

# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 64

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Services for Children with Disabilities</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director, People</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Alison Nuttall</b>	<b>Tel:</b> <b>293736</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	Alison.nuttall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No.: 20165</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report is produced to enable the Cabinet member to monitor progress of the Children and Young People's plan and the Section 75 Improvement Plan and the member is asked to note progress and to accept the Commissioning Strategy and approve the Transformation Plan. Financial modelling to follow clarification of 2011/12 budget settlements and grants.

1.2 This report addresses progress in meeting the following targets within the CYPP and the Section 75 improvement plan:  
*CYPP Initiative 2b Provide support to families of children with disabilities or complex health needs through universal and specialist services and by delivering on the commitments made by the city council and NHS Brighton and Hove by signing the Every Disabled Child Matters charter*

Section 75 improvement plan:

1. Improving support to children and young people with a disability or complex health needs and their families
2. To redesign services for children with disabilities
3. The implementation of the Every Disabled Child matters programme

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Cabinet member is asked to note progress in relation to the timescales set out in the Review scoping paper.
- (2) Cabinet member is asked to approve the Commissioning Strategy and transformation plan, thus sanctioning the action plans to be taken forward

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

3.1 In 2009, a Commissioning team was formed within BHCC children's services and was charged with reviewing services for disabled children. This process began in May 2010 when the scope and process for the review was produced and agreed by the then DMT of the CYPT, The Joint Commissioning and Management Group and the Stakeholder Partnership group. It was also shared with the Lead Member for Children's services.

3.2 Through a co-production process involving all key stakeholders, parent carers and young people the following steps in the commissioning process have been undertaken:

- ❖ Joint Strategic needs assessment
- ❖ Service mapping including financial analysis
- ❖ Development of key outcomes and priorities
- ❖ Identification of 6 themed areas for transformational change
- ❖ Development of a draft commissioning strategy and transformation plan.

3.3 The identified key priorities for the commissioning strategy are :

- Provision of timely interventions which meet the needs of individual children
- Empowering parents and carers – equipping parents and carers with information and skills and strengthening family-focussed networks in order to build resilience in parents and carers
- Supporting parents to look after their children at home or, wherever possible, in the local community. We seek services that make early intervention a priority - in order to prevent families reaching crisis point, and to plan well in advance for the future, especially where a child's needs are complex.
- To explore further the emergent agenda around personalisation and choice in children and young people's services.
- To ensure the children's workforce is competent and equipped to meet the needs of disabled children.
- To ensure that children and young people with disabilities are effectively protected and safeguarded.
- To deliver Value for Money (VFM), ensuring that the council is able to provide good outcomes and services whilst demonstrating efficiency and cost effectiveness compared to similar authorities or service providers.

- To identify options for a 15% cost reduction across the Pooled Budget set out in the S75 Agreement between the council and the PCT and including the use available external grant funding.

These priorities have been shaped into key outcomes for children and young people and their families and these underpin the commissioning strategy and have informed the transformation plan.

- ✚ To demonstrate increased resilience in parent carers of children/young people with disabilities
- ✚ To show an increase in the independence of children and young people with disabilities
- ✚ To reduce social isolation of children and young people with disabilities and their families
- ✚ To reduce poverty and ensure a better standard of living for families with a disabled child
- ✚ To increase inclusion within mainstream services
- ✚ To minimise impairment and disability
- ✚ To improve participation of children, young people and parent carers in the design and delivery of services
- ✚ To improve the quality and transparency of decision making
- ✚ To promote life chances and maximise potential of children and young people with disabilities

3.4 The transformation plan sets out 6 themed areas of work to be undertaken during 2011 and which will lead to sea change in the delivery of services for children with disabilities. One of the key drivers for change is the national move towards self directed support and use of personalised budgets. Not only does this make financial sense it also support the agenda of young people and parent carers having more direct choices about the care they/their child receive. There is a strong history of effective partnership working across the Community and Voluntary Sector and local council and health providers and it is intended that the plans for service remodelling will continue to support this. It is expected that the changes proposed will present opportunities for both development of more appropriate and effective services and financial efficiencies.

### 3.5 Transformation plan:

- ❖ To develop a flexible and creative model for short breaks, respite and family support, building on the personalisation agenda and use of direct payments and personal budgets

To develop a system for the recruitment, management, training and support for workers interested in offering support to children and young people and their families who can be employed via a personalised budget. To work with all partners to consider the most appropriate way to manage such a network, within or outside the statutory sector and ensuring the key features relied on by parents are available i.e. :

- Security in the knowledge that the child/young person is being supported by an individual(s) who is appropriate, trained and competent to manage the needs of the child/young person
- All safeguarding and child protection procedures are in place
- The system will respond to emergencies/crises wherever possible e.g. sickness of a PA
- Parent carers are well supported to manage (if necessary) recruitment and payment issues for the PA and appropriate infrastructure is in place to manage direct payments and personalisation
- Allocation of resources is via a fair and transparent system

The system should also ensure there are employed staff who are able to offer direct support to children and families where it is agreed that the parent carers are unable to manage a personal budget

To develop a resource allocation and access criteria system, making clear links with commissioning and provision of services for adults and ensuring joint planning and shared commissioning from the age of 14 years.

