

Nottinghamshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee

Briefing on the Mansfield & Ashfield CCG review of the CCG decision to decommission Ashfield Home Start

Background

In June 2018 the Health Scrutiny Committee received a briefing and presentation on the Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) decision to decommission funding to support Ashfield Home Start.

The Health Scrutiny Committee were advised the CCG had completed a review following our Service Benefit Review Policy and made the difficult decision to decommission the funding support in August 2017 as similar statutory services are available.

The Service had been reviewed by various committees in the CCG including Clinical Effectiveness Committee, Quality and Risk Committee and the Governing Body.

The Health Scrutiny Committee in receiving this briefing acknowledged engagement with social care, but the chair felt that there should be more of a joint commissioning approach and requested a review of the decision with all stakeholders and partners be undertaken, informed by the impact of the loss of the service.

CCG Review

The CCG has therefore undertaken a review. The review has involved consultation with the following stakeholders:

- Nottinghamshire County Council – review of previous and current funding support
- Ashfield District Council – review of previous and current funding support
- Integrated Children's Commissioning Hub (County) – review of commissioned services that have and continue to provide alternative support
- Home Start – current position re service offer in Ashfield

In addition the CCG has:

- Reviewed its Service Benefit Review & Decommissioning Policy
- Reviewed a number of performance metrics to assess, where possible, the impact of service change:
 - MASH referrals
 - A&E attendances – under 5's
 - PAL enquiries/Patient Complaints

It is recognised that these are relatively short-term measures. The CCG proposes that longer-term impacts and measures are developed in partnership with the Council through the ICS prevention work stream and the mid-Nottinghamshire Alliance.

Summary of Findings

In summary the findings of the review are as follows:

The Committee requested further information regarding funding sources. Funding for Home Start includes a number of different partners. Home Start has received three years of Local Infrastructure Funding which commenced from July 2018. There is currently no performance

data available from Nottinghamshire County Council to evidence the service delivery. However, it was confirmed that the funding supports a service to the locality of Ashfield, representing 50% of the original offer.

Ashfield District Council advised they had provided in kind support through providing accommodation for use by Home Start until Home Start advised it was no longer required.

The Integrated Children's Commissioning Hub (County partnership between the NHS and Council) confirmed that service provision for alternative statutory services remains constant and that the service providers have absorbed any additional referrals.

The CCGs Service Benefit Review and Decommissioning Policy did and still does emphasise the need for joint commissioner dialogue as part of the review process.

The CCG has reviewed a number of performance metrics to assess, where possible, any potential negative impact of service change. These metrics were;

- MASH referrals
- A&E attendances – under 5's
- Patient Experience reports/Patient Complaints

None of these lines of enquiry evidenced any increase or specific correlation to the service changes as a result of the CCG decision. No complaints have been received. It is recognised that these measures not comprehensive measures of child wellbeing, but they give an indication of immediate measurable indicators that may show adverse impacts on safety. The CCG will contribute to the development of different measures with public health colleagues.

Conclusion

The CCG does recognise the need to continue to monitor the situation and work with partners to ensure the highest quality of services, recognising the considerable financial constraints for all parties.

The CCG remains willing to work in more integrated ways. As part of the approaches through the Better Together Transformation and wider system delivery the CCG has established a Staying Independent and Healthy Delivery Group working with partners across the health and social care sectors. This will enable partners to better understand each other's contribution to the current delivery of prevention and community centred approaches and develop integrated commissioning and delivery approaches with all provider sectors. The connectedness of community assets, service providers and service users is fundamental to this endeavour. The CCG has encouraged Home Start to make the connections at both a mid-Nottinghamshire and county wide level and to be involved in the system engagement approaches and co-production opportunities.

This will be kept under review and future services will be jointly commissioned with the Council where possible.