Services, with an aim to *‘ensure safe, effective and timely services for children and young people’*. One of the actions within this aim is to *‘safeguard children through interagency planning and working, multi disciplinary working, the development of family support and the effective management of child protection cases.’*

Whilst the Trust recognises that the establishment of the new organisation presents challenges, it also recognises the opportunities presented to improve service delivery.

Vision

To create a future where the energies of both organisations are more effectively and efficiently mobilised towards the achievement of our common purpose.

Statement of Commitment

SEELB and SET jointly commit to a continuous process of co-operation and partnership, aimed at enabling both organisations to better fulfil our respective statutory obligations and in so doing, contribute to the well being and quality of life of the populations we serve.

Process

The process by which this partnership will operate is outlined in appendix 1.

Signatures

----- **John Compton Chief Executive SET**

----- **Denise Fitzsimons Chair SET**

----- **Stanton Sloan Chief Executive SEELB**

----- **Douglas Osler Chair SEELB Commissioners**

----- **Date**

Appendix to SEELB/SET Partnership Agreement

1. A **Steering Group**, with appropriate representative from senior management of both organisations, will meet termly in October, January and April to review progress and agree joint working areas, targets and action plans.

2. Both **Chief Executives** will attend the January meeting to advise on and endorse strategic direction.

3. The **Steering Group** will establish **Working Groups** to progress agreed projects and develop practice at an operational level. The **Working Groups** will report on progress to the **Steering Group**.

4. Membership of the Steering Group will be:

Senior Education Officer SEELB (Chair 07-08)
Assistant Director Children's Health SET (co-chair)
Chairs of Working Groups (5)
Chair CYP Multidisciplinary Project Management Team SET
Speech & Language Therapy Manager SET
Chief Clinical Medical Officer SET
Assistant Senior Education Officer (Special) SEELB
Head of Curriculum Advisory & Support Services SEELB
Partnership Officer SEELB/SET
Other members will be co-opted on when deemed necessary.

5. The **Steering Group Chair** will rotate annually between Education and Health and Social Care with education taking the chair for the 07-08 year.

6. **Working Groups** will meet as regularly as deemed necessary to progress their assigned tasks. It is recommended that this be at 6-8 weekly intervals.

7. Working Groups will be:

- **Healthy Schools**
- **Cared for Children**
- **Emotional Well being**
- **Modernisation of Special Education Provision**
- **Safeguarding Children**

8. All Working Groups' meetings will be minuted and copies sent to the Partnership Officer for dissemination to other groups/members and the Steering Group.

9. In addition to project specific work, opportunities will be actively sought to explore potential for joint working, including staff training; develop service level agreements and protocols and secure funding for joint projects.

All new proposals for joint working will be submitted to the Partnership Officer who will present to the Steering Group.

10. The Partnership will remain aware of groups working in similar areas and liaise with these where appropriate.