

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 48

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Therapy Services for Disabled Children
Date of Meeting: 24 March 2010
Report of: The Director of Children's Services
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the actions taken by the Children and Young Peoples Trust (CYPT) regarding therapy provision for disabled children in Brighton and Hove, following the concerns raised from CYPOSC regarding delivery of therapy services to children and capacity issues raised by the Parent Carer Council. It follows a presentation to CYPOSC in January 2009 and January 2010

The key national policy drivers are

- 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).

1.2 Following the decision by the CYPT to commission an external consultant to undertake a review of all therapy service provided within the Integrated Child Development and Disability Service (ICDDS) several important actions have been undertaken. In particular, the following points should be noted.

- That the Integrated Child development and Disability Service together with the PCT held a consultation event with all key partner agencies from health, social care and education services including the Parent Carer Council (PCC) which has agreed a number of actions.
- That following the consultation event we have convened a specific therapy group which will include representation from all the therapy services managers i.e. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and language therapy, Amaze and the Parent Carer Council. The group will oversee therapy provision within the Integrated Child development and Disability service, this is recognition that there are a number of issues to resolve which are wider than just additional capacity. The group will look at the issues that were highlighted by the independent consultant. Two of the priority areas the group will address are training for staff and parents and how we develop skill mixes across the therapies and specifically we plan to look at developing the work of therapy assistants. The group will also include representation from relevant head teachers to look at how we address the need for improved coordination .We plan to ensure that this group reports to the Disabled Children's partnership Board and the SEN strategy board. This will ensure that the group is accountable and held to task.
- That children's services are awaiting Financial and commissioning decisions from within the PCT and we know that additional resources have been requested to be invested in therapy provision. The outcome of this will be reported directly to the therapy group. There is also be a scoping exercise taking place with colleagues in SEN to see if additional resourcing can be identified . Currently we are auditing therapy allocation in our special schools and ensuring that there is equity, this is being done to take account of the increased demand for therapy support to children in mainstream schools.
- That the CYPT has planned a whole scale review of the 2005 commissioning strategy for 2010 which will further inform therapy provision and take account of key commissioning decisions in relation to Chailey Heritage Clinical Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members note the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Local policy drivers which have influenced the review include:

- The Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with a Disability, Complex Health Needs and SEN.
- The 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 initial report to the PCT September 2009.

3.2 As a response to concerns raised in a report presented to CYPOSC in January 2009 by the PCC and in order to achieve the requirements of World Class Commissioning within the NHS, an external review was commissioned jointly by the CYPT and PCT using the expertise of the College of Occupational Therapy. The findings of the report are presented in brief as Appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The review involved all key partner agencies and this involved one to one interviews. The consultant undertook an analysis of the strategic and operational activity regarding therapy services undertaken in the last 4 years.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 Any recommendations made as a result of the reviews of therapy services or of the commissioning strategy will need to be properly costed. If the costs of these are in excess of the existing budgets for this service then alternative funding will need to be identified.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 08.01.10

Legal Implications:

5.2 The review will assist the agencies within the CYPT to deliver their duties in this area, both under statute and within the national framework and expectations outlined in the body of the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 06.01.10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The capacity for disabled children to access therapeutic support in an effective and timely way impacts, in turn, on their capacity to meet their full potential and as such to play a full role in their community.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability Implications

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no implications for crime and disorder

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk and opportunity management implications

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 There are no corporate or citywide implications

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Executive Summary Review of Children's Occupational Therapy Services for Brighton & Hove Children's Trust – College of Occupational Therapists.

Documents in Members' Rooms:

Review of Children's Occupational Therapy Services for Brighton & Hove Children's Trust – College of Occupational Therapists.

Background Documents:

None

