

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

16 November 2009

Commissioning Strategy: Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Board on progress towards development of a commissioning strategy.

2.0 CYPP Context

2.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 commits the North Yorkshire Children's Trust to developing a commissioning strategy. This is presented as improvement priority WT5 in the Working Together section of the CYPP.

3.0 Background

3.1 The development of a commissioning strategy is presented as CYPP improvement priority WT5. However, the key actions agreed for 2009/10 are located across numerous areas of the CYPP.

3.2 A summary of progress on these actions is presented overleaf. The Board will receive a full report on 18 January, by which time many of these actions will be well developed.

4.0 Ofsted Inspection: Feedback on Commissioning

4.1 The recent Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children reported on the Children's Trust's commissioning arrangements and on specific commissioning activities in respect of services for looked after children.

4.2 In terms of the Children's Trust, the inspection found that 'good arrangements are in place for the commissioning of children's services', and that capacity to improve these is good. The inspection found that monitoring of commissioned services is good.

4.3 In terms of services for looked after children, the inspection found good examples of joint commissioning, and reported that contracting and monitoring arrangements for commissioned services are good and rigorous, with a strong focus on outcomes for children and young people.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Board notes the progress towards the development of a commissioning strategy.

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Action		CYPP Section	Progress	Report to Board
1	Develop a clear Commissioning Framework.	WT5: Commissioning Strategy	Outline commissioning framework agreed by Board in July 2009 ('Assess, Plan, Do, Review' – see Appendix A, pages 3 and 4 overleaf). Detailed framework to be developed.	January 2010
2	Develop a Commissioning Strategy Handbook as a key commissioning tool.	WT5: Commissioning Strategy	Handbook in development, based on Commissioning Support Programme guidance and best practice examples of handbooks developed by other Children's Trusts.	January 2010
3	Develop an assessment framework for commissioning to demonstrate progress.	WT4: Performance Management	Adopt the assessment framework developed by the Commissioning Support Programme (as used in North Yorkshire self-assessment).	January 2010
4	Ensure that commissioning is informed by evidence-based practice and available research.	WT4: Performance Management	CYPS Evidence Informed Practice group established. Need to consider role and remit in respect of commissioning strategy and in relation to the proposed Performance and Commissioning sub-group.	January 2010
5	Enhance the Children's Trust performance management and budget monitoring to support joint commissioning.	WT4: Performance Management	Establish Performance and Commissioning sub-group to take forward CYPP WT4 (Performance Management) and WT5 (Commissioning).	Proposed Nov 09
		WT3: Use of Resources	CYPP Use of Resources meeting arranged for 24 November, convened by George Bateman, (CYPS AD, Finance).	January 2010
6	Develop a communications and consultation strategy for commissioning.	WT2: Communications	To be included as part of the Children's Trust communications strategy, to be presented to the Board in January.	January 2010
7	Develop a workforce development strategy for commissioning.	6.4: Workforce Development	North Yorkshire unable to participate in the autumn round of the Commissioning Support Programme 'train the trainer' scheme, due to over-subscription. In February, the CSP will launch a toolkit of training materials which NY can tailor to local use. Training modules are proposed within the CYPS One Children's Workforce professional development programme. Need to consider multi-agency training.	March 2010
8	Establish a Working Group to take forward the Commissioning Strategy.	WT5: Commissioning Strategy	Working Group established May 2009. Need to consider role in relation to proposed Performance and Commissioning sub-group.	January 2010

COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK: 'ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW'

Activity	Stage		Commissioning Support Programme Guidance
Assess	1	Look at outcomes	Consider the current pattern and recent trends in outcomes for children and young people. Compare local outcomes to national and other relevant comparators
	2	Focus on particular groups	Within the overall picture look at outcomes for specific groups of children, young people, and parents as they require a differentiated approach to service provision or additional support. Compare local outcomes to national and other relevant comparators
	3	Needs analysis	Use outcome data and the views of children, young people, families, local communities and frontline staff to develop an overall integrated needs assessment.
Plan	4	Identify resources, set priorities	Agree on the nature and scale of the local challenge. Identify the resources available and set priorities for action.
	5	Plan services, focus on prevention	Plan the pattern of service most likely to secure priority outcomes, considering carefully the ways in which resources can be increasingly focussed on prevention and early intervention.
Do	6	Commission effectively	Decide together how best to deliver outcomes, including drawing in alternative providers to widen options and increase efficiency.
	7	Pooled resources	Develop and extend joint commissioning from pooled budgets and pooled resources
	8	Workforce and market development	Develop the local markets for providing integrated and other services, and produce and implement a local workforce strategy, which covers service and role re-design and the necessary ways of working to support delivery.
Review	9	Monitor and review	Monitor and review to ensure services and the joint planning and commissioning process are working together to deliver the goals set out for them

