

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture
2.	Date:	6th September 2011
3.	Title:	Strategic Commissioning Priorities for Children and Young People's Services
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executives

5. Summary

This paper sets out the strategic commissioning priorities and work programme for CYPS. The priorities have been developed in consultation with the Senior Management of CYPS and are focused on improving quality services, providing Value for Money and achieving efficiencies.

There has been substantial progress on the commissioning priorities particularly in relation to the external placements programme. The capacity to achieve the priorities is challenged by the imminent commissioning activities required for the Budget Matrix.

6. Recommendations

That :

1. **Members note the progress made in strategic commissioning for CYPS**
2. **Members receive further progress reports**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Background

The purpose of this paper is to set out for Elected Members the identified priorities for the Chief Executives Strategic Commissioning function and to the work programme for Children and Young People's (CYPS) Commissioning team going forward. These priorities also form the team plan for the CYPS commissioners

Within the Chief Executives the strategic commissioning unit is an integral part of this function and the work encompasses all commissioning across the council, including Chief Executives, CYPS, Adults, Neighbourhoods and EDS.

The council is currently focusing on the areas of high spend and high cost for review and recommissioning or decommissioning to achieve efficiencies and improve outcomes for its citizens. The extent of the work is challenging and priorities have been identified to give clarity on the way forward. Further priorities are identified through the ongoing work on the Budget Matrix and the capacity to achieve the priorities is challenged by the commissioning activities required for the Budget Matrix.

7.2 Strategic Commissioning for Children and Young Peoples services

There has been substantial progress achieved in moving forward the commissioning of children and young people's services. A work programme has been developed from the priorities and is attached to this report for information. Attached is a spreadsheet setting out the commissioning programme for CYPS, the individual commissioning action is identified along with the responsible officer and the timeline for the activity. Impact on the Corporate Plan is also included to support the 'Golden Thread' through the organisation. Key areas of commissioning activity include Connexions, Contact support, Children's Centres, External Placements and achievement of efficiencies through decommissioning or recommissioning.

Due to the capacity of the team to advance some areas of work a consultant firm - Impower have been appointed to review Early Years services funded through an Early Intervention & Prevention Fund bid agreed by Martin Kimber and Andrew Bedford. The scope of this work will include mapping of early intervention work across CYPS services, opportunities for reduced duplication, efficiencies and an operating model post commissioning of children's centres.

The project has commenced and the timeline for completion is eight weeks. This project is sponsored by Andrew Bedford and the lead for RMBC is Chrissy Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager. Impower will be working across CYPS but focusing on Early Years.

Examples set out below highlight some of the achievements of commissioning officers in a short period of time since the setting up of the strategic commissioning function earlier this year:

- External Placements workstream includes:
 - i. the strengthening of the Multi-Agency Resource Panel, has reduced the number of current independent residential placements from **21 to 14** since 1st April 2011
 - ii. cost avoidance of placements through the panel equates to **£1,941,808.51**
 - iii. negotiation with external providers to achieve reduced fees equals cashable savings of **£562k** against a target of £700K by December 2011
 - iv. an Early Intervention & Prevention Fund bid has been agreed to increase the numbers of Foster Carers in Rotherham through dedicated work and marketing
- Collaborative work with Supporting People to fund a floating support to young people leaving care to enable them to maintain their accommodation and not become homeless
- Collation and analysis of all contracts across the authority with the VCS to reduce duplication and achieve efficiencies
- Development of a framework approach for Independent Foster Agencies (IFAs) to reduce number of providers from 18 to 3-4 in order to leverage the market and reduce costs
- Development of a block contract for the step-down programme to support LACs who require a higher level of support. This provides a discounted fixed price delivering efficiencies and certainty of placement availability. Cashable efficiencies of **£70,000** per annum are projected.

8. Finance

All of the actions identified in the work programme will provide financial contributions to the achievement of efficiencies.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

1. That should the priorities and work programme not be agreed there will be drift in the way in which work is allocated and achieved across the strategic commissioning team
2. Further commissioning priorities will impact on the capacity of the team to meet the deadlines and achieve efficiencies

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Children and Young People's Plan in ensuring children and young people live healthy lives. Providing nutritional school meals will benefit all children, especially those from deprived backgrounds by enabling accessible meals through low prices.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None applicable

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