

Early Intervention Grant – Quarterly Monitoring Report

1.0 Background

This report presents the first quarterly monitoring returns for services commissioned through the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) in 2011-12. The priority areas for which services were commissioned to address were:

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

After contracts totalling £2.8m were awarded, performance measures to underpin service delivery were agreed with each of the service providers. The current delivery against the performance measures have been Rag rated that is Red, Amber or Green. A Red rating denotes underperformance; Amber is broadly in line with expectations and Green is meeting or exceeding expectations.

Information from the quarterly monitoring and evaluation will help to inform future decisions. There is not likely to be a new commissioning process for 2012-13. The Council has the option to extend some or all of its existing contracts.

1.1 Priority Area 1 (PA1)

In some Parenting Programmes performance has been rated as Red, this is due to the contracts being awarded to new service providers who have needed time to become fully operational. Other Red ratings are for the Domestic Violence Programme 16-18; due to delays in recruitment of staff and Barnardos where actions have now been agreed which will increase the number referrals. Contracts in both of these areas are tightly monitored to ensure referrals are appropriate and effectively targeted. Other contracts with the Catholic Children's Society, Catch 22 and Home Start are all working well. Work is in hand to develop a parenting programme for parents/ carers of children with ADHD. Appendix A lists the services and RAG ratings for this priority.

1.2 Priority Area 2 (PA2)

This Priority covers Short Breaks for Disabled Children. Appendix B lists services and their RAG rating for this quarter. Two services have been rated as Red. Planned Week-end sessions by Sports Development, these have not taken place due to the lead in time required to implement this scheme. The other Red rating was for the Contract Carer Scheme provided by Action for Children. There has been difficulty in recruiting contract carers and corrective action has now been agreed. Five services have been rated as Amber and in each case remedial actions have been identified and implemented as detailed in the Appendix. Six services were rated as Green and where this was the case, services either met or exceeded performance expectations; this has been the case with Crossroads, Wirral Play Council and Wirral Autistic Society.

1.3 (i) Priority Area 3 (PA3) Targeted

Targeted provision in this priority has included from work with young people at risk of exclusion from school and at risk of engaging in anti social behaviour. Performance measures include improved attendance at school or training and young people gaining accredited outcomes. In targeted support two service areas were rated as Red. In the case of the Youth & Play Risk Taking Behaviour in 8-13 years and the Enhanced Outreach Sports, this was due to recruitment problems. The funding that would have paid for these activities totalling £19,000 will be reclaimed. Appendix C details the performance of the Targeted services.

1.3 (ii) Priority Area Three (PA3) Universal

Services in this area are universal and have open access; however young people can be referred from targeted services. There was one service area rated as Red and this was due to external providers not having the capacity to deliver. In the remaining ten service areas only Youth Arts, delivered by the Youth & Play Service, was rated as Amber, with 25% of the anticipated activities being delivered. The remaining ten service areas were rated as Green.

1.4 Other work with Providers

In addition to a review of monitoring returns, commissioners hold additional one to one meetings with all service providers to review progress identify any concerns about service delivery and agree the corrective action necessary. All service providers' are expected to attend bi-monthly Development and Delivery meetings.

1.5 Future Monitoring

The next monitoring returns will be received in mid-January. This information together with the evaluation of 2010-11 commissioned services are expected to provide evidence of service impact and inform decisions regarding contracts for 2012-13

2.0 Recommendations:

Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report and requests a further report is presented to the Children's Trust Board meeting on 20th March 2012.

Report Author: **Maureen McDaid**
EIG Commissioning Lead
telephone: (0151) 666 4508
email: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk