

JOINT STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

Parenting Strategy and Pathway

Risk Please indicate	High N	Medium N	Low Y
Detail of Risk Description	Without a multi-agency, borough-wide approach, the reach and effectiveness of current resource for parenting is not utilised to its full potential.		

Engagement taken place	Y
Public involvement taken place	N
Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment completed	N
Quality Impact Assessment	N
Strategic Themes	
To empower the people of Wirral to improve their physical, mental health and general wellbeing	Y
To reduce health inequalities across Wirral	Y
To adopt a health and wellbeing approach in the way services are both commissioned and provided	Y
To commission and contract for services that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate improved person-centred outcomes • Are high quality and seamless for the patient • Are safe and sustainable • Are evidenced based • Demonstrate value for money 	Y
To be known as one of the leading organisations in the Country	Y
Provide systems leadership in shaping the Wirral Health and Social Care system so as to be fit for purpose both now and in five years' time.	Y

JOINT STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

(Committee in Common)

Meeting Date:	16 October 2018
Report Title:	Parenting Strategy and Pathway
Lead Officer:	Paul Boyce

1 INTRODUCTION / REPORT SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the case for a Wirral-wide parenting strategy and pathway to better meet the needs of children, young people and their families. An agreed multi-agency pathway would distribute responsibility and resource more evenly across agencies to ensure the right experience and expertise depending on identified needs. A common approach to parenting would improve service-user experience as all agencies would use a common language, approach and engagement with services throughout the child's lifetime would build upon a common foundation.
- 1.2 A parenting strategy and pathway would support outcomes for the following Wirral Plan pledges:
- Children are Ready for School
 - Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The JSCB is requested to agree to the development of a multi-agency, borough-wide parenting strategy and pathway for Wirral. This would be led by a multi-agency project board.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Over recent years, parenting support has been offered to Wirral families by individual services, often determined by emerging needs and depending on capacity within teams and services. It has been difficult for families, as well as professionals, to know what support is available where and how to access it in the absence of a directory of parenting services.
- 3.2 Many services for children and families have had to make reductions to budgets, meaning that a number have raised their threshold for access. This has led to services being delivered mainly to families in crisis, rather than as a preventative approach.

- 3.3 Supporting parents to raise their children, particularly those with known vulnerabilities such as mental and physical health and well-being issues, is both a means of improving outcomes for children and families and to reducing long term costs of public services. Parenting programmes can enable parents to manage their children's behaviour more effectively, maintain safe and supportive boundaries, help children to feel safe and secure, and increase the likelihood of improved life chances.
- 3.4 A mapping of parenting provision was carried out by the Parenting Co-ordinator (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust). This exercise showed that there is a relatively wide range of services available across Wirral, yet due to a lack of over-arching strategy these programmes are not maximising the total resource available. Issues identified include:
- No coordination of service provision makes it difficult for professionals, as well as families, to know what support is available;
 - Access criteria for some services can both exclude and duplicate;
 - Some courses only take place when there is capacity within the service to deliver. When capacity within individual services change, courses are cancelled;
 - Waiting lists in some services means that courses/support is not available when a family needs them;
 - Limited capacity within services means that organisers do not have the necessary staff to contact families who do not attend. This means that families miss the opportunity to engage in 1-1 work or other group work which would increase their readiness to attend a parenting course;
 - Very limited number of services offering courses for parents of children aged 11+;
 - Only a very small number of organisations are specifically commissioned to deliver parenting programmes.
- 3.5 The current lack of co-ordination for parenting programmes has led to:
- Waiting lists in some services;
 - Courses not full to capacity;
 - High DNA (Did Not Attend) rate; and
 - Low completion rate.

3.6 The strategy and pathway would provide a collaborative approach which enables parents to reduce risk, strengthen their parenting capacity, develop and build resilience and sustain positive change. Key points of the suggested Wirral wide multi-agency parenting pathway:

- Support based on the THRIVE¹ model;
- Support including self-help resources, online support, 1-1 support, group programmes and peer support;
- Use of evidence-based parenting programmes wherever possible;
- A range of programmes from short courses to programmes stretching over 11 weeks;
- Specific courses for specific needs/circumstances (e.g. SEND);
- Programmes delivered by a wide range of agencies to ensure the needs of the family is matched to the most appropriate service, with relevant expertise/experience. This includes schools, youth service and Children's Social Care who play an integral part in delivering parenting support;
- To enable maximum engagement with families and maximise attendance of parenting programmes, referrers will introduce the family to another service if a programme is delivered by another organisation;
- All organisations would sign up to mutually agreed evaluation tools for all parenting programmes to enable consistent evaluation of services across organisations and to establish whether the new parenting pathway achieves the desired outcome;
- All organisations should also sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding detailing data collection and submission on a regular basis to the parenting coordinator to enable monitoring of capacity and demand as well as uptake of support.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 **Continuation of uncoordinated provision of parenting programmes and support.** If current funding and service delivery is continued as is, capacity and breadth of support available is going to remain an issue. The current offer of parenting support could be coordinated centrally by the Parenting Co-ordinator (CWP) which would make it easier for professionals and parents to know what support is available through introduction of a service directory and a coordinated programme of parenting courses available throughout the year. However, the issues described above will remain.

¹ The THRIVE model has been developed through the Future in Minds Transformation work for Mental Health Services. The model is based on taking a positive, strength-based approach.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Covering the cost of the new pathway could be achieved in two ways:

- Re-aligning resources within the existing system
- Additional funding allocation to meet need

5.2 The full implication of this will not be clear until multi-agency engagement to design the pathway and agree a strategy has been completed.

6 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

6.1 Initial consultation and engagement has been undertaken with existing providers of parenting programmes and support services. With agreement to progress the development of a Parenting Strategy and Pathway for Wirral this would be upscaled, managed through a multi-agency project board, and reach a wider range of providers, parent, children and young people.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 At present, there are no known legal implications.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

8.1 Development of a borough-wide parenting strategy and pathway would enable more effective use of current resources through pooling, reduced duplication, and better use of partnership assets. Fuller understanding of this would be outlined through the project board.

9 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not undertaken at this stage, as proposals develop the project board shall fully consider the reach and range and effect on specific stakeholders.

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HISTORY

Meeting	Date
N/A	N/A