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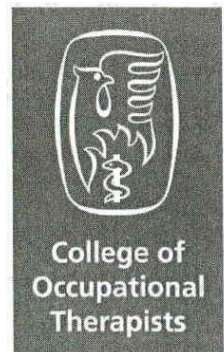
Review of Therapy Services for Brighton and Hove Children's Trust

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CONFIDENTIAL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. A review of children's therapy services was commissioned by the PCT commissioners and the Head of the Integrated Children's Development and Disability services.
2. The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations on the therapy services to provide the best service for the best value, in terms of:
 - current performance and capacity,
 - the effectiveness of current pathways across health and education
 - the development of further integration.
3. The extent of the brief was to work closely with service providers and consult as many stakeholders as possible within the limited timeframe of the project.
4. The review draws heavily on the wealth of existing information referring to the Trust strategy, various consultations with parents/carers and recent preparation for a business case.
5. The review was also based on information obtained from detailed questionnaires completed by providers and stakeholders and interviews with providers and available stakeholders.
6. The agreed timeframe precluded a full representation of stakeholders and an assumption was made that the views contained in this document are broadly representative.
7. The review has taken direction from the following seminal documents:
 - Commissioning a World Class Service. (DH 2007)
 - Every Child Matters(DH 2003)
 - Parliamentary Disabled Children's Review (SO 2007)
 - Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People (DWP/DfES/DH 2005)
 - Removing Barriers to Achievement (DfES 2004)
 - National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, especially Standards 6 and 8. (DH 2004)
 - Palliative Care Services for Children and Young People in England. (DH 2007)
 - Aiming High for Disabled Children; Better support for Families (DfES 2007)
 - The Bercow Review of Services for Children and Young People (0-19) with Speech Language and Communication Needs (DCSF 2008).
8. Local policy drivers which have influenced the review include:
 - Draft Commissioning Strategy 2005/6
 - The Disability Strategy three years on - A stock take. July 2009
 - Background papers from parent/carer consultations December 2008 to present
 - Business Case and Options Appraisal 2009.

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9. The review established that the Trust has made considerable progress towards achieving integrated services.
10. Education Health and Social Care have been combined in a single structure with a vision and purpose to improve life chances for all children
11. There is commitment to disabled children as evidenced by the Trust as a signatory to the Every Disabled Child Matters charter and the integrated care pathway in the disability service.
12. There is further scope for integrating and co-ordinating therapies outside of the Child Development Centre.
13. Further development and the formal implementation of the principles of the Early Support Programme and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) will assist in extending the ethos of the 'team around the child'.
14. The role of keyworker or lead professional will also ensure that families have a point of contact and assistance in navigating services and contribute to the efficiency of services by reducing duplication.
15. Parents are well organised and enthusiastic partners and wish to bring their expertise to all appropriate strategic and operational meetings to ensure that services have a child and family focus.
16. Anomalies in the equity of provision have been raised and need to be addressed to make the system fair for all.
17. Funding issues relating to the Chailey School impact on the ability of community therapists to provide a service to children with complex needs now included in local mainstream schools.
18. Training has been an iterative theme for providers and stakeholders. There is concern in terms of ensuring that therapists are appropriately skilled and updated, that parents are empowered through the requisite training for them to manage their children's needs and that the wider children's workforce are skilled up to include complex children in universal settings.
19. A decision is needed about a cost effective way of progressing this, whether through additional recruitment of therapists or buying in defined training from outside providers.
20. Therapy services are working to capacity and they should explore different working practices and collaboration with other teams e.g. advisory teachers to maximise resources. Speech and Language Therapy is pursuing this course of action.

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21. Physiotherapists are to be transferred to the community team in February and this presents a fresh opportunity to examine the interface of the physical therapies to stretch resources.
 22. Occupational Therapy is struggling with long waiting lists and times.
 23. Therapy services should be looking to work more closely across issues such as clinical governance where many examples of good practice appear in individual services.
 23. Therapy services still appear to be working in parallel rather than in an integrated way.
 24. Although there is no benchmarking standard for number of therapists, the services do not appear to be obviously under-resourced by comparison with similar services.
 25. Other services are increasingly looking to skill mix to provide additional capacity and provide direct intervention under supervision of qualified therapists. This has the potential to provide transformational change and is recommended in the NSF standard 8 as the development of a 'para-professional workforce'.

Key recommendations:

26. Twelve recommendations have been made encompassing the following:
 - 26.1 Data collection and records management.
 - 26.2 Information about services
 - 26.3 Capacity and Best use of Resources
 - 26.4 Skill mix
 - 26.5 Training
 - 26.6 Access
 - 26.7 Parent Participation
 - 26.8. Child and Family Centred Services
 - 26.9 Outcome focused Services
 - 26.10 Equity
 - 26.11 Gaps in services
 - 26.12 Fundamental Principles for inclusion in Service Specifications.