

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

**TITLE OF PAPER: Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD)
Strategy: Change Programme**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday 22nd March

ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP: LDD Sub Group

RELATED CYPP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY: 6.3 'Strategy for LDD'

RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S): Indicators relating to 6.3

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:

That the Children's Trust Board supports the Change Programme for LDD and endorses the principals of:

Delivering an Integrated Approach

- **Being User Focussed**
- **Equality and Inclusion through:**
 - **Enhancing access to universal provision e.g. social and leisure opportunities**
 - **Improving processes for specialist and complex support**

IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

Recommendation	Resource Type	Cost	Benefit
1.	N/a	n/a	n/a

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NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Monday 22nd March 2010

**Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) Strategy
Change Programme**

1.0 Purpose of Paper

1.1 To provide the Children's Trust Board with the proposals for the next phase of work in the LDD Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Children's Trust Board supports the Change Programme for LDD and endorses the principals of:

- Delivering an Integrated Approach
- Being User Focussed
- Equality and Inclusion through:
 - Enhancing access to universal provision e.g. social and leisure opportunities
 - Improving processes for specialist and complex support

3.0 Background

3.1 The Learning Difficulties and Disability (LDD) Strategy provides for comprehensive reform of the services and support available to families whose children have LDD. Ongoing work on services for LDD was accelerated following the 2006 Joint Area Review, which recommended
"The Council and its partners should develop and implement an integrated approach to the delivery of services for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and improve the range and coverage of these services"

1.2 The development of the LDD Strategy was informed by Government policy, such as Aiming High for disabled children, including the 'Core Offer' for families and the SEN reform 'Removing barriers to Achievement'

4.0 Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) Strategy

4.1 The LDD Strategy has three primary components:

- Needs Assessment
- Integrated Approach
- Enhanced Provision

4.2 This work has been taken forward by the LDD Sub-group of the Children's Trust, and affiliated work streams, such as Pathfinder Board, Transitions Planning Group and Integrated Assessment Group. There are leads assigned to each

aspect of the LDD Strategy, which are identified in this report in brackets (#) under each sub-section.

- 4.3 Building on the considerable work over the past two/three years, the LDD Strategy group was reformed in Autumn 2009 to drive forward the next phase of integration across the Children's Trust.

5.0 Progress to Date

5.1 Needs Assessment:

5.1.1 Definition

- 5.1.2 A common definition has been agreed by the Children's Trust to identify the levels of LDD, and develop clarity across partners for the definition of severely disabled children.

5.1.3 Data and Information: (Simon Moss)

- 5.1.4 A centralised approach through the Performance and Outcomes team has enabled the service to have a common understanding of the cohort size for differing levels of LDD. Service users have been mapped geographically and used to inform the SEN Behaviour Review, delivery of short breaks and planning for transitions.

- 5.1.5 Performance is tracked for pupils with SEN, and comparative performance is reported against the whole school population.

5.1.6 User Engagement (Helen Forshaw/ Ian Marr/ Lindsay May)

- 5.1.7 Advances have been made in the engagement of parents in policy developments, both through user surveys, such as the parents' survey, Childcare Sufficiency Audit and short breaks survey, and also in direct engagement in the Parents Forum. Parental involvement is active on key developments, such as integrated assessment.

- 5.1.8 Engagement of children and young people continues to be an area for further development across the whole strategy, but significant areas of engagement include short breaks and the establishment of the Flying High group. Work has been done to further understand user experience through transitions, with case study work carried out by special schools, and a piece of research work recently commissioned through Children's Social Care on transitions planning.

- 5.1.9 Both the engagement of parents and children and young people are continued areas for development.

5.2 Integrated Approach

- 5.2.1 Working together in an integrated approach is essential for the delivery of the Core Offer to families, which sets out standards for:

- Providing accessible, relevant, up to date **information** about services and transition points
- **Transparency** in planning and decision making
- High quality, integrated **assessments**
- Ensuring the **participation** of children, young people and their families, both in individual care planning and to contribute to wider service planning.

5.2.2 Integrated Assessment (Michael Cotton)

5.2.3 Integrating assessment frameworks is at the heart of working together for children with LDD, by providing a common framework, signposting and key working for families who are involved with a range of agencies and services.

