

Initial assessment or screening

Agenda item no 5

Name of policy, service or decision: Securing Efficiency in Commissioning of Placements and Support for Looked After Children

Lead Directorate: Children's Services

<p>1. Description – what is being assessed?</p> <p>Subject of the assessment is the impact of the reduction in the budget for services to looked after children and for securing of efficiencies in the way services are provided, as outlined in the Cabinet Report dated 3 July 2014.</p> <p>Budget reduction referred to is 2014/2015 is £755k, 2015/16 is £2m506k, 2016/17 is £4m637k and totalling 2017/18 is £7m752k</p>	
<p>2. Lead officer on assessment: Jane Prashar</p>	
<p>3. Head of service:</p>	
<p>4. Members of assessment team:</p> <p>Pauline Sharratt Ian McGuff Huw Powell Trish Brittain Chris Ballinger</p>	
<p>5. What are the main issues relating to each protected characteristic? Consider all three parts of the public sector equality duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation,• advancing equality of opportunity, and• fostering good relations	
Protected characteristic	<p>Issues</p> <p>It is important to note that whilst the proposal is to reduce services and secure greater efficiencies no particular protected group is seen to be disproportionately impacted on in relation to these changes.</p> <p>Services to be provided following these changes will continue to be provided based on an assessment of need that will ensure the right support and services are available</p>

	to meet these needs
All protected characteristics	
Age	The services are offered to all children and young people up to the age of 18.
Disability	The services are available to all children regardless of disability.
Gender reassignment	The services are available and accessible to any young people should this characteristic apply.
Pregnancy or maternity	The services are available and accessible to any young people who may be pregnant or caring for a young child/baby.
Race	The services are available and accessible to any young people regardless of their racial background.
Religion or belief	Services do not discriminate on the basis of religion or beliefs held.
Sex	Services do not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender.
Sexual Orientation	Services do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation
<p>6. Outline any information, such as from monitoring, consultation feedback or complaints, which indicates a differential impact on particular protected groups.</p> <p>The proposed changes to the services for looked after children have been identified following extensive reviews as to how we can most appropriately deliver the right services to the right children at the right time. The proposed changes to be developed over a four year period will mean that children and their families should continue to receive a service based on an assessment of need but that that assessed need will be provided in a different way for some children and their families.</p>	

We will ensure that consultations occur throughout this period to make certain that the services we are providing continue to meet the needs and are being delivered in a timely and appropriate manner. In addition consultations will continue to seek the views and identify any potential differential impact on particular protected groups.

Children who become looked after are subject to statutory reviews of their care arrangements by an independent review service. This ensures that care packages are appropriate to the individual child's needs and also informs future commissioning arrangements with regard to services for looked after children on a broader basis.

Conclusions

7. On the basis of sections 5 and 6, is an equality impact assessment required? NO – on the basis that there is no evidence or reason to believe that some protected groups could be affected differently as a result of these changes and there is no concern that any of the services are being operated or delivered in an unfair or discriminatory manner.

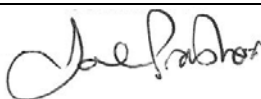
Services will continue to be provided based on the appropriate assessment of need.

8. (a) If no, list any actions identified:

Consultations will continue to be undertaken as appropriate with children, young people and their families as services change and develop in response to these proposals.

The availability of business intelligence information reporting on a regular basis to the senior leadership team will enable us to monitor the take-up of our services and continually assess their impact on protected groups.

Signed assessment lead officer:



Date: 26 June 2014

Signed head of service:

Date: 26 June 2014