To make more flexible use of personal budgets, to allow families to 'purchase' services that best meet their needs, and those of their child, from a menu of available options. This could include both individual support and access to clubs, holiday schemes and groups.

- ❖ To undertake a review of respite/residential provision in a strategic way looking at the viability of in-house provision and the needs of young people and their families for respite taking full account of what we know about the difficulties of finding alternative overnight respite for some children/young people

To consider linking continuing health care resources with those for respite and residential services to extend the range of needs that could be met within settings

To actively engage with third sector and in-house placements team to revisit the placement of some specific young people

To work collaboratively with colleagues in social care and housing to best and most effectively meet the needs of children and young people who require substantial packages of care.

- ❖ To look at outreach service and linking with health visiting, nursery nursing and therapies and other CVS partners to develop an intensive support model for those experiencing particular difficulties with behaviour, communication, complex developmental delay.
- ❖ To redesign administrative pathways and modernise support functions taking account of the business analysis project and considering the balance between support services and frontline service provision
- ❖ To work with all key partners to ensure the core offer is met
  - Access to appropriate information at all stages of life,
  - Transparency in support services with eligibility criteria clearly communicated,
  - Involvement of children with disabilities and their families in the development of services.
- ❖ Work with all key partners to ensure short breaks are effective, value for money and meet the needs of children, young people and families. To respond to identified need from parents and carers for short breaks in school holidays, after school and weekends and ensure services are designed accordingly. By taking account of local and national intelligence, define service specifications for short breaks and commission against these service specifications

3.6 The financial models for each aspect of the Transformation plan are in development and will take due account of the budgets set for 2011/12 and announcements about grant funding. Services for disabled children are supported by grant funding to the value of £1,053,900 via Aiming High and Carers special grant. The current lack of clarity about the future of grants places significant financial uncertainty on the service, particularly in relation to contracts with CVS to deliver short breaks. The timing of decision making is difficult as without clarity early in the New Year some CVS providers feel it unlikely they will be able to plan to deliver services in the Easter holidays and will have to issue redundancy notices. The risk to service delivery provokes anxiety amongst parent carers and they had an opportunity to share their concerns with the Lead member and senior officers in BHCC at an event on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Consultation is being carried out on an ongoing basis via the Strategic Partnership Board which includes all key stakeholders and parent carers. The

Parent Carer Council and AHA! Group (Young peoples advisory group) have been and will continue to be consulted as the Transformation planning is taken forward.

4.2

## 5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 One of the key elements driving the review of services to children with disabilities in the above report is to achieve financial efficiencies, ensuring best value and generating savings, with options for cost reductions of up to 15% across the pooled budget. Whilst there are a number of proposals for service redesign outlined in the report, it is not possible at this stage to accurately calculate the potential for specific savings

*Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 20.12.10*

### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 This report is produced to enable the Lead Member to review and monitor the progress of the Children and Young People's plan and the Section 75 Improvement plan, and so meet the responsibilities towards disabled children and their families within the budget constraints identified.

*Lawyer Consulted: Name Natasha Watson Date: 20/12/10*

### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equalities impact assessment will be completed as part of the strategy

### Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 it is expected that the outcome of the review of service will enhance community sustainability, increasing resilience and independence in children, young people and their families and thus promoting economic wellbeing

### Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 none

### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Will be included in the strategy

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 this report addresses strategic improvements within the CYPP which in turn support the council's key priorities.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 Maintaining the status quo was considered but in the light of national guidance re self directed support, this was not considered appropriate.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is requested that the recommendations be approved as they reflect a co-produced model taking evidence form local and national policy drivers, identified needs of children, young people and parent carers.
- 7.2 the proposals reflect a Value for Money approach to service delivery with the emphasis being on building resilience in parent carers and maximising the potential of children and young people with disabilities and thus aiming to reduce the impact of their disability on their family and ultimately reduce the likelihood of them requiring more significant , and costly, care packages.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

- 1. Commissioning Strategy for children with disabilities
- 2. Transformation plan
- 3. National drivers for change
- 4. Service mapping
- 5. Link to JSNA

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

- 1. None

**Background Documents**

- 1. None

