



Reality check visit update report

Early Childhood Service

A report for the
Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

November 13th 2018



APPENDIX 2

Details of Reality Check Visit

Explanation of service area & background to original visit:

Early Childhood Services describes the collaborative delivery of services for children under 5 and their families. Services are delivered through Children's Centres, Health Visiting, Midwifery, early years education providers and a range of community-based services. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to deliver a Children's Centre offer of early childhood services available which meets the needs of children and families within their local communities.

Brief description of visit (date, officers and councillors attending):

The visit to the Early Childhood Service took place on Wednesday 7th December 2017 at Seacombe Children's Centre. Cllrs Tom Usher (Chair), Alan Brighthouse, Paul Hayes, Moira McLaughlin, Chris Meaden and Jean Stapleton took part in the visit, which was hosted by Elizabeth Hartley. Elizabeth was accompanied by a number of representatives from the teams which make up the service.

Report findings/recommendations and concerns:

There was evidence of good practice at Seacombe and an enhanced offer to children and families as a result of integration between Health Visitors and Centre staff. Members noted that this was an informal arrangement and would be interested to find out if this was replicated at other Children's Centres around the borough and to understand any barriers to formal integration or co-location of teams.

Any other actions/comments moving forward:

The Birthing Suite was welcomed by Members as an innovative development. Members would be interested to note that to date, twelve babies have been delivered in the suite and that a formal evaluation will be completed focusing on the experiences of service users, their families and frontline practitioners.

Recommendation/challenges	Implementation Status - Complete - Partially complete - Not Started	Actions Taken / Progress	Impact of Recommendation
<p>Recommendation/challenges Health Visitors integration / co-location. There was evidence of good practice at Seacombe and an enhanced offer to children and families as a result of close links between Health Visitors and Centre staff. Members noted that this was an informal arrangement and would be interested to find out if this was replicated at other Children's Centres around the borough and to understand any barriers to formal integration or co-location of teams.</p>	<p>Partially complete</p>	<p>Learning has been shared across the service. Stronger links with health colleagues have been achieved in the two other Children's Centre Hubs- Brassey Gardens (Birkenhead) and Pensby (South & West Wirral)</p> <p>Birkenhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health visitor drop in clinics established - Attendance at Children's Centre Advisory Board by 0-19 Team Leader - Developmental Reviews now taking place in Brassey Gardens and Rock Ferry - The development of a clinic at Manor Primary School in partnership with the Children's Centres and Foundation Years Trust. - <i>You in Mind</i> programme being delivery at Brassey Gardens Children's Centre - Weaning support is available in Sensory Play once a month and is facilitated in partnership with School Readiness Workers and Health Visitors. - Senior Practitioner is identified link to Health Visitors to promote services, share information and engage families via 0-19 team. 	<p>Increase in referrals to Early Childhood Family Worker service from Health Visitors- promoting earlier intervention.</p> <p>Enhanced Early Childhood Offer to families in their own communities.</p> <p>Increased engagement of families across Wirral</p> <p>Increased engagement of target groups across Wirral</p> <p>Increased uptake of 2-year funding at 91%</p>

		<p>South and West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health visitor drop in clinics across the locality, utilising health centres, Children's Centre and outreach venues - Attendance at Children's Centre Advisory Board by 0-19 Team Leaders - Developmental Reviews now taking place in Pensby Children's Centre, including an enhanced offer Saturday session to support working parents and ensure children receive their development reviews in a timely manner - ECS Senior Practitioner has been instrumental in developing relationships with the health teams based in South & West Wirral. Networking meetings between Health Visitors and Family Workers are now taking place - A joint health/ECS working lunch is planned to take place in December 2018 to support and embed communication for professionals working within the locality <p>Arrangements to strengthen co-delivery will be formalised through the re-commissioning of the 0-19 Health Services.</p>	
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