

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 27th May 2010

DEVELOPING COMMISSIONING UPDATE:

1.0 Background

On 19th March 2010 the Children's Trust Board discussed a paper regarding developing the commissioning role of the Children's Trust. The paper made a number of recommendations about actions related to developing the commissioning role and function of the Children's Trust that were supported by the Trust Board:

- a) That the newly established Children's' Trust Executive is not changed and that further development of its executive role is explored.
- b) That the Board does not seek pooling of all budgets at this stage, rather that piloting of budgets in no more than three key priority areas is taken forward.
- c) That partners provide details and clarity on how appropriate separation of commissioning and provider responsibilities is managed and maintained.
- d) Lead commissioners and associated commissioning officers are identified for all areas of commissioning across the Children's Trust.
- e) The Council and NHS Wirral appoint to the currently vacant Joint Commissioning Manager post. The postholder on appointment should map resources across both organisations and develop proposals for coordinating these resources as a virtual commissioning support team.

The Board also resolved to receive updates on developments re: commissioning at each of its meetings.

2.0 Progress

Significant progress of these developments is predicated on the appointment of the post described above. Draft job details have been prepared and further discussions need to take place to finalise these. Specifically with the Head of Branch Planning and Resources as it is emerging that this will be the home department for this post within the Council, although full consideration of the relevant merits etc. of how this post is hosted have not taken place.

The Children's Trust Executive has met in-between Board meetings. There is continuing focus on developing the executive role and clarity over items that should be discussed at the executive. The draft project plan for preparing a new Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has been discussed and is being developed very much from a commissioning angle.

The ongoing Financial Summit workstream being overseen by the Director of Children Services on behalf of the Wirral Health & Leadership Group is progressing work on three key service areas where efficiencies could be generated through better joint working – this will provide opportunities to explore pooled budgets. A toolkit is currently being reviewed to support the identification of what efficiencies could be achieved.

Discussions with The Commissioning Support Programme (CSP) are taking place to agree a final support plan for the coming year. Commissioned by the then Department of Children, Schools and Families, CSP will offer Wirral a number of days of consultancy support to develop the Children's Trust Commissioning. Two areas that support is being considered to be assisted by this support are a facilitated workshop for Speech and Language Therapies and mapping of resources to support the development of the new CYPP.

3.0 Recommendations

Wirral Children's Trust Board is asked to note recent progress re: developing commissioning.

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