

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ASSEMBLY****WEDNESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2010****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES****UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT SUB-GROUP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides Wirral Strategic Partnership Assembly members with an update of the work of the Commissioning and Procurement sub-group of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy, which is concentrating on streamlining and simplifying the way in which services are commissioned from the voluntary sector.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The sub-group is one of four which reports into the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy Steering Group. It was set up in order to: bring together several funding streams for the voluntary sector; establish a set of core principles, working within the Wirral Compact by which funding organisations will abide; establish a framework for commissioning to meet the future needs of Wirral people, and establish a simple funding mechanism and contract monitoring process.
- 2.2. The group is made up of senior representatives from several Local Authority Departments, NHS Wirral and VCAW. It is chaired by the Head of Branch for Communities and Wellbeing in the Department of Adult Social Services and supported by the Corporate Services Department of the Local Authority and the Strategic Partnerships Directorate of NHS Wirral.
- 2.3. The group has been meeting on a regular basis in order to agree a set of principles establish, clarifying priorities, put together a framework and agree a workplan.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT SUB-GROUP

- 3.1. The aims of the group are to:
 - To have responsibility for strategic co-ordinating of commissioning – procurement principles with the commissioning, voluntary and faith sector in line with Compact Commissioning Guidance (2009)
 - To be responsible to CES in relation to Commissioning and Procurement in respect of the voluntary, community and faith sector
 - To have responsibility for a Commissioning and Procurement Strategy within the principles and key priorities of the CES



- To commission and procure services from the voluntary, community and faith sector using the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy
- To encourage and enable the voluntary, community and faith sector to provide a wider range of services for vulnerable people in Wirral than at present

3.2. The objectives include:

- Ensuring consistency of funding to ensure there are no overlaps or duplication of commissioning/funding
- Developing a contract calendar with key organisations that highlights key commissioning priorities
- The voluntary, community and faith sectors enjoy the same contractual arrangements as other independent sector providers
- The voluntary, community and faith sectors to have confidence and ability to grow in terms of providing a wide range of services
- A cohesive approach to working with the third sector which is open and transparent
- Building capacity within the community, voluntary and faith sectors to understand and participate in Total Commissioning

4. FRAMEWORK FOR COMMISSIONING

4.1. An Early Intervention Strategy for Wirral was agreed by Cabinet in July 2010. This follows the principle that at every stage of a person's life, there is the possibility of making sure that they stay well, or if they have a long-term condition or illness, that they do not deteriorate more quickly than they would if there was no intervention, or, that they can be maintained in their own home for as long as possible, including up to their death. The strategy is an essential part of the transformation agenda for social care and is primarily aimed at older people and people with a disability.

4.2. The model for early intervention is split across seven themes:

- Building Communities
- Citizenship
- Healthier Communities
- Information & Advice
- Practical Support
- Enablement
- Maintaining Independence

4.3. It can be used in a variety of ways to help establish where gaps in funding exist or where particular population groups are not receiving attention, or to increase targeting of resources: for example, in tackling health inequalities. The themes are

cross-referenced with population groups, eg older people, carers, people with a learning disability, unemployed people (The framework is attached in Appendix I).

- 4.4. Therefore, although the themes were developed primarily for social care, there is applicability across a wide area of possible commissioning.

5. PROGRESS

- 5.1. A set of principles based on good practice, the Compact and the aims and objectives has been established (please see Appendix 2).
- 5.2. The aims, objectives and framework have been agreed.
- 5.3. A timetable has been established which is currently mapping all services delivered and funded by NHS Wirral and/or the Local Authority against the early intervention framework.
- 5.4. The following priority areas have been identified as those which will be targeted in the first instance:
- Information & Advice
 - Practical Support
 - Healthy Living

This means an approach whereby commissioning priority for future need is established.

- 5.5. Arrangements are being made for workshops for the community, voluntary and faith sectors on this approach.
- 5.6. A single and simple approach to developing a single contract for services is in the early stages of development.
- 5.7. Recommendations for future funding or for single approaches which bring together two agencies will be made via the Cabinet of the Local Authority and the appropriate NHS committee or board.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. The role of the community, voluntary and faith sector is central to maintaining the welfare of people in Wirral, particularly the most vulnerable.
- 6.2. It has however been reliant on short-term and sometimes uncertain funding. It has not enjoyed the same level of contractual arrangement as other organisations in the private sector. Many of the arrangements are long-standing and historical with few monitoring arrangements in place. The sector is grant-funded for the most part, and while this may be suitable in some areas, there are others which need to move to a different basis.

- 6.3. Current arrangements are not efficient or effective and statutory organisations are not always aware of each other's funding arrangements. The Commissioning and Procurement sub-group will address and resolve these issues.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1. An Early Intervention Strategy for Wirral: Cabinet Report, July 2010
7.2. Minutes of the Commissioning and Procurement sub-group

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1. Assembly members are asked to note the report and invited to comment on the contents of this report.

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