

TITLE	Children with Disability Strategy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health and Wellbeing Board on 14 April 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That children with disabilities will be better supported within available resources.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Endorses the Children with Disability Strategy priorities as set out in the Children with Disability Strategy 2016 to 2018.
- 2) Supports the proposed project to test options and develop a business for integrated service delivery for children with disabilities to ensure effective education, health and social care support.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Integrated Children with Disability Strategy establishes a number of priority actions:

- Improved SEN provision;
- Integration of service delivery;
- Pre-diagnostic support extended including Voluntary Sector Support for children and families and Early Help services extended to a wider range of younger children with ASD;
- Improved Transition to adult services;
- Consolidated, effective information advice and guidance services;
- Home to school transport redesigned to give greater independence for children.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with lead agencies. Parents and carers are engaged in the development of the implementation plan through consultation events and will continue on line and through dialogue with representative bodies. Further engagement work with local professionals is planned. It will be overseen by the Children and Young People Partnership (and their most recent requirements are set out below).

The strategy promotes seamless delivery within the Council and with health partners. It is proposed to establish the scope for integrated service delivery across the range of services for alternative provision and therapeutic support commissioned by both health and children's commissioning teams. It is proposed to develop the business case for change for this September.

Background

The strategy responds to the national agenda for integrated service delivery for children and young people with disability and additional needs as established through the Children and Families Act 2014. S26 of the Act establishes the duty to make “joint commissioning arrangements” with health service commissioners.

Strategy implementation will reflect the priorities established in the forthcoming JSNAs for sensory impairment and physical disabilities. It takes account of the adopted JSNAs for Children in Need and CAMHs. JSNAs will continue to evolve throughout the implementation period so there is a need for flexibility to meet newly identified needs.

Key priorities in the strategy are:

- To develop options for the integration of NHS and LA service delivery through the development of a “whole service design” for Alternative Provision, support for children who would not otherwise thrive and integration of SEND and Disabled Children resources.
- The development of a formal business case to support an integrated Local Authority and NHS service by September 2016
- To develop models of support which encourage community building and resilient families, able to meet more of their needs drawing on their own resources
- SEN capacity increased through a new secondary unit for high functioning children with autism (ASD), provision for children with ASD and challenging behaviour, and increased provision for primary children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues.
- Pre-diagnostic support services for children with ASD enhanced including support for the further development of Voluntary Sector capacity for children and families to provide a coherent well publicised offer and WBC Early Help services extended to a wider range of younger children with ASD to reduce the future need for more intensive support.
- Transition to adult services is managed from age 14 to enable maximum independence in adulthood
- A new model of inclusive home to school transport and support which enables children’s development, independent futures and self-reliance.

The strategy was considered by the Wokingham Children and Young People’s Partnership on 6th April 2016. They agreed the following actions and changes:

- The objectives and their 3 year aims were all supported by all partners and it was agreed that they should form the basis of joint work going forward.
- It was agreed that the objectives on short breaks should include ‘shared care’.
- The implementation plan PID was considered and accepted as the basis for further work by partners.
- The partnership recommended that the further work on the PID should include a business case for a model of integrated services delivery based on the objectives of the strategy – if possible by September 2016.
- It also recommended that the work should include all key partners including RBH clinicians, and that a project team should be formed to design and deliver the work needed to produce the business case in the timescales proposed.
- Following a wider discussion, the partnership recommended that the Berkshire West Chief Executives and Directors Group to consider the potential for an integrated approach to commissioning services for children with complex needs.

- It was agreed that the partnership should continue to take an active role in steering this work, and that the revised PID and draft business case should be brought to the next meeting.

Analysis of Issues

The strategy sets out to create better services and to make a better match between resources and needs. Resources are increasingly constrained so the strategy focus on:

- integrated service delivery is intended to lead to more efficient service delivery,
- better local SEN provision will lead to better and lower cost provision,
- improved early help will reduce the need for more expensive statutory services at a later date;
- improving child and family resilience and options in making the journey to school will reduce dependency on expensive low occupancy vehicles.

Appended:

Children with Disability Strategy 2016 to 2018

PID: Integrated Children with Disability Strategy Implementation Plan

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications

The strategy includes a range of proposals some of which have property and other services implications. These will be developed through lines of work on individual strategy components.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

N/A

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