

JOINT COMMISSIONING SUB-GROUP

Summary Key Issues:

Members are requested to:

- Endorse the work programme for the commissioning sub-group for the next 18 months;
- Note plans to agree the longer term vision for commissioning of services by the Children and Young People's Trust by April 2009.

Background:

The commissioning sub-group has been established to deliver a work programme that enables the Children's Trust to plan and commission services appropriately in order to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The paper presents:

- A programme of work that focuses our joint commissioning on the most vulnerable groups or most deprived localities in order to break the cycle of deprivation for children and young people in Oxfordshire.
- A plan for clarifying how joint commissioning and pooled budgets can be used as tools for the Trust to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

1. Vision for commissioning by the Children and Young People's Trust

Over the next six months the sub-group will work with the Trust to agree the most appropriate approach to commissioning of services. This will need to support the overall aim of improving outcomes for all children and young people but will also strengthen the 'One Oxfordshire' agenda.

It will include work to look at the best way of integrating commissioning, in the first instance across the County Council and PCT. A key function of Children's Trusts is to join up the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people. Joint funding (pooled budgets) is considered to be one vehicle for driving effective joint

commissioning and the sub-group will look at the opportunities that pooling of budgets could provide.

Legislative mechanisms for pooling budgets already exist under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 and under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. These powers only extend to statutory partners and a Department of Children Schools and Families / Department of Health consultation is already underway on whether to extend these powers to include, for example, voluntary or private sector partners.

There are advantages to using pooled budgets. They can bring greater flexibility to shape services around individuals or small groups and can be part of a wider service redesign process that results in reduced duplication and gaps in services. There are also significant challenges around aligning resource allocation processes, governance and accountability.

These issues will be explored and recommendations on a way forward taken to the Children and Young People's Trust Board in March 2009.

2. Delivering existing joint commissioning priorities

The proposed work programme builds on the outcomes of last year's Joint Area Review, the Director of Public Health's Annual Report (I and II), the new national Child Health Strategy (2008) and the Children's Plan (2007).

At each stage of the programme the commissioning sub-group will undertake an options appraisal on the planning and commissioning of the service, including the development of a pooled budget.

The proposed programme with its outcomes is set out below.

| Programme | Outcomes | Timescale |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Child and Adolescent Mental Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting the emotional and mental health of all children and young people• Ensuring swift and easy access to appropriate early intervention | March 2010 |

| Programme | Outcomes | Timescale |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| | services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring appropriate and effective services are provided for children/young people with mental illness • Identifying and intervening at an early stage for children with conduct disorders • Streamlining provision for young people with learning disabilities and mental health needs | |
| Teenage Pregnancy and sexual health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering accessible and appropriate services from prevention to intervention • Reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies | March 2009 |
| Substance misuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a range of prevention/early intervention services to reduce harm caused by alcohol. • Increasing the capacity countywide to support early intervention in drug misuse. | December 2009 |
| Children with disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering coherent, joined up services through childcare, short-breaks, therapeutic intervention, assessment, education and care services for every child and young person | March 2010 |

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