

Officer Key Decision Record – Targeted CAMHS Joint Tender

Chief Officer taking the decision	Head of Strategic Commissioning
Date of Decision (not before: 13 th Sept 2013)	25/09/2013

Decision Taken

That the Head of Strategic Commissioning authorises the start of a joint tender exercise with Coventry City Council for the provision of targeted Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

Reasons for Decisions

The increasing demand for tier 2 services, supported by the increasing evidence for early intervention (both financial and in young people's outcomes), is a challenge to the continuing reduction in funding. In response, the opportunity has been taken to redesign tier 2 CAMHS services with Coventry City Council and a new model for tier 2 services is proposed that will:

- Provide one service across Coventry and Warwickshire for tier 2 CAMHS.
- Provide face to face, on-line, group work interventions as well as information and self-help resources.
- Focus on pathways and prevalent issues faced by children and young people.
- Target resources on those children and young people with greatest need.
- Link with Specialist CAMHS to provide a single point of entry (SPE) for tier 2 and 3.
- Rely on evidence gained from consultation with stakeholders including service users, referrers and providers.
- Apply digital-by-default principles to reduce the need for more intensive interventions.

This approach will afford the following benefits:

- Increase the range of services available to children and young people with mental health needs.
- Ensure low levels of provision are available to all children and young people who require mental health support.
- Provide a proportionate response by increasing interventions available to those young people with greater need.
- Improve transitions between tier 2 and tier 3, specialist CAMHS.
- Work in partnership with Coventry to share risk and increase efficiencies.
- Seek innovation from the market in providing cost effective interventions.
- Be deliverable with reduced levels of funding.

The following options were considered in developing this proposal:

- a) Do nothing and retender existing contracts in due course.
- b) End provision of tier 2 targeted CAMH services.
- c) Retender for one targeted CAMHS contract across Warwickshire only.
- d) Undertake joint tender for one targeted CAMHS contract across Coventry and Warwickshire.

A joint tender for one targeted CAMHS contract across Coventry and Warwickshire is the preferred option for the reasons listed above.

An EIA for the service demonstrates that there will be no adverse impact on children and young people with protected characteristics; it recognises, however, that children and young people with protected characteristics face additional vulnerabilities that may exacerbate their mental health. As such, equalities issues will be explicitly evaluated as part of the tender evaluation process and embedded in the contract management process.

Previously, tier 2 provision was open access, whereas young people's requirements will now be triaged. There will therefore be an impact for those young people accessing the service who may not meet the threshold for more intensive support (e.g. counselling). Nevertheless, they will be able to access less intensive support that was previously not available (such as group work and online information) and will be eligible for counselling if their needs escalate.

It is important to note that service users for tier 2 CAMHS access the service for a time limited period and so the client group changes from one year to the next as cases are closed. As such, no individuals will have their provision cut as a result of this service redesign.

The cost of the service to Warwickshire is estimated to be £160,000 per annum, or £640,000 over the lifetime of the contract. Savings have been applied to this budget, which has been reduced by £40,000 per annum from 2011/12 levels. This saving target was identified in February 2013 for CAMHS.

The contribution from Coventry is estimated at £112,500 per annum, or £450,000 over the lifetime of the project. The lower figure from Coventry reflects the smaller population and reduced estimated prevalence rate; the unit costs between the two authorities are broadly comparable.

Background Information

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provision in Warwickshire aims to meet standard nine of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services:

"All children and young people, from birth to their eighteenth birthday who have mental health problems and disorders have access to timely, integrated, high quality multi-disciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them and their parents and carers."

The Government recently reiterated its commitment to addressing children's mental health recently in the Department of Health report '*No Health Without Mental Health*' (2011) which highlights research that shows 'half of all lifetime mental health problems emerge before the age of 14 (Kim-Cohen et al., 2003; Kessler et al., 2005)'.

Warwickshire's strategy for addressing children's mental health follows the established four-tiered framework for planning, commissioning and delivery of child mental health services. This tender relates to tier 2, or targeted CAMHS, which provides early intervention to prevent emerging mental health issues from escalating into more acute, entrenched, and costly disorders.

There are two recent trends that have resulted in concerning capacity pressures on Tier 2 services: firstly, the continuing reduction in public sector finances has led to a reduction in annual funding for the current services of 47% since 2010. Secondly, a growing body of research is demonstrating the growing prevalence of mental health disorders in children and young people, and the need for early intervention.

Financial Implications

None listed.

Report Author	Andrew Sjurseth
Head of Service	Christine Lewington
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro / Mike Taylor
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Heather Timms

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	N/a
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please attach a copy of the report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<http://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2934/Committee/557/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard
 Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Bob Hicks, Julie Jackson, Mike Perry and Clive Rickhards