

# Decision Record – Service User Consultation on Integrated Disability Service

## Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision

Councillor Heather Timms – Children and Schools

**Date of Decision:**  
**(NOT BEFORE – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013)**

**22 MARCH 2013**

## Decision taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, approve the start of formal consultation and that feedback from the consultation and proposed changes are subsequently submitted to Cabinet for approval on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

## Reasons for