

Commissioning Plan for Children and Families

Education, Children and Families Committee

31 January 2012

Purpose of report

- 1 This report seeks to update the Committee on progress on the service specific Commissioning Plans for Children and Families.

Background

- 2 The Commissioning Plan for Children and Families was approved by the Policy and Strategy Committee of the Council on 4 October 2011. It covers services provided by the Council and those purchased from the voluntary and private sectors and identified service specific plans across 11 areas which are to be developed.
- 3 On 13 September 2011 the Education Children and Families Committee approved the Council's response to the extensive engagement and consultation programme undertaken on the draft plan from February to May 2011.
- 4 A Checkpoint Group has been established and fully engaged in the development of the Council's Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support.
- 5 An additional specific Checkpoint Group for Children and Families has been established to engage with the consultation responses, the plan and the development of service specific Commissioning Plans.

Main report

- 6 The overall plan sets out how Children and Families will implement the Council's Strategy for the Commissioning of Care and Support Services. It explains our strategic objectives and how these will influence decisions about commissioning. It also proposes that a number of more detailed plans are produced showing what we plan to achieve in service specific areas over the next five years.
- 7 The final version of the Commissioning Plan for Children and Families:
 - Describes the key aspects to be addressed from the Council's overarching Commissioning Strategy
 - Outlines our commissioning principles
 - Sets out our partnership strategic objectives

- Identifies the services to which specific implementation plans will apply
 - Describes the commissioning cycle
 - Describes the financial environment and best value
 - Acknowledges that existing strategies will be key in developing the service specific plans.
- 8 Policy and Strategy Committee has already agreed a set of timescales and action points for implementation of the overarching strategy and has instructed Council service areas to incorporate these into their service specific plans.
- 9 The service specific plans are currently being developed using the agreed Social Work Inspection Agency approach of Plan, Analyse, Do and Review.
- 10 Each of the 11 service specific plans is at a different stage of development with the scoping exercise being undertaken by a Commissioning Officer and Operational Lead Officer taking the lead. A list of these 11 plans is attached in Appendix 1. All of these Plans will be in draft ready for the consultation period starting in April 2012.
- 11 Where there are overlaps with other areas such as homelessness services and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (EADP), joint plans and commissioning arrangements are being developed, which will involve all stakeholders in these services.
- 12 As part of the scoping exercise of the areas of service specific plans the consultation comments regarding overlaps in the 11 proposed specific plans are being addressed and adjustments may be made to reflect this. Committee will be advised of any proposed refinements in March 2012.

Financial implications

- 13 The overarching strategy gives a commitment that, when commissioning new services which require to be registered, the service will achieve at least a grade 4 quality of care and support from the regulator, i.e. Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS).
- 14 For all existing registered services, either delivered by the Council or procured externally, the aim is to achieve a Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland grade 4 in the category of 'quality care and support' over the 5 year lifetime of the strategy.
- 15 This ongoing commitment to quality services may have a financial implication for the Council. These will be quantified and reported on as part of the implementation of the strategy and plan.

Equalities impact

- 16 All of the service specific plans have a large degree of relevance to equalities, diversity and human rights. Accordingly, a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) is being carried out. Due regard is being paid to the findings in preparing the consultation analysis responses and action plan, and these will continue to underpin the work on the strategy in the future. The EQIA reports will be made available on the Council's website.

- 17 Key recommendations relating to commissioning arrangements in each area include:
- The need to incorporate an equalities perspective throughout the commissioning cycle
 - The need to continue to work with black and minority ethnic and other protected groups to identify and eliminate service gaps as part of mainstreaming services.
- 18 Further recommendations to be included in service specific plans with more general application across care and support services include:
- The need to develop a means of monitoring outcomes by equality grouping
 - The need to develop mechanisms for monitoring service access and service outcome from an equalities perspective
 - The need to continue existing work to encourage a more balanced equality profile of staff across the care sector.

Environmental Impact

- 19 The Council has taken account of sustainable development issues in its approach to this plan. In developing a framework of mixed provision, the Council has recognised the need for economic and social sustainability in this service area. The environmental impacts will be assessed in the implementation of the strategy and its associated service specific plans, and a monitoring framework will be established to measure its effects in relation to the Council's obligations under climate change legislation.

Recommendations

- 20 It is recommended that the Education Children and Families Committee:
- a) Notes the ongoing development of the service specific Commissioning Plans for Children and Families;
 - b) Notes that Children and Families are in process of developing detailed service specific plans in each of the areas agreed by Committee in September 2011 to be ready to embark on a three month consultation process on draft plans within each area between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012.

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Appendices	1. Service Specific Plans in Children and Families.
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Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	National Outcome 15 – “Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs.”
Background Papers	<p>Policy and Strategy Committee Report 14 June 2011, “Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services – Consultation Feedback and Council Response”</p> <p>Policy and Strategy Committee Report 9 August 2011 “Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services”</p> <p>Education, Children and Families Committee Report 13 September 2011, “Commissioning Plan for Children and Families – Consultation Feedback and Council Response”</p> <p>Policy and Strategy Committee Report 4 October 2011 – “Commissioning Plan for Children and Families ”</p>

Service Specific Plans in Children and Families

- Early years services
- Family/parenting support services
- Services for children who are looked after and accommodated
- Services for children looked after at home
- Non-looked after children who receive continuing support
- Services for children with disabilities
- Drug and alcohol services
- Services for young carers
- Youth justice services
- Youth work services
- Adult literacy and numeracy services.