

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

12 September 2013

Subject: Disabled Children and Adults (DCA) Pathfinder Update

Executive Summary

The report

- outlines the requirements of the Children and Families Bill which has implications for both the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- briefly updates the Board on the progress made by the Disabled Children and Adults Pathfinder project.
- Informs the Board of the consultation to create a fully integrated (0-25) Special Educational Needs and disability (SEND) Service

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board notes the progress that has been made and the on-going consultation.

Reason for Proposal

Julia Cramp, Service Director Commissioning & Performance, Children's

Wiltshire Council

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Purpose of Report

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Background

2. National direction of travel- Children and Families Bill

- 2.1 In February 2013 the Department for Education published a Children and Families Bill 2013 which responded to evidence from pre-legislative scrutiny. Part 3 of the Bill introduces a new single system from birth to 25 years for all children with SEN, (previously the system covered children aged 3 to 19). It will:
 - Place a requirement for **Local Authorities, health and care services to commission services jointly** to meet the needs of children and young people with SEN & disabilities.
 - Require Local Authorities to offer of a personal budget for families and young people with a Plan, extending choice and control over their support
 - Require Local Authorities to publish a clear, transparent 'local offer' of services for all children and young people with additional needs, **this includes health provision**, so parents can understand what is available.
 - Offer a streamlined assessment process, **which integrates education, health and social care**, and involves children and young people and their families
 - Require better co-operation between the Local Authority and partners and requires Local Authorities to involve parents and young people in reviewing and developing provision
 - Ensure that children, young people and their families are at the heart of the legislation.

- Replace statements and Learning Difficulty assessments with a new 0-25yr Education, Health and Care Plan, which reflects the child or young person's aspirations for the future, as well as current needs by September 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2013 it was announced that the Government will bring forward an amendment to the Bill to place a **legal duty on Clinical Commissioning Groups** to secure health services that are specified in Education, Health and Care Plans.
 - 2.3 Further detail about this legal duty can be found on the following website <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/children-and-young-people-with-sen-to-benefit-from-new-legal-health-duty>
 - 2.4 Details of the draft Children and Families Bill, draft regulations and draft SEN code of practice can be found on the following website <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/childrenandfamiliesbill/a00221161/children-families-bill>.
 - 2.5 Royal assent and implementation is planned for September 2014.
 - 2.6 In addition to this the NHS Mandate published in November 2012 stated that 'The NHS Commissioning Board's **objective** is to ensure that they (children and young people with SEN and Disabilities) have access to the services identified in their agreed care plan, and that parents of children who could benefit have the option of a personal budget based on a single assessment across health, social care and education'.
<http://mandate.dh.gov.uk/>
3. **Update on approach in Wiltshire –Disabled Children and Adults Pathfinder**
 - 3.1 Wiltshire Council is one of 20 pathfinders who were selected by the government to test new ways of working that will deliver the Support and Aspiration green paper, and the emerging legislation in the Children and families Bill. Prior to pathfinder status, the Council had agreed to undertake a transformational review of the support and services for disabled children and adults so the DCA Pathfinder work has built on this.
 - 3.2 Our approach has been to ensure that all our work is undertaken jointly with relevant children's community health services, Voluntary and Community services and Parent Carers.
 - 3.3 We established a 'proof of concept' team, who step outside of current ways of working and test and develop new ways of working, have been testing the single assessment framework and plan, the single assessment process and a new role supporting this process (the SEND lead worker).
 - 3.4 Key information from the assessments and plan will inform commissioning intelligence at both a local and strategic level. Strategically this will inform the

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing Board and joint commissioning groups, and plans.

4. Proposed creation of a 0-25yr fully integrated Special Educational Needs and Disability Service.

- 4.1 As a result of the learnings from the Proof of Concept, in April 2013 an extended social care disability service for 0-25 yrs olds was implemented which is starting to address some of the issues. In May 2013 a paper was taken to Cabinet outlining the need to bring together education and social care services to create an integrated 0-25 Special Educational Need and Disability service.
- 4.2 Central to the Children and Families Bill vision is the delivery of holistic, integrated services which have as their focus the needs of children, young people and their families, which are able to deliver, and act on, a single assessment and planning process. Government's vision is entirely in line with the work of the Disabled Children and Adults Pathfinder Project which has been working closely with both staff and customers to re-design and re-shape Wiltshire's services.
- 4.3 With both of these drivers it has been agreed that now is the time to re-align service structures to enable the creation of a fully integrated special educational needs and disability (SEND) service for children and young people aged 0-25 year olds. This decision is fully supported by Cabinet, who at its meeting held on the 21 May 2013, urged us to move as soon as is possible toward this service structure.
- 4.4 Following discussion with the Systems Thinking Review Board on the 26 June, the proposal is to start formal consultation with effected staff (that is, staff who work with children and young people with SEN and/ or disabilities) on a proposed structure for a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Service early in September 2013. Central to this service will be a number of key roles, including a SEND lead worker role.
- 4.5 We need, next, to consider how the relevant children's community health services will work alongside this service.

Report Author:
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Background Papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:
None

Appendices

None