

13 July 2015**Agenda Item: 09****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY SUPPORT SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Committee with an update on the progress made within the Children's Disability Service (CDS) towards an Early Support model of service delivery and to seek approval to:
 - establish 2 full time equivalent (fte) Personalisation Officer posts (Grade 5) on a permanent basis
 - expand the current Children's Homecare and Sitting and Befriending Service to include an Overnight Short Break at Home Service
 - expand the Play for Disabled Children's Service to include a Residential Holiday Scheme.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. On 12 January 2015, a report was presented to Committee describing the progress made within the CDS towards a personalised and community oriented approach to service delivery. The report described:
 - the impact of the new delivery model on children and families, including the flexibility achieved through the use of personal budgets and the introduction of person centred, outcome focused planning
 - the positive impact on social work caseloads and the reduction in the referral rate for overnight short breaks in Local Authority residential short break provision.

Progress to datePersonalisation Service

3. This service continues to prevent the escalation of children into social care and to facilitate the exit of those children no longer in need of social work intervention. Since implementation, 284 children and young people have stepped down from a social worker to a personalisation officer and 192 have been prevented from escalating into field work services. All of the children and young people in this cohort now receive a Targeted Short Break personal budget and have a Personal Support Plan (PSP) in place detailing how

they will use their allocated hours. PSPs are outcome focused, build on families' strengths and resources and, wherever possible, encourage access to universal provision in order to maximise children and young people's social opportunities. There are some positive examples of where a personal budget has facilitated creative short break packages of care as detailed in the previous report to Committee.

4. Three Parental Engagement events have taken place again this year. These events were attended by 500 parents, carers and children and provided an opportunity for families to meet a wide range of providers from which to purchase their short break. The events also provided an opportunity for providers to hear from families what it is they want and to shape their future provision accordingly.
5. There are currently 1,700 children and young people accessing the Personalisation Service. This is a total increase of 150 children since the previous report to Committee. Whilst this is not problematic in that families requesting a Flexible Short Break are not in crisis, the delay in processing requests could mean that some children and young people may prematurely escalate into Targeted Short Breaks or level 4 social work services.
6. It is proposed to establish 2 Personalisation officer posts on a permanent basis in order to maintain manageable workloads. This will enable the service to continue to provide and monitor short break packages of care safely and effectively.

Overnight Short Break at Home Pilot

7. As part of the drive to increase short break provision in the community, the Sitting and Befriending Service has extended its registration to provide overnight short breaks in the family home. Seven children and young people have been part of the Pilot so far and both single night and double night breaks have been delivered. The service is delivered wherever possible by the child's current Sitter/Befriender to ensure consistency of care. Feedback from families has been positive, one benefit being the flexibility the scheme offers in that families can organise their night's care directly with the child's worker and take either a full night of care or just enough hours to facilitate a night out. Although further work is needed to fully establish the cost of providing a night's care, initial estimates indicate that a single night's care with one worker costs on average £150 to provide. The Pilot has been developed from within the current service by using vacant hours from within the Homecare Service. As such, there are no new financial commitments associated with the development of this service currently.

Play for Disabled Children's Service

8. This service transferred from the Youth Families and Culture division into CDS last year and work is underway to ensure that it is fully integrated into the CDS structure. Integration will reduce duplication and achieve efficiencies and will ensure that best use is made of the resources and skills of this staff group. The service currently provides holiday play scheme and youth club activities to children and young people with complex disabilities and provides support to settings to promote the inclusion of disabled children. The service has the potential to contribute more fully to the short break offer through the provision of a Residential Holiday Scheme offering adventure holidays for small groups of children and young people and this is something that is being explored currently.

Other Options Considered

9. No other options other than the recommendations previously detailed above have been considered. All services within CDS have actively made ongoing improvements and demonstrated innovative thinking in the delivery of services more flexibly to meet assessed needs, within current resource allocation.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

Establish 2 fte Personalisation Officer posts on a permanent basis

10. These posts are needed to support the continued safe step down of those children and young people from social care who no longer need the intervention of a social worker and to prevent early escalation into level 4 services of those children and young people in need of early support.

Expand the current Children's Homecare and Sitting and Befriending Service to include an Overnight Short Break at Home Service

11. This service will expand the overnight community short break offer and support the delivery of evidence based sleep programmes within the child's own home.

Expand the Play for Disabled Children's Service to include a Residential Holiday Scheme

12. This scheme will provide residential holiday experiences to disabled children and young people as an alternative to accessing overnight short breaks in one of the Local Authority's short break units. The scheme aims to facilitate positive experiences for disabled children and young people. This will be achieved by promoting friendships and by encouraging social activities, new experiences and supportive relationships with carers. The scheme will support disabled children and young people to aspire to the things non-disabled children and young people do.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. All recommendations will be funded from the former Aiming High for Disabled Children's Budget, and the Children's Homecare budget. There are no new financial commitments for the Local Authority.

Human Resources Implications

15. The 2 fte Personalisation Officer posts will be recruited to through the internal recruitment process.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

16. The proposed 2 fte Personalisation Officer posts support vulnerable children and young people with complex needs who do not/no longer meet the threshold for social care.
17. The Residential Holiday Scheme will be registered with Ofsted and subject to regulation and inspection.
18. The Overnight Short Breaks at Home Service is regulated by the Care Quality Commission and subject to regulation and inspection.

Implications for Service Users

19. Service users will benefit from a wider choice of overnight short breaks which have the potential to link to the sleep programmes and which support disabled children and young people to aspire to the things non-disabled children and young people do.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the update on progress made within the Children's Disability Service towards an Early Support model of service delivery be noted
- 2) 2 fte Personalisation Officer posts (Grade 5) be established on a permanent basis
- 3) the current Children's Homecare and Sitting and Befriending Service be expanded to include an Overnight Short Break at Home Service
- 4) the Play for Disabled Children's Service be expanded to include a Residential Holiday Scheme.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 26/06/15)

20. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (SS 29/06/15)

21. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 14 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Delivering differently – development of the Short Breaks and Personalisation Service with Children’s Disability Service and establishment of posts – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 12 January 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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