

## WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### Early Intervention Grant (EIG) – Commissioning Plan and Arrangements for 2012/2013

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#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Children's Trust Board regularly receives progress reports in respect of commissioned services operating across the Trust. In line with this approach, 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 through negotiating with existing providers. The Trust Board is asked to approve the recommendations in Section 5. A report outlining the same proposals was taken to Cabinet on 15 March

#### 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 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 Early Intervention Grant was allocated to 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

#### 3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 The Early Intervention Grant was allocated to the following priority areas. The contracts were for 12 months with the option to extend contracts after June 2012. the decision to extend contracts will be based on Council Priorities, needs assessment and performance against agreed performance targets. 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 priority areas as outlined in section 2.1 above:

- 3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 Following a comprehensive tendering process last year Cabinet approved (2<sup>nd</sup> 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. .

3.5 The current services are operating with contracts or service level agreements that run up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Aligning this commissioning round with other contracts that start 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

3.6 It is recommended that the Trust Board seek to implement the 2012/2013 commissioning plan by using/varying existing contracts. Council officers should make necessary arrangements to extend, and, where necessary, amend contracts with effect 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Council officers are to continue to monitor contract performance and negotiate accordingly. 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

3.7 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.

3.8 Commissioners will work closely with providers to ensure continuity of support and to facilitate effective and smooth adjustment to services and service delivery.

3.9 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.

#### **4.0 Finance**

4.1 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. The Trust Board 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.

## **5.0 Recommendations:**

5.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

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