

MEETING:	Cabinet
MEETING DATE:	26 February 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	Delivering the strategic approach for children & young people with disabilities and special educational needs
REPORT BY:	Chris Baird, Assistant Director, Children's Wellbeing Directorate

Classification

Open

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 2, Section 5 (Procedures prior to private meetings) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (Regulations) 2012.

Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.

And

This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the county.

NOTICE has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the children & young people with disabilities (CWD) and special educational needs (SEN) transformation programme. The partnership-wide programme will target available resources to deliver the strategic approach for CWD and SEN, and their families for 2015-2018 in Herefordshire.

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) **Cabinet endorses the 2015-2018 children & young people with disabilities and special educational needs services transformation programme**
- (b) **Cabinet delegates the approval of the detailed work packages to the Director of Children's Wellbeing**

Alternative Options

- 1 The transformation programme takes a 'whole system approach' across education, health and social care services for children and adults. The programme is also aligned with the directorate's Children of Herefordshire Improvement and Partnership Programme (CHIPP). An alternative approach would be to operate a number of projects focussed on individual issues or pieces of work. However, this could lead to 'silo-thinking', whereas children with disabilities (CWD) and special educational needs (SEN) and their families rarely access individual services in isolation, and therefore expect that services operate in a joined-up way.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Progress has been made in developing support for children with disabilities and their families since the strategic review of 2010. However, families continue to report that accessing some aspects of the support that they need can be challenging and that further work is needed to redesign the way different services and agencies work either individually or in partnership to provide a holistic approach. The transformation programme provides the vehicle to address these issues in a strategic and partnership way.
- 3 Delivery of the transformation programme will enable the council and partners to target available resources to meet the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014. One of the key aims of the Children and Families Act is to help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; find employment; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control over their support. The SEND reforms seek to join up help across education, health and care from birth to 25. At the same time, the Care Act 2014 addresses adult social care requirements for anyone over the age of 18. This means there will be a group of young people aged 18-25 who will be entitled to support though both pieces of legislation. The two acts have the same emphasis on outcomes, personalisation, and the integration of services. It is therefore essential that the planning and implementation of both of these acts is joined up at a local level by education, health and social care services that support both children and adults.

Key Considerations

- 4 The transformation programme, attached as Appendix 1 describes the objectives for the continuous improvement of services for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs in Herefordshire by 2018 within the resources available. This work is one of the five priorities of Herefordshire’s children and young people partnership for the next 3 years.
- 5 Development of the programme has been led by the council and involved the clinical commissioning group (CCG), NHS providers, adult social care and Carers’ Support. It follows extensive work since 2010 that had engaged the views of families of children with disabilities and also a range of providers including schools. The consensus from the different stakeholders was that they wanted a clear plan that delivered action and did not want further rounds of consultation.
- 6 Delivery of the programme will be achieved through seven main work streams within a project management framework:



The work programmes are at different stages of development and implementation and will benefit from strong programme management and governance. The partnership will be using the Children in Herefordshire Improvement and Partnership Programme approach to provide this, under the Children and Young People’s Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board. This transformation programme will form one of the priority areas of work for Herefordshire’s Children and Young People’s Partnership.

- 7 Elements of the work have been progressing over the last 18 months, with additional work recently commencing or scheduled for early 2015. Key highlights of the progress so far include:
 - a. Implementation of education, health and care (EHC) processes. 25 new assessments began between September and November 2014, in addition to the publication of plans to convert the existing 600-800 special educational needs statements to EHC plans
 - b. Phase 1 of the local short breaks programme has been reviewed with

recommendations going forward to either extend or terminate current contracts. Planning for the delivery of Phase 2 of the programme, including overnight short breaks is being progressed by the council and clinical commissioning group

- c. The local offer has been published on-line, and will continue to be developed and improved. It can be accessed at:
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/local-offer>
- d. Draft personal budgets and direct payments guidance for children and families has been produced ready for approval and publication
- e. Existing pathways and decision-making process across child and adult education, health and social care services have been mapped with a view to simplifying a more coordinated pathway

