

## HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appraise Scrutiny Committee Members of a proposal to develop an Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People across the County and to seek support to progress with planning and developing the service.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Although there are positive interagency working practices in place across the County, services for disabled children, young people and their families are currently provided independently by each of the statutory agencies. Health Services are provided in the Caerphilly Children's Centre and at other clinic settings within and outside the County. Social Care services are provided through the Social Work Team covering the whole of the County and based in Ty Pontygwindy. In addition to countywide support provided by Education, the Information Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) is based within the Caerphilly Children's Centre.
- 2.2 Health, Social Care and Education all contribute to the core running costs of the Caerphilly Children's Centre which, as Members will be aware, is owned and managed by Action for Children. The following services are commissioned (in line with partner agencies procurement policies and procedures) from Action for Children:-
- Nursery provision
  - School holiday leisure and play activities
  - Sitting service
  - Outreach service
  - Clinic and Therapy space
  - Hydrotherapy pool
  - Office accommodation for Health staff
- 2.3 Through a series of discussions between the three key partner agencies it was recognised that services could be enhanced if agencies committed to working together in a more coherent and co-ordinated way. With this objective in mind, a multi-agency development workshop was held in April with the purpose of scoping out the potential to develop a truly integrated service for disabled children and young people across Caerphilly.
- 2.4 This report serves to apprise Members of the progress to date and outline future plans in order to gain Committee's approval.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Caerphilly Children with Disabilities Commissioning Strategy.
- 3.2 National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services in Wales.
- 3.3 Autistic Spectrum Action Plan for Wales.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 As a result of the workshop, the partner agencies agreed that the purpose of an Integrated Service is:-

To provide multi agency strategic management and direction to the design and delivery of integrated, seamless and co-ordinated community services for disabled children and young people and their parents and carers across Caerphilly County Borough Council.

- 4.2 The Agencies also agreed the following strategic objectives for an integrated service:

- Improved outcomes for children and young people and their families
- Improved service experience for children, young people and their families
- Single point of contact / seamless access point for all services
- Holistic approach to identifying and addressing needs
- Co-ordination of assessments with the aim to develop a single joint assessment
- Development of a single plan – an integrated care journey / pathway
- More equitable and efficient use of resources based on shared priorities
- Enhanced staff skills and knowledge
- Engagement and participation of children, young people, parents and carers
- Engagement with fundraisers i.e. Enable – the registered charity consisting of parents, community members and volunteers who support the work of the Children's Centre
- Opportunity to develop innovative services that meet individual need
- Development of shared outcomes

- 4.3 Engagement with Action for Children was recognised as a key next step so the Assistant Director, Children's Services met with the Service Manager to share the aims and objectives and gain support to work in partnership. The proposals were very positively received and all partners agreed to commit to an initial meeting to confirm the next steps.

- 4.4 The first multi agency Management Board was held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 and in addition to Health, Social Care, Education and Action for Children, the Board welcomed a parent representative and a representative from Enable, the fundraising group supporting Caerphilly Children's Centre. This meeting served to:-

- Seek the views of parents and carers and in particular hear what were considered to be key priorities for any future service delivery and development
- Formalise partner agencies commitment to developing an Integrated Service and
- Agree the immediate actions (outlined below) in order to support the development

#### **Agreed actions for consideration and approval by Scrutiny Committee:**

- 4.5 Building on the success of ISCAN, it is proposed to develop a single point of contact/one stop shop for families, parents and carers which will have strong links to the Family Information Service, Contact and Referral Service and Families First Services. All referrals for disability services will be considered by ISCAN in order to reduce duplication and ensure effective use of resources.

- 4.6 It is proposed to co-locate the Children with Disabilities Team in the Caerphilly Children's Centre in order to enhance access to services and the exchange of information and skills across professional boundaries. There is a need to invest in the IT infrastructure in order to support the Team's move but the long term benefits will more than outweigh the immediate costs. In planning for this potential relocation, it was evident that additional car parking was required and Enable agreed to fund this and indeed have already completed the necessary works demonstrating their commitment to supporting the proposal.
- 4.7 Partners agreed that the Management Board will play a critical role in overseeing all future service developments. Membership and Terms of Reference and an appropriate name for the Board will all be developed if the proposals are supported but initial agreement was secured for the Board to meet monthly for the first six months. Membership was confirmed to be:
- Parent/carer representative
  - 'Enable' representative
  - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
  - Education
  - Action for Children and
  - Children's Services
- 4.8 The engagement and participation of children and young people, parents and carers will be critical in ensuring any future developments meet identified needs and are successful.
- 4.9 This is an exciting opportunity for key partner agencies to develop a truly integrated service for disabled children and young people and with support from Scrutiny Committee, the plans will be implemented as a matter of priority.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposals outlined in this report are aimed at enhancing and improving services and as a result there are no foreseen equalities implications.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Funding will be required to relocate the Children with Disabilities Team in to the Children's Centre in terms of IT infrastructure improvements and increased rental for the accommodation. The IT infrastructure costs to improve network connections and hardware capacity are estimated to be £15k maximum and could be borne within the service budget for 2014/15 if approval is given to progress the plans. Although the rental charges are currently being estimated by Action for Children, they are not expected to exceed the current £13k accommodation costs budgeted for the Team in Ty Pontygwindy. It is also important to note that moving the team from Ty Pontygwindy will contribute positively to the overall review of accommodation across the Directorate and the Council.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Whilst there are no direct HR or personnel implications arising from this report, the staff team will be consulted with and engaged in the proposals and in planning any move if the proposal is supported by Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The views of those consulted have been included in the body of the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That Scrutiny Committee note the content of this report and endorse progression of the plans to develop an Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure Elected Members are aware of the proposals and support the development of the new service.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Children Act 1989 and 2004
- 11.2 The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
- 11.3 The Children and Family (Wales) Measure 2010

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