



Agenda Item: 3.1

Children's Trust Executive Board Meeting - 18 January 2008

Report of the Interim Project Team – Joint Commissioning

Action Plan Supporting the transition towards a Joint Commissioning Unit

Purpose of Report

1. The attached paper sets out the action plan of the Interim Project Team which has been established to take forward the development of the Joint Commissioning Unit. The Interim Project Team will work closely with the existing Joint Commissioning Unit to undertake specific actions required in order to establish the Unit. The work of the Team will focus primarily upon the development of capacity, infrastructure and systems required for the Joint Commissioning Group to operate effectively. Specific service based commissioning will remain the responsibility of the Joint Commissioning Group.
2. The Interim Project Team will build upon existing mechanisms for ensuring effective engagement from Children & Young People, parents and carers.

Background

2. The need to develop an effective Joint Commissioning Unit has been agreed as a priority by the Children's Trust Executive Board. In order to progress this there is a need for some very focussed work to be undertaken by the partners. An Interim Project Team has been established to take this work forward – this Team will liaise closely with the existing Joint Commissioning Group, as well as leads for Practice Based Commissioning to ensure effective linkages are built into the development of the Unit from the outset.
3. The work of the Interim Project Team will focus mainly upon the development of the infrastructure, systems, processes and capacity for the new unit. The action plan includes the following elements:-
 - Agreeing the Scope of Joint Commissioning
 - Staffing capacity & clarity of roles
 - Financial Management
 - Governance / Accountability

- Joint Commissioning Processes / Mechanisms
- Communication & Engagement – with all key stakeholders
- Clinical Engagement
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

Two Half day workshops have been planned to commence the work required to implement the action plan. It is anticipated that this work will require a significant amount of time to be allocated by all involved.

Proposals

4. The Action Plan of the Interim Project Team sets out specific tasks which need to be undertaken to support the development of a Joint Commissioning Unit. Members of the Children's Trust Executive Board are asked to note the action plan and to support the work being undertaken to make this happen.

Finance

5. The Interim Project Team will focus upon the financial regimes of partner agencies, and also consider staffing capacity to deliver on the Joint Commissioning agenda. Any implications will be brought back to the Children's Trust Executive Board in due course.

Law

6. The Interim Project Team will need to consider the governance implications for the joint unit. Any recommendations regarding changes to the governance regimes, or which may impact upon the Constitutions of the partner agencies will be taken via the appropriate approval routes.

Equality Impact

7. The Joint Commissioning Unit will establish a Joint Commissioning Process aimed at reducing inequalities and ensuring equality of access. The opportunity to bring the commissioning processes together will provide further opportunities of ensuring consistency of approaches across Dudley.
8. In taking forward this work the Interim Project Team will:-
 - Engage with the Participation Sub Group to ensure that all commissioning processes incorporate effective engagement with Children & Young People.
 - Undertake specific workshops with Children & Young People, parents, carers and all stakeholders to inform the development of the Joint Commissioning Unit.
 - Ensure that there are opportunities for Children & Young People to be involved in this development

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-

- Members of the Children’s Trust Executive Board support the Action Plan of the Interim Project Team which outlines the tasks required to take forward Joint Commissioning across Dudley

Members of the Interim Project Team – Children & Young People’s Joint Commissioning.

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List of Background Papers

Action Plan – Interim Project Team