

DEVELOPING THE FUNCTION OF THE OXFORDSHIRE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES TRUST

Summary:

- Members are requested to agree the process for developing a three year joint commissioning strategy.
- Members are requested to agree that the Executive Group take forward the preparatory work with the Commissioning Support Programme.
- Members are requested to agree that a local programme of support to develop the commissioning function of the Trust is presented to the Trust in July.

The recent self-assessment of the Trust's readiness to engage in joint commissioning (including procurement and contracting) demonstrated that there are currently significant gaps both in terms of clarity of purpose and understanding of the process of (joint) commissioning.

At the same time the Department for Schools and Families have strengthened the governance of Children's Trusts by placing Boards on a statutory footing. One of the Children's Trusts' roles is to agree a local commissioning strategy that determines the full range of commissioning activities across partners, including joint commissioning and ensures commissioning capacity and capability.

PROPOSAL

The Children & Young People's Plan

The attached model proposes that the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) forms the overarching strategic direction for children's services over the next three years. It will need to reflect the strategic intentions of all the agencies who invest in services for children and young people. It will be informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and by the views of young people and parents.

It is anticipated that the CYPP will then identify a number of headline priorities where we know outcomes for children and young people need improving and where all agencies

agree these are a priority for action. The CYPP will need to be signed off by the Trust as the new legislation places the duty to develop, publish and monitor on the whole Children's Trust.

The Joint Commissioning Strategy (JCS)

In a change of direction from previous years the Trust will then agree a (Joint) Commissioning Strategy that will outline the main joint commissioning intentions that will contribute to delivering the key priorities. The Joint Commissioning Strategy would also identify the main KPIs that proposed changes could impact on and specifically how this will contribute to the achievement of the LAA2 targets.

The JCS would also provide the 'big picture' around investment and plans for changes to investment patterns. As a first step the national Child Health Mapping Programme by Durham University will provide baseline information and benchmarking data around NHS and Local Authority commissioning. As part of the joint commissioning process managers would be expected to consider the options for use of pooled budgets.

Principles and Process

In order to do this the Trust would need to agree a set of 'principles' around commissioning and around the process of procurement, contracting and contract management/review that brought together best practice from existing organisations.

The Joint Commissioning sub-group would then be responsible for delivering the JCS.

An overview of the process is attached as appendix 1.

Developing Capacity and Capability

The DSCF Commissioning Support Programme has been developed by the DH and DCSF to ensure capability building around commissioning. Every Children's Trust is expected to engage with the universal core offer of training events, professional development, conferences and Special Interest Groups.

In addition, every Children's Trust will be offered up to twenty days of bespoke support to address specific local issues as determined by the Children's Trust. More information is available at: www.commissioningsupport.org.uk

It is proposed that the Executive Group liaise with the Regional Lead for the Commissioning Support Programme and agree a process of engagement that will support delivery of the CYPP and the JCS.

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