5.2.4 The work to date has uncovered the plethora of assessments, records, action plans and practitioners that work with these families and the potential areas for duplication in the current systems. A working group, including two parent representatives, on integrated assessment has mapped out the processes for health, social care and education/ developmental services for disabled children 0-5.

5.2.5 Interim recommendations from the Integrated Assessment Group were presented at the LDD Strategy Group in February. These will be formalised into an action plan to inform the next phase of development for the LDD Strategy

5.2.6 Early Support (Lynn Turner)

5.2.7 The roll out of Early Support has been a key part of the integrated approach, to offer support to families who are engaged with three or more specialist services. The Early Support work has been remodelled within CYPS to enhance capacity and to identify 'key worker' roles across the Children's Trust.

5.2.8 Transitions (Interim –Lynette Dodds)

5.2.9 An integrated approach to the transitions process for disabled children is a priority, for which the national 'Transitions Support Team' assesses our progress through the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) and provides additional resource (£25k for 2010-11) to support improvements.

5.2.10 The Joint Transitions Steering Group provides the lead for this work, and set the agenda for the wider stakeholder Transitions Planning Group. The priority work is:

1. Improving transitions for LAC with LDD
(post-inspection action plan, recommendation 5)

This work is progressing with a joint policy and procedure across Children and Adult Services out for consultation, with agreements on priority groups for transitions support.

2. Information to service users through transition to increase transparency and better prepare young people and their families for change.
3. Improving data flow across Children's Services, Adults Services and the Primary Care Trust to improve long term planning and strategic commissioning, as well to manage individual transitions in a more timely and consistent way.
4. Person Centred Planning and Review

The introduction of Person Centred Planning changes the focus of assessment and review from the services available to the wishes of young person and family. It is an inclusive approach based upon the social model of disability. This will become a legal requirement in due course. A training programme is being developed to roll out person centre planning

5.3 Enhanced Provision

- 5.3.1 There are a number of significant work programmes to deliver more inclusive, enhanced provision for children and young people with LDD.
- 5.3.2 Enhanced provision includes:

- SEN and Behaviour Review: Enhanced Mainstream Schools and EMA hubs
- Short Breaks Pathfinder
- Residential Services Review
- Inclusion Development Programme
- Post-16 provision
- Access to Positive Activities

5.4 Monitoring of Progress

- 5.4.1 The LDD Strategy Group is responsible for ensuring delivery across all strands of the LDD strategy. This is monitored through the LDD specific actions within the Children and Young People's Plan, and through reports to the LDD Strategy Group and Children's Trust.

6.0 LDD Change Programme

- 6.1 There is a considerable amount of work being progressed through various groups and sub-groups on different, but interlinking, parts of the LDD Strategy. This is invaluable in gaining a better understanding of the current provision and experience for children and young people in North Yorkshire and identifying areas for improvement.
- 6.2 The next phase for the LDD Strategy will be to draw on the needs assessment and integrated assessment work, to identify where service changes may be required to improve efficiency, implement streamlined processes and improve the experience for service users. This will be delivered through a comprehensive Change Programme for LDD.

- 6.3 A Children's Trust LDD Policy Statement will outline the vision for change and outcomes for disabled families as a result of the Integration and Change Programme. A draft Policy Statement is being developed through the LDD Strategy Group, based upon the following principals:
- Integrated Approach
 - User Focussed
 - Enhanced access to universal provision and reengineered processes for specialist and complex support
- 6.4 The key element of the change will include reform with the Children and Young People's Service to integrate processes and decision making for children with LDD and their families. A Change Team within the Children and Young People's Service has been established to take this work forward, and will provide reports to the LDD Strategy Group on progress.
- 6.5 To support this work, it is proposed that the current needs assessment work is enhanced, to include a comprehensive mapping of all services for children and young people with LDD. Once completed this mapping will enable a comprehensive view of services including:
- need
 - policies and thresholds
 - information provision and assessment processes
 - location, accessibility and facilities available
 - financial analysis
 - workforce
- 6.6 This mapping will be pivotal for identifying areas for integration and efficiency across the Children's Trust. This mapping will be included as part of the service mapping and needs assessment for the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14.
- 6.7 There is a strong commitment to the LDD Strategy within the Children and Young People's Plan and as such this programme of reform must be prioritised by all partners and services to have the intended impact on improving access to universal provision, and clear pathways for specialist and complex support.

Report prepared by:

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Date of Report: 10.03.10