

Children's Services Commissioning

1.0 Background

This report has in the past covered the commissioning of services under the Early Intervention Grant. It was agreed that for this round of commissioning it would be more effective and efficient to include other commissioning areas such as some of the services which are a statutory duty of the local authority e.g. missing from home and care, advocacy and Independent visitors. This meant that they were all subject to the same process to ensure consistency and reduced bureaucracy as the potential bidders only needed to fill in their business details once.

2.0 Introduction

This information is an update to inform the Board about the performance of the Children's Commissioning which were commissioned and began operating from May 1st 2013. The contracts were awarded for one year until 30th April 2014. 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
- PA2 – Short Breaks for Disabled Children
- PA3 – Youth Challenge
- PA4 – Statutory Services
- PA5 - IFIP

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.

Each organisation is contracted to supply a completed monitoring form every quarter as well as having a monitoring visit. 75% of the organisations have had a contract compliance visit with the other 25% planned. So far there are no organisations which present as a concern.

3.0 Current Position

The current position for each of the areas is as follows

PA1 Parenting

There are four organisations currently commissioned in this area. Three of the four services are meeting both their outputs and outcomes. The other service is not performing but it has to be highlighted that this is not of their own making. One of the reasons for this is that it is a new type of service, it has been targeted differently and a new referral pathway has been created. The organisation continues to work closely with Senior and District Managers to rectify this situation and an alternative plan has been put in place and this will continue to be closely monitored.

PA2 Short Breaks

There are twelve different organisations commissioned in this area and eight of them are meeting their outputs and outcomes. One organisation who provides three different services have not as yet provided their information as they are under new management and have indicated that this will be forthcoming. The other organisation that is not performing according to their outputs and outcomes is due to the summer period and staff changes. Both these areas will be closely monitored and rectified in the next quarter report.

PA3 Youth Challenge

In this area of Youth Challenge there were three services commissioned and two of the organisations are meeting their outputs and outcomes. The one service which is not meeting its targets has put in strategies to rectify this in the next quarter and will continue to be closely monitored.

PA4 Statutory Services

There are four different organisations delivering these commissioned services and only one which is not currently meeting their outputs and outcomes. An alternative plan has been put in place to ensure that their performance meets its targets in the next quarter.

PA5 IFIP

In this area there are two services which have been commissioned and although one of the services have not yet met their targets, this will be rectified over the next two quarters as referrals to this service come from IFIP once a family is beginning to exit the programme and requires a lower level of help.

4.0 Additional Commissioning

There have been three new areas of commissioning which are Foster Carer reviews, Day Nursery Provision and Adoption Reform and they will be reported on in the next report.

5.0 Recommendations:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – RAG Report for Quarter 1 and 2

Report Author:

Name Janice Monty

Title Commissioning and Contracts Manager

Contact:

Phone: 666 4496

Email: janicemonty@wirral.gov.uk