

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT SECOND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report informs Committee about the second quarter's performance of Early Intervention Grant commissioned services. 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.

1.3 This report has no exempt sections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

3.1. From 2011/2012 the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) replaced specific grant funding for a range of programmes supporting children, young people and families:

- 0-19
- Think Family
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)
- Sure Start
- Youth Opportunity Fund
- Youth Crime Action Plan
- Young People's Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC)

Funding for EIG will run from 2011 until 2015. The guidance from the Department for Education indicates that the EIG should support the following services:

- Sure Start Children's' Centres
- Short breaks for disabled children
- Targeted support for vulnerable young people
- Targeted support for families with multiple problems.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 In Quarter one the performance returns indicated in each of the priority areas the following:

Priority Area 1 (P.A.1) Parenting/Compromised Parenting

3.4.1 There are thirteen areas and two areas which were a concern to delivery in quarter one. These were Parenting Groups run by Action for Children and Relationship Abuse in 16-18 year olds being delivered by Barnardo's. The RAG rating for both these areas was red.

3.4.2 In quarter two Action for Children have begun to deliver in 3 of their 4 areas and by the end of quarter three it is expected that they will be on track to deliver this service. Barnardo's have also begun to deliver. Both areas have changed from red to amber.

3.4.3 One of the highlights in this quarter for PA.1 is the development of a Parenting Course for Parents with children and young people with ADHD. This is in partnership with Wirral NHS and it is being piloted and targeted at those children and young people who have mild to moderate ADHD as a clinical pathway with a view evaluate whether this is an alternative to prescribing medication.

3.4.4 Over the past 6 months PA1 has regularly supported 691 families to ensure better outcomes.

Priority Area 2 (P.A.2) Short Breaks for Disabled Children

3.4.5 There are 13 areas and in quarter 1 the performance of most contracts are on target except for two which are red. Some contracts had delivered slightly less than expected due to lead in time but all are now delivering effectively and are rated as 'amber' or 'green'.

The 2 services demonstrating concerns in quarter 1 were:

- i) Weekend Activities delivered by the Sports Development Unit of Cultural Services. The sessions had not started by the end of quarter 1 and were due to start in October 2011. The contract expected delivery over 46 weeks in the year which cannot take place given the lead in time to establish sessions. The commissioner and provider have discussed more sessions being delivered each weekend to deliver the agreed volume.

In quarter two the service is now established and numbers attending are good. There is still some concern they will deliver the expected outputs by the end of the contract. The commissioner will meet in January 2012 to confirm if they can, or discuss a claw back under a variation of contract.

- ii) Contract Carers Scheme, delivered by Action for Children. This service has been more difficult to establish than first anticipated by both the provider and commissioner, due to challenges of recruiting full time carers. The contract is a continuation from an original contract for the period 1st November 2009- 31st March 2011. 2 carers have now been appointed with children allocated who carers have met and carried out introductory sessions such as tea visits. Therefore the delivery started in October 2011. The provider is changing employment arrangements to be more flexible for other carers to be recruited.

The contract carer scheme is now delivering with extremely positive feedback from families and the service is clearly meeting a need for a target group of children. The total output will still not be as expected for this contract and the commissioner is meeting with the provider in January to discuss this and confirm next steps.

Priority Area 3 (P.A.3) Risk Taking Behaviour in Children and Young People

3.4.6 In quarter one the areas of concern in targeted provision were Enhanced Outreach Play for young people aged 8- 13 and Enhanced Outreach Sports. The Enhanced Outreach Play is still red and this is due to the non appointment of Play Workers. The Enhanced Outreach Sport has progressed to Amber and it is anticipated that this will improve in the next quarter. In the Universal element of PA 3 the area of concern was the Outdoor Education Programme. There was an issue with the external provider who did not have the capacity to deliver the required programme. Performance in this area has moved to Green.

3.4.7 In quarter two there is more scope for analysis and to take account of the expected outputs and performance. On a positive note for PA3 there has been an increase in the number of front line staff trained by Response, Integrated Youth Support Service in Alcohol and Substance Misuse. As a result more young people are being supported to consider their alcohol/substance usage and helped to make better informed choices on the impact of their relationships and health.

Performance expectations in the Universal element of P.A. 3 have been met or exceeded examples in respect of Big Nights however attendances were varied. The events had positive feedback but the take up might have been greater had they taken place in neutral venues as opposed to being linked to specific youth venues. Commissioners will be following up performance in the Providers Forum meetings and in one to one performance review meetings.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 Monitoring of performance ensures providers deliver commissioned services.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 Funding for all organisations is subject to satisfactory performance.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An Equality Impact Tool kit has been completed and no unfavourable impacts have been identified.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 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 reoffending. EIG programmes will reduce the risk of vulnerable children, young people and families becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	2nd June 2011
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	16th November
Children's Trust	22nd November