8 Benefits to be delivered in 2016 include the following:

- a. Families are informed and able to make choices about the support for their children and themselves, including universal services.
- b. 450 children supported by a coordinated education health and care plan
- c. 200 families supported by an improved social care children with disabilities team
- d. Communities and markets are supported to innovate and invest into short breaks that families can directly access themselves
- e. Families are able to take-up direct payments and choose their own support package, with the option of a personal budget
- f. 10,500 hours of day-time short breaks for 100 children and their families
- g. New overnight short breaks services will be jointly commissioned
- h. Children and families are actively involved in shaping improvements

9 Longer term benefits will include the following:

- a. 620 children and young people aged 0-19, and their families will have access to suitable specialist childcare provision that meets their needs
- b. Children and families experience effective multiagency assessment and planning from services designed and organised around an integrated pathway
- c. Reduced reliance on institutionalised care as more children are supported at or closer to home
- d. A coordinated approach with adult services will ensure smooth transitions and reduced costs

Community Impact

10 The transformation programme support the principles outlined by the Children and

Young People's Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including:

- Enabling residents to be independent and lead fulfilling lives by improving outcomes for children and young people.
- Thinking family by promoting family stability and, where ever possible, enabling children, young people and families to live 'ordinary lives'
- Making best use of the resources available in order to meet the council's priorities

- 11 Our vision for children and young people with disabilities and/or special education needs is the same as for all of Herefordshire's children and young people – that they are healthy, safe and achieve well; and that they go on to lead happy and fulfilled lives with choice and control. This is a challenging and high aspiration for all partners involved.
- 12 Delivery of the vision in Herefordshire is based on the national Early Support principles, set out in the transformation programme, Appendix 1 which support community engagement.

Equality and Human Rights

- 13 The recommendations of this report pay due regard to the public sector equality duty by ensuring that children with disabilities and their families are able to lead as far as possible normal family lives by accessing support and opportunities.
- 14 Development of the transformation programme has been informed by Herefordshire's 2010 review of Children with Disabilities and the 2014 Children's Integrated Needs Analysis. A key work stream of the programme will be undertake additional strategic analysis work to further enable the authority and partners to address the equality and human rights of children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs, and their families.

Financial Implications

- 15 Delivery of the transformation programme will have to be achieved within the resources available and may be required to contribute to changes in national policy and funding arrangements. Initial analysis of the Local Authority and CCG budgets relating to services for Children with Disabilities or Special Educational Needs has identified the following indicative spend for 2014/15:

Local Authority:

SEN Team	£265,133
Short Breaks and Respite	£445,150
Hfds Childrens Disabilities Team	£302,016
Section 17 Disability	£10,000
Direct Payments - Children	£185,000
CWD Respite/Transport	£2,500
Placements Child Dis (CNS)	£1,497,570
Post 19 LLDD education	£637,602
Post 19 LLDD adult care & therapy	£227,796

CCG:

Short Breaks and Respite - CCG	TBC
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Placements Child Dis (CNS)	£499,082
Services for CWD	TBC
Total 2014/15	£4,071,849

Legal Implications

- 16 This is a key decision to be taken by Cabinet in line with part 3 section 3 of the council's constitution.
- 17 Delivery of the draft transformation programme will support the council and partners to meet the statutory duties and requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, the Care Act 2014 and the associated regulations and statutory guidance.

Risk Management

- 18 If the transformation programme is not approved and services delivered by the council and partners are developed in isolation, there is a risk that:
- a. Services are not coordinated in the best way to meet the needs of individual children and families
 - b. In the absence of an effective integrated pathway, which focusses on prevention and early help, the reliance on high-cost specialist services, such as residential accommodation, is likely to continue
 - c. Opportunities for joint commissioning, service redesign and cost reduction could be missed
 - d. Reputation damage to the council and partners if parents and families do not believe that improvements are being made
- 19 These risks will be partly mitigated by work managed through the wider CHIPP transformation project for council projects. However, non-approval of the transformation programme would make it more challenging to achieve the level of integration required by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014.

Consultees

- 20 The voices of children and families, which have been collected since 2010 via consultation, collaborative commissioning exercises, parent carer events and service contract monitoring have helped to inform the development of the transformation programme.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Children & Young People with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs Services Transformation Programme

Background Papers

- None identified.