

OPTION: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

BUDGET SAVING: £250,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

The current CAMHS budget is £835,400.

This is a comprehensive, specialist and bespoke service to children and adolescents who require mental health support. This is in addition to statutory health provision and was set up through the CAMHS specific grant allocated to local authorities to target more vulnerable children.

The service involves additional support being provided to children in need, children in care, children with a plan for adoption and children with a disability. Additionally, CAMHS has direct responsibility for delivering a specialist fostering programme, Fostering Futures, for some of the most vulnerable children in care.

This option would be to reduce the service by a third.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The service has developed incrementally over a number of years in partnership with Health Services. There is opportunity to jointly restructure the service to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children.

IMPACT

There is a risk that some of the more vulnerable children, young people and families will not receive timely, therapeutic intervention to respond to their needs.

There are implications for staff in this service who are employed by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust on fixed term contracts. These posts are funded by the local authority.

There is no direct impact upon the voluntary, community and faith sector. Children receiving these services live in all wards in Wirral.

MITIGATION

The risk that some of the more vulnerable children, young people and families would not receive responsive support would be mitigated by careful redesign of the service, providing a proportionate approach to respond to children and families needs. These changes would take place in tandem with the Local Authorities review of preventative services.

Re-profiling would be undertaken in partnership with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust and NHS commissioners / Clinical Commissioning Group in Wirral, to provide a service which is targeted in an effective way with reduced resources.