

The Way forward - Children's Joint Commissioning Group

Report for the Children's Trust Board - 21 July 2015

Executive Summary

This paper sets out the proposed terms of reference and membership of the newly formed Children's Joint Commissioning Group. This group will have responsibility to champion integrated/joint commissioning as the way forward to reducing health inequalities and narrowing the gap around health and wellbeing outcomes. It will enable partners to meet their statutory duty, under the Children Act 2004, to co-operate to improve the well-being of children.

It will also be the vehicle to ensure that the children's outcomes, which are part of the Wirral Council Plan: a 2020 vision, are delivered. This will support greater collaboration and sets the compass in terms of raising ambitions for children and families and by bringing different views and working through these together will help to develop a shared way forward:

- Children are ready for school
- Young People are ready for work and adulthood
- Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Background

In March 2015 the Children's Trust approved that they become the Children's Trust Partnership Board and that a new group is established which will be the Children's Joint Commissioning Group. This group will take into consideration the Commissioning Strategy 2014-16 and the Strategic Joint Commissioning Framework for Children and Young People in Wirral 2014-2016 in order to set the strategic direction for the work of the Trust.

The Group has met on two occasions on 16th June 2015 and 7th July 2015, and supports the content of this paper being presented to the Children's Trust Board.

Interim arrangements

It is proposed that both the Children's Trust Partnership Board and the Children's Joint Commissioning Group will shadow each other until March 2016. The Children's Trust Partnership Board will continue as a wider stakeholder group, engaging partner providers and commissioners of services and elected members. The Board will receive reports on the

work of the Commissioning Group at each of its meetings, and will provide challenge and scrutiny to any emerging proposals for working differently. The Board will meet termly, for three meetings between September and March 2016.

There is work being undertaken corporately to consider what groups are required to deliver the Council Plan and how these groups should relate to each other. This review will inform the future configuration of partnership arrangements.

Desk Top Research

Desk top research has taken place to consider best practice and how other local areas are considering their position since there is no longer an obligation to have Children's Trust arrangements.

Children's Joint Commissioning Group

Membership

The membership of this group will be Strategic Commissioners from organisations that are responsible for strategic oversight of commissioning and delivery of services to promote the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, including all organisations that are relevant partners under the Children Act 2004. Representatives need to have authority to make decisions

Director of Children's Services (Chair)
Director of Public Health
Head of Targeted Services
Head of Specialist Services
Schools Commissioner
CCG: Head of Partnerships
Police and Crime Commissioner Representatives
Fire and Rescue representative
VCS – Community Action Wirral
Chair of WSCB

Purpose of the group

The purpose of the group is to identify integrated commissioning approaches to support the transformation of services, to achieve the key outcomes contained within the 2020 Vision. The Group will do this through the development of a local Children's Joint Commissioning

Plan, produced with local commissioners from different agencies, to use resources effectively and efficiently to secure improved outcomes for children and their families.

Governance

The overarching purpose of the Commissioning Group will be to challenge, scrutinise and drive economy of scale within commissioning and procurement; the Group will develop plans and integrated approaches, which align budgets, staffing and other resources, to maximise the opportunity for improved outcomes. The Group will make decisions within a delegated partnership framework. In order to effect this change several mechanisms will need to support this such as relationship management, strong partnership working and leadership. It will delegate responsibility for specific areas of work to specialist integrated strategy and commissioning focussed groups, retaining accountability for these groups.

This group will meet on a monthly basis and a new Memorandum of Understanding will be produced and signed by partners once the work being undertaken across the partnership to determine which bodies are required, and how they relate to each other, to deliver improved outcomes in Wirral: the 2020 vision.

Principles of the group

- We will work together to achieve our ambition, building mutual trust, respect and openness.
- We will seek the views of children and young people, families and communities when planning partnership activities.
- We will be clear about partnership priorities and base our joint planning or integrated commissioning of services around them.
- We will identify how integrated commissioning or shared delivery can promote high quality, cost-effective service delivery that meets local needs
- We will work flexibly and adapt our plans and activities to changing circumstances.
- We will ensure that decisions are based on clear evidence about local needs and about the likely impact of planned activities.
- We will always seek to maximise value for money, both in the partnership activities that we develop and in our meeting and information-sharing arrangements.
- We will communicate about what we do, to our staff in partner organisations and to children, young people, families and communities.

Joint Responsibilities

- Identify where services are, or could be, jointly commissioned by all or some of the key partner agencies and provide strategic direction of integrated commissioning arrangements

- Ensure commissioned activities are based on an understanding about the needs of local children and young people, and on evidence that they are likely to achieve the desired impact
- At intervals not exceeding three years produce a joint strategic plan that is aligned to Wirral's Commissioning Strategy and that identifies the strategic priorities for the Joint Commissioning Group,
- Produce an annually-refreshed action plan which identifies how the Joint Commissioning Group will deliver its strategic priorities set out in its strategic plan,
- Oversee the implementation of the strategic plan, delegating responsibility to other groups where appropriate, and monitor evidence of its impact,
- Provide updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress in integrated commissioning, and provide advice on how the needs of children, young people and families can be met within planning for health and wellbeing improvements across all public services,
- Contribute to the development and update of Wirral's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ensuring that this includes evidence relating to the health and wellbeing needs of children, young people and families,
- Review the annual report from Wirral's Safeguarding Children Board, identify any action that the Joint Commissioning Board should take in response, and ensure that this action is implemented,
- Provide information about partnership activities to staff at all levels with partner organisations to enable them to understand the strategic direction of the Joint Commissioning Group and how it impacts on their work.

Engagement

The Joint Commissioning group will ensure that services commissioned are based on strong engagement with children, young people and families; working with what they tell us to develop plans to increase opportunities to align budgets, staffing and buildings, to make a bigger impact on the key outcomes to improve children and families lives.

Next Steps

The Children and Young People's Plan will in future, from April 2016, be replaced by a Children's Joint Commissioning Plan informed by evidence and insight gathered from children and families, partners, through the JSNA, and evidence of "what works" nationally and internationally. The JSNA will provide the 'headline'; figures around children's needs and the Children's Joint Commissioning Plan will provide the supporting detail, for example, around how the Council, Health, Schools, Police, Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector will work with children and families and other partners to ensure the best start in life for all.