

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

22nd JANUARY 2013

COMMISSIONING UPDATE

1.0 Background

1.1 This report is an update on the commissioning programme in relation to the currently commissioned services. In addition the report presents a progress report on the recent Children's Services commissioning that took place in December 2012. The Trust is asked to note the report.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The current commissioned services have been funded by the Early Intervention Grant and the contracts for these and other services will end on the 31st March 2012. In September 2012, permission was granted under delegation for the next commissioning round to be undertaken. The commissioning process was completed in December and a report including recommendations for service providers will be going to Cabinet for approval on 7th February.

2.2 The current commissioned services are subject to quarterly monitoring, this continued during the commissioning process. Due to the demands of the commissioning process, no performance reports were published. There will be a full update on performance at the next Children's Trust.

3.0 Current Position Current Commissioned Services

3.1 The next quarterly returns are due in by the 15 January. The completed report will be presented at the next available Children's Trust. The EIG Provider's Forum will take place on 9th January. This will provide an opportunity for commissioners and providers to look at exit strategies for those service areas that are known to be stopping in March 2013. Discussions with other service providers that are affected by the recent commissioning will not take place until decisions have been taken by Cabinet on 7th February.

4.0 Current Position Children's Services Commissioning- Changes to Specifications

4.1 There were 5 priority areas for which services were commissioned.

- PA1 Parenting Support
- PA2 Short Breaks for Disabled Children
- PA3 Risk Taking Behaviour in Children and Young People
- PA4 Specialist Services – statutory duty
- PA5 Intensive Family Intervention Programme

4.2 In Priority Area One, Parenting support, this area has been revised in light of an ongoing Family Support Review and the Intensive Family Intervention Programme. Needs assessments highlighted that the most effective support is where intervention reduces family breakdown and the need for specialist services.

4.3 Research with other local authorities suggests that Home Visiting Services are more effective if redesigned into an Edge of Care Service reducing the numbers of children in need and children on a child protection plan. In another area, the pilot project to support 16-18 year olds who were subject to relationship abuse did not produce the outcomes expected. This service was not part of the tendering process and discussions are ongoing with the Family Safety Unit on how this provision will be taken forward. Finally evidence based parenting programmes have not been commissioned. It was felt that there was duplication in this area with the work provided by Children's Centres and the Youth Offending Parenting Team. The four areas which were tendered for were:

- PA1.1 Parenting support for children on the edge of care
- PA1.2 Family support for children who have experienced domestic abuse 5-13 year olds
- PA1.3 Family support for Black and Minority Families
- PA1.4 Family support for Young Carers

4.4 Priority Area Two is Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities. The aim in this priority has been to sustain a range of services to meet the different needs of all children and enable them to access Short Breaks appropriate for them but change the service design for some of them based on consultation/feedback with service users and providers.

4.5 One existing service not put out for tender was the Direct Payment Support Scheme. This service provides support to families regarding the recruitment and HR implications when employing Personal Assistants funded through their Direct Payments award. Based on the low level of demand the need for this service to be commissioned specifically could not be supported. This activity will be picked up without the need for any additional investment by Wirral Council via its existing full time Directs Payments Coordinator and the Short Breaks Service. Twelve service areas under this priority area that were advertised are as follows:

- PA2.1 Creative Activity Club for Children with Disabilities
- PA2.2 Play Development Sessions
- PA2.3 Sports Based Activity for Children with Disabilities
- PA2.4 Weekend Activity Clubs
- PA2.5 Specialist Play schemes
- PA2.6 Activity Clubs for Children with Complex Health Needs
- PA2.7 Activity Clubs for Children with Autism
- PA2.8 Residential Weekends
- PA2.9 Short Breaks for Children with Autism (level 2&3)
- PA2.10 Short Breaks for Children with Autism (level 4)
- PA2.11 Friendship Support Service for Children with Autism
- PA2.12 Family Short Breaks

4.6 The commissioning priorities for Priority Area 3, Risk taking Behaviour in Children and Young People were revised in light of the Family Support Review and the Intensive Family Intervention Programme. The service area was titled Youth Challenge, Targeted Support and Youth Challenge, Universal Youth Support. The Needs Assessment identified the 5 areas in the borough with highest levels of child poverty, anti social behaviour, risk taking behaviour in children and young people. The commissioning in PA3 focused on two service areas,

- PA 3.1 Youth Challenge Targeted Support
- PA 3.2 Youth Challenge Universal Support

Targeted services will provide timely and effective interventions with young people receiving one to one support. This will be complemented by the provision of Universal open access activities to provide opportunities for vulnerable and at risk young people to

progress into developmental opportunities including opportunities for accredited learning. A key requirement will be for providers to develop a joint delivery plan thereby providing progression routes.

4.7 In addition to the previous three priority areas other priorities have been included in this commissioning round Priority Area 4 – Specialist Services and Priority area Five- Intensive family Intervention Programme. Specialist services cover those areas where the local authority has a statutory duty but the service can be delivered by an external organisation. Priority Area Five covered the additional services that are necessary for the effective implementation of the Intensive family Intervention Programme.

4.8 Details of numbers of applications Children’s Services Commissioning

Priority	Number of service areas	Number of tenders	Numbers interviewed
PA 1-Parenting and family Support	4	12	6
PA2- Short Breaks for Disabled Children	12	30	18
PA3- Risk taking Behaviour in Children and Young People	2	4 Targeted services 4 Universal services	5
PA4- Specialist Areas	4	7	5
PA5 – Intensive Family Intervention Programme	2	7	3

4.9 In this round of commissioning priorities and service areas have been reviewed to ensure that contracts are more efficient, effective and meet In this round of commissioning priorities and service areas have been reviewed to ensure that contracts are more efficient, effective and meeting the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families. An example of this is in priority Area 4 service areas have been merged in respect of Advocacy and Independent visiting.

5.0 Progress

5.1 The report recommending service providers will be going to Cabinet on 7th February. Subject to call in, discussions will take place with providers to ensure that services can be operational by 1st April. In addition, commissioners are discussing exit strategies with the providers of those services that will be decommissioned from 1st April.

6.0 Finance

6.1 The financial implications are subject to the current budget consultation and Cabinet approval on 7th February.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 That Wirral Children’s Trust Board note the report.

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Appendices: None