

Summary of Key Issues 15th October 2007
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Executive

The Children and Young People's Partnership Executive meets on the third Monday of every month. Minutes of the meeting are available from the Partnership Co-ordinator Carol Hambling (tel: 0191 2777481 or email carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk).

Child Poverty carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive supported the aim to have reducing child poverty as a key priority of the Sustainable Communities Strategy and Local Area Agreement. This would support the national Performance Service Agreement of halving the number of children in poverty by 2010.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services aileen.fitzgerald@newcastle-pct.nhs.uk

The C&YPSP Executive received information about the proposed changes to tier 4 CAMHS services. The aim, which is supported by the C&YPSP Executive is to achieve a shift from tier 4 inpatient services to enhanced community services in each PCT cluster. The commissioners propose that services for young people with eating disorders will be developed in the community as a "lifespan" model rather than separate services that focus on adults and young people. The proposed provision of enhanced mental health services in the community will avoid the admission of children under 12 years to hospital. Services will also be required to deal with emergency referrals and the requirement not to admit young people under 16 years to adult wards. The learning disability services which are currently provided at Prudhoe hospital will be moved to another site. The next step is to engage the views of all stakeholders on the proposals.

Resources carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive considered a draft template for sharing information about current spending on children's services at a city and locality wide level according to the level of need. The template is at an early stage of development and there are significant "health warnings" attached to the information but it could provide a useful overview of current commitments.

Budget Sharing Protocol carol.hambling@newcastle.gov.uk

The C&YPSP Executive considered a draft information sharing protocol about budget decisions. The aim is to increase the transparency of decision making processes within organisations, increase the ability of partners to influence each other's decisions and identify areas where they can make decisions together. The C&YPSP Executive identified areas for further development of the protocol and further discussion with partners.

Areas of change/pressure to budgets

Partners shared information about budget priorities for the next year and areas of pressure. A key driver for the local authority is to create resources for early intervention and prevention and to commission services at a locality level. The Value for Money (VFM) process that the City Council has undertaken has highlighted the cost pressures within children's social care and the Invest to Save programme to recruit additional foster carers. The Primary Care Trust will be reconfiguring the health visiting service. All PCT services have targets for efficiency savings. The NUT NHS Hospital Trust are working to meet the target of 18 weeks from referral to treatment and to reduce the time spent in hospital. A palliative care at home service is now part of mainstream funding.

Public Service Agreements (PSA)

The Comprehensive Spending Review has provided detail about the new PSA's which apply to children and young people. Each PSA includes a number of supporting indicators which will measure progress. The agreements include a commitment to reducing child poverty; raising educational achievement and narrowing the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers; improving the health of all children; increasing the safety of children and young people and increasing the number of young people on the path to success.