

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 June 2014

Subject: Update on the usage of the Disability Hubs

Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services

Summary: This report sets out the social care actions which have taken place since the implementation of the Disability Hub and Spoke model.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant – Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Ken Harvey, Head of Service – Children with Disabilities

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Protecting Vulnerable Children

- Early help and improving life chances

Financial:

1. There are no new financial implications identified at this stage. The potential costs of the transformation to meet the new requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 (SEND) are not clear. Efficiencies of £200k are identified for the service in the 2014/15. These will be met by the planned increase in use of local provision and a reduction in short break transport costs.

Legal:

2. There are no Legal issues arising from the report

Risk Management:

3. There are issues with the parking capacity on the East Hub site which is limiting the potential of what can be achieved. This has been raised through the Opportunities in Biggleswade work. In the short term a discussion has taken place with Property and Assets which identified the risks that the parking pose and an action plan is being taken forward to address these.
4. Costs for the implementation of the new legislation are not clear and therefore have not been included in 2014/2015 CWD forecast. The social care element of the single plan will be enforceable. This has been raised as a budget pressure.
5. The implementation of the new legislation reaches beyond the Children with Disabilities Service to all Children's Services operational teams and to Adult Services in Health and Social Care. There will also be an implication for Leisure Services and Corporate Services in that their services are in the offer being placed on the Council's website

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. There may be implications for changed roles of some staff in the proposed changes to the short break services and in the wider agenda of the SEND reforms

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. There are no Equalities/Human Rights issues arising from the report.

Community Safety:

8. There are no Community Safety issues arising from the report.

Sustainability:

9. There are no sustainability issues arising from the report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report.

Background

10. The independent review of services for Children with Disabilities commissioned in July 2011, reported on its findings, made recommendations and proposals about how services could be better coordinated and delivered in the future.
11. In January 2012 the Council's Executive agreed the implementation of a hub and Spoke Model for the Children with Disabilities Service. A reminder of the vision for the hubs is outlined in Appendix B.
12. The reconfiguration of social work service delivery through the hub and spoke model highlighted the need for the existing children with disabilities social care services to be remodelled/relocated to support the hub and spoke functions
13. The Children with Disabilities service has to be appropriately positioned with partner agencies to enable the delivery of the single assessment and single plan by September 2014.

Ivel Valley Hub – Biggleswade

14. Construction work on the East Hub (Biggleswade) was completed in September 2012. The hub was designed to accommodate social work staff, training and support facilities for families and activities for children and young people. There is a joint working agreement in place with Ivel Valley School with a focus on integrated approaches.
15. To date the working arrangements have been successful in delivering some integrated working for individual children and families, a range of training to parents and joint training with social care staff (see Appendix A).
16. There has been improved practice in seamless care planning for children attending Ivel Valley School. This has been achieved as the relationships between the school and social care staff develop and through an understanding of how the children function in different environments.
17. Welfare benefits advice is available to parents during the school day once a month.
18. Health colleagues are considering the possible transfer of clinics from Bedford to the Hub. This will reduce travelling time for parents and the time children spend out of school. Monthly service planning meetings are taking place between the Head of Service for Children with Disabilities and a Children's Commissioning Manager from the Health Service Clinical Commissioning Group

19. A monthly drop in clinic takes place at the East Hub. Parents and carers of disabled children (0 -19) are able to attend without an appointment to discuss seek advice, information and support on matter arising from sleep, behaviour, toileting and Early Support. Discussions are taking place to ensure that the same service will be available from the South Hub from September 2014

Chiltern Hub - Dunstable

20. In November 2012 the design and planning was undertaken for the South Hub (Dunstable). There were some delays in the project being taken forward. Construction work began in May 2103 with a completion date of 1 September 2013.
21. The social work team and the Community Support Team moved in to the premises in January 2014. The activities have been transferred from Poppies and the building at Aspley Guise has been released back to Aragon Housing.
22. The site offers the opportunity to work with the Home Start Team, Early Years Support Service (managed by Chiltern School) and the Downside Neighbourhood Centre.
23. A plan is being developed to ensure that children and families are well supported throughout the summer holiday period through a range of activities for disabled children, siblings and parents. This will give parents and carers the opportunity to drop in for informal support at a time when the pressures are high for many families. The planning was informed by parent feedback following a Chocolate Tea Party run by the South Hub team for families as part of a recent charity event.
24. Learning from the development of the East Hub is being incorporated into the planning of the South Hub activities
25. More detail on the activity of the Hubs is in Appendix A.

Governance and Consultation

26. On completion of the Disability Review the work was transferred to be incorporated into the work of the Support and Aspiration Group. This officer and partner group plans the implementation of the Children and Family Act, the provision of which starts to come into law from September 2014.
27. The development of the services is also governed by the regulations set out in Ofsted minimum standards and framework schedules.

28. The transformation of services contributes to the Children and Families Act 2014 (SEND) where a local authority must ensure integration promotes the well being of children or young people in its area who have SEND. The service will also contribute to the single assessment/planning process (Education, Health and Care plan). The transformation will contribute to the work of 'The (0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice'

Next Steps

- 29.
- June 2014: Consultation with Short Break staff.
 - June 2014: Redesign of short break programme in partnership with disabled children, young people, their parents and carers. This will be partly informed by the questionnaire completed by parents in preparation for the Council's Local Offer within the SEND reforms
 - May - March 2014: Improve the data to evidence use and costs of service and inform future commissioning for disabled children and their families
 - May – September 2014: Develop the workforce and services to enable delivery of the single assessment/single plan from September 2014.
 - May – September 2014: Implement the actions arising from the 7 Support and Aspiration workstreams (See Appendix C
30. Other development work in progress:
- Participation in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Learning Disability Review to improve the early intervention and help for children and families
 - Discussion with the Area Special Schools on the future development of integrated hubs to support disabled children and their families.
 - Integration of the 'No Limits' sport programme in to the short breaks offer.
 - Working with Social Care, Health and Housing to discuss how we improve transition processes through the hub model

Appendices:

Appendix A – East Hub Activities delivered in February 2013 – May 2014

Appendix B – Vision for the Hubs

Appendix C – Support and Aspiration Workstreams

Background Papers:

Children and Families Act 2014

Indicative Draft (The 0-25) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2013

Concordat: Programme of action (Winterbourne Review 2012)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Central Bedfordshire Children's Services Social Care Quality Assurance Framework 2013

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands