

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Consultation Document About a New Centre for Children and Young Peoples' Specialist Community Services

1. Background

The attached draft consultation document has been drawn up by members of the working group from social care, health and education which has been looking at the possibility of developing a central building for specialist community services for children with developmental problems/disabilities.

The PCT Board is keen to develop a Business Case to test the affordability of such a centre, recognizing that its current buildings for these services do not support the key ways of effective working identified in the Herefordshire Childrens' and Young Peoples' Plan. Good practice in service user involvement, and indeed, legislative requirements, mean that it is important we involve families, parents (and staff) in the initial debate over the content and nature of a possible centre. Having done that during a consultation period from September to December, we can then develop a Business Case if appropriate early in 2007.

2. Consultation Process

Please note that there is a much shorter summary version of this consultation document, which we aim to also have available for the Childrens' Partnership Board to see at its meeting. Section 8 of the consultation document describes how the consultation will take place, involving offering meetings at schools or other venues preferred by families, and displays at sites. We very much recognize the need to go to where people are to talk to them, and to do more than simply distribute the document. The PCT's Involving People Team will be supporting the process.

Conclusion

The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to support the consultation and for any comments on the draft consultation document. Views on who the document should be sent to would also be helpful.

**Julie Thornby, Director of Corporate Development, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, on behalf of the multi-agency Childrens' Building Steering Group.
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