

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 22 MAY 2012

COMMISSIONING UPDATE

1.0 Background

This report is an update on the performance of the services/activities commissioned through the Early Intervention Grant. The period covered by the report is January - March 2012. The TRUST Board are asked to note the report.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 This is a quarterly report informing the Board about the performance of Early Intervention Grant commissioned services totalling £2.8million. 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

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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. The RAG reports for each area is in Appendix A.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 Priority Area 1 – Parenting/Compromised Parenting (Appendix A – PA1)

Within this area there are 8 out of 10 providers performing or exceeding to their contract targets and therefore they have been given green status. Feedback from service users has been excellent with 5 out of 10 services being rated as 100%

successful with 4 having scored in excess of 80% and the lowest score recorded was as high as 70%. All services reported good achievements against agreed outcomes.

There are two service providers who are not delivering according to their contract which are Action for Children who deliver the Evidence Based Parenting Groups and Barnardo's who provide the Relationship Abuse service for 16/17 year olds. Action for Children has delivered 13 courses with 8 currently running and has been notified that we will not be paying for Strengthening Families 10-14 as they have failed to deliver any of these courses within the contract period.

Barnardo's target to reach 65 young people during the year was ambitious. The commissioner has worked closely with partners to increase the referrals and ensure that work is being targeted appropriately. They have now achieved amber status (previously being red) as their numbers are now more than half (37 young people) what was agreed in their annual contract. There is ongoing work to renegotiate the outputs to an achievable number of 40 for this contracted period.

3.2 Priority Area 2 - Short Breaks (Appendix A – PA2)

Within this area there are 9 out of 13 providers performing or exceeding their contract targets and therefore they have been given green status. The total number of Short Break hours delivered this quarter was 13,408 an increase of 2416 from last quarter due. The services are becoming more established and uptake is increasing. Service user feedback has been excellent with most services achieving agreed outcomes.

However the following services are not delivering the expected outcomes:

1. After School club for children with complex health needs provided by Crossroads. There is still not the expected number of children attending. After meeting with the provider, the Headteacher and representative from NHS Wirral it appears the need for this service has reduced. The provider and the school have been informed there will be a reduction to 2 nights per week rather than 3 from 1st July 2012.
2. After School club at Barnstondale provided by Crossroads. The number of children has reduced. Another short break service has been established on a Friday evening at Barnstondale and children have chosen to attend that one instead. The provider and commissioner will promote and market the service and change the activities delivered in line with requests from families.
3. Sitting Service provided by Wirral Autistic Society. The service is still not providing as many sessions as expected due to the long term sickness of a member of staff and problems with their staffing structure meeting the times of sessions that families want.
4. Contract Carer Scheme provided by Action for Children. The service has continued to have difficulties recruiting carers; one Short Break Carer is expected to be approved in May 2012. There will be a reduction in outputs and contract values for this service from 1st July 2012.

3.3 Priority Area 3 – Risk Taking Behaviour (Appendix A – PA3)

Within this area all providers but one are now performing or exceeding their contract targets and they have been given green status at no extra cost. There were 2,085 young people participated in Universal services, with 340 additional young people participating in the targeted services. Two of the projects have now been completed and the feedback and evaluations were very positive, in particular reaching young people who had a learning difficulty/disability.

The one organisation which has a red status is Wirral Youth and Play Service. This is due to recruitment difficulties.

Appendix B are three case studies one from each area.

4.0 Finance

All activities are funded through the Early Intervention Grant.

5.0 Recommendations:

The Board is asked to note the report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – PA1, PA2 and PA3

Appendix B

Report Author:

Name Maureen McDaid
Title Principal Manager
(Commissioning/ Participation)

Contact:

Phone: 0151 666 4508
Email: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk