

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

6 JUNE 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT QUARTER THREE MONITORING REPORT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This is a quarterly report informing the Committee about the performance of Early Intervention Grant commissioned services totalling £2.8million. After contracts were awarded, performance measures to underpin service delivery were agreed with each of the service providers. The Priority areas for which services were commissioned were:

PA1 – Parenting/Compromised Parenting  
PA1 – Short Breaks for Disabled Children  
PA3 – Risk taking Behaviour in Children and Young People

1.2 Delivery against the performance measures have been RAG rated Red, Amber or Green. A Red rating denotes underperformance; Amber reflects work in progress broadly in line with expectations and Green is meeting or exceeding expectations. Red and Amber ratings are followed up by commissioners in one to one discussions at which corrective actions are identified to improve performance. Appendix A includes financial information about the contracts and consequently inline with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local government Act 1972 section (a) is Exempt.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Early Intervention Grant funded services are delivered within the following principles:

- Early intervention: to intervene to stop the problem developing.
- Early prevention: acting proactively to ensure that problems do not arise in the first place.
- Early identification: identifying problems early or identifying the risk of problems early.
- Personalisation: the provision of greater personalised support.

2.2 In Wirral, the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) has been used to drive service delivery which is prompt, appropriate, effective and planned around the family and the child. The RAG reports for each area is in Appendix B.

### 2.3 **Priority Area 1 – Parenting/Compromised Parenting**

Within this area there are 8 out of 10 providers performing or exceeding to their contract targets and therefore they have been given green status. Feedback from service users has been excellent with 5 out of 10 services being rated as 100% successful with 4 having scored in excess of 80% and the lowest score recorded was as high as 70%. All services reported good achievements against agreed outcomes.

There are two service providers who are not delivering according to their contract which are Action for Children who deliver the Evidence Based Parenting Groups and Barnardo's who provide the Relationship Abuse service for 16/17 year olds. Action for Children has delivered 13 courses with 8 currently running and has been notified that we will not be paying for Strengthening Families 10-14 as they have failed to deliver any of these courses within the contract period.

Barnardo's target to reach 65 young people during the year was ambitious. The commissioner has worked closely with partners to increase the referrals and ensure that work is being targeted appropriately. They have now achieved amber status (previously being red) as their numbers are now more than half (37 young people) what was agreed in their annual contract. There is ongoing work to renegotiate the outputs to an achievable number of 40 for this contracted period.

### **Priority Area 2 - Short Breaks**

Within this area there are 9 out of 13 providers performing or exceeding their contract targets and therefore they have been given green status. The total number of Short Break hours delivered this quarter was 13,408 an increase of 2416 from last quarter due. The services are becoming more established and uptake is increasing. Service user feedback has been excellent with most services achieving agreed outcomes.

However the following services are not delivering the expected outcomes:

1. After School club for children with complex health needs provided by Crossroads. There is still not the expected number of children attending. After meeting with the provider, the Headteacher and representative from NHS Wirral it appears the need for this service has reduced. The provider and the school have been informed there will be a reduction to 2 nights per week rather than 3 from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.
2. After School club at Barnstondale provided by Crossroads. The number of children has reduced. Another short break service has been established on a Friday evening at Barnstondale and children have chosen to attend that one instead. The provider and commissioner will promote and market the service and change the activities delivered in line with requests from families.

3. Sitting Service provided by Wirral Autistic Society. The service is still not providing as many sessions as expected due to the long term sickness of a member of staff and problems with their staffing structure meeting the times of sessions that families want.
4. Contract Carer Scheme provided by Action for Children. The service has continued to have difficulties recruiting carers; one Short Break Carer is expected to be approved in May 2012. There will be a reduction in outputs and contract values for this service from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

### **Priority Area 3 – Risk Taking Behaviour**

Within this area all providers but one are now performing or exceeding their contract targets and they have been given green status at no extra cost. There were 2,085 young people participated in Universal services, with 340 additional young people participating in the targeted services. Two of the projects have now been completed and the feedback and evaluations were very positive, in particular reaching young people who had a learning difficulty/disability.

The one organisation which has a red status is Wirral Youth and Play Service. This is due to recruitment difficulties.

Appendix C are three case studies one from each area.

#### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 Monitoring of performance is part of the governance arrangements for contracts and a means of ensuring services are meeting contract requirements in relation to performance and meeting the needs of service users. Failure to monitor the services would result in the Council not having the necessary data and intelligence to be able to make informed decisions about the requirements for future contracts and effectiveness of service providers.

#### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 In the event of continued underperformance a variation to the contract would be considered.

#### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation is ongoing with service users, providers, colleagues on the Joint Commissioning Group and the Children's Trust Strategy Groups.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 Services are being developed in partnership with Voluntary Community and Faith groups.

#### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 Funding for all organisations is from within the department's commissioned services budget. The level of funding is subject to satisfactory performance. A more detailed breakdown of the commissioned contracts is in exempt Appendix A.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Variations to contracts would be undertaken through the Children and Young People's Department Contracts Team following advice from Central Procurement and the Borough Solicitor.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Equality Impact Assessment

(a) Yes and impact review undertaken (22/12/11) for the EIG monitoring reports has been published will be published on the web site, hyperlink below.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Local delivery of services will positively impact on Carbon Reduction.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are positive Community Safety Implications in this report. An example of this is the Youth Inclusion Support Panel which is specifically targeted at preventing young people re-offending. EIG programmes will reduce the risk of vulnerable children, young people and families becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. Planning permission is not required.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

12.1 The Committee note the Report.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 The report is for information and does not require any further action.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Exempt - Contract Information

Appendix B - RAG Reports

Appendix C - Case Studies

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and scrutiny</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November</b>
<b>Children's Trust</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>