

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

15TH MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT (EIG) – COMMISSIONING PLAN AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012/2013
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR SHEILA CLARKE
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) Commissioning Plan for 2012-13 and makes recommendations for securing the delivery of services for a 9 months period from 1st July 2012 – 31st March 2013 through negotiating with existing providers. Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendations in Section 12.

1.2 There are no exemptions in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

EIG was introduced in 2011-12. The grant is intended to provide a focus on early intervention in the early years in the age range 0 - 19 this can include universal programmes and activities available to all children, young people and families, as well as specialist services where intensive support is needed.

The total grant for 2012-13 will be £15.7m. Of this sum £2.8m (including £0.3m from partners) has been commissioned to deliver intervention services in the following priority areas:

- **Priority Area 1** - Parenting/reducing compromised Parenting.
- **Priority Area 2** - Children and Young People with Disabilities.
- **Priority Area 3** - Risk Taking behaviour in Children, Young People and Families

2.1 These priority areas directly contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Children and Young Peoples Departmental Plan (2012/2013), as follows:

- Provide early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families.
- Ensure Children and young people have opportunities to participate in activities which help them achieve their potential:
- Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people, maintaining a clear focus on tackling health inequalities.

and 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 Intervention services are intended to be prompt, appropriate, effective and planned with the family and child. Planning is based on the principle of Early Intervention and Prevention. A key outcome is that services should work together with shared priorities to ensure there is no duplication or gaps. Providers have a duty to engage with Common Assessment Framework / Team Around the Child processes to ensure better outcomes.
- 2.3 Following a comprehensive tendering process last year Cabinet approved (2nd June 2011) a range of providers to deliver 39 different services. This has resulted in more activity and better targeting of services to vulnerable children, young people and families than was previously provided. The majority of the services are delivered by the voluntary, community and faith sector. .
- 2.4 The current services are operating with contracts or service level agreements that run up to 30th June 2012. Aligning this commissioning round with other contracts that start 1st April 2013 e.g. Public Health and other Children and Young Peoples Department programmes, would provide further opportunities for joint working, improved outcomes and more cost effective contracts.
- 2.5 It is recommended that the Council seek to implement the 2012/2013 commissioning plan by using/varying existing contracts. It is anticipated that a full open procurement process for services for this aspect of the EIG from 2013 onwards will be initiated during the latter half of 2012.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Changes in commissioning levels and services have been considered as part of reviewing priorities and developing the 2012/2013 Commissioning Plan. These services directly contribute to a number of goals within the Corporate Plan – in particular Community Budgets.
- 3.2 Commissioners will work closely with providers to ensure continuity of support and to facilitate effective and smooth adjustment to services and service delivery.

- 3.3 These services represent a significant investment in early intervention and preventative services, to decommission them would have some impact of demand for more intensive and expensive interventions.
- 3.4 Priority Area 3 specifically relates to Short Breaks for Disabled Children and is integral to the services mentioned in the Statutory Short Breaks for Disabled Children Statement.
- 3.5 These services are delivered by a wide range of local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working with very vulnerable local children, young people and families.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Without earlier confirmation of budgets it has not been possible to initiate an open procurement process that would be completed in time for new contracts from 1st July 2012.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The 2011/2012 priority themes were discussed and agreed by the Wirral Childrens Trust Board. Services users, young people and parents/carers were consulted as part of focus groups to help finalise the service specifications and the aspects of the tender evaluation. Similarly young people and parents/carers were fully involved in all aspects of the original evaluation process, including the recommendations.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 These services are delivered by a wide range of local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations working with very vulnerable local children, young people and families.

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

- 7.1 This report identifies recommendations for continued commissioning using the existing Early Intervention Grant programmes. No additional funding is being sought. There are no staffing, IT or asset issues for Wirral Council. Cabinet should note that in PA1.1, PA1.2.4.A, PA1.2.5 and PA1.2.6 includes a funding contribution of £150,000 from Wirral NHS and is dependent on Board sign off after this meeting. PA.1.2.2 includes funding of £30,000 and additional resources in kind from Wirral Partnership Homes which is expected to be confirmed for 2012-13.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None identified.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The priority areas and service areas have been based upon review of local need and identifying suitable evidenced based interventions. Significantly a

specific focus of the Early Intervention Grant on Wirral is to target vulnerable and at risk children, young people and families' e.g. young carers, black and minority ethnic families and victims of domestic violence. Equality was specifically identified as part of the evaluation of all tenders.

9.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- (a) Is an EIA required? Yes
(b) If 'yes', has one been completed? Yes (20/2/12)

The review 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 None identified.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None identified.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Council officers make necessary arrangements to extend, and, where necessary, amend contracts with effect 1st July 2012 to 31st March 2013. Council officers continue to monitor contract performance and negotiate accordingly.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The priorities and services have been based on detailed needs analysis and consideration of evidenced based delivery. The recommendations deliver a full range of services to support the vision of the Early Intervention Grant.

13.2 The services were secured via an open competitive process less than 12 months ago. To undertake a full open procurement process for 9 month contracts would require considerable lead-in time and resources and would not represent value for money.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	6/2/11
Cabinet	2/6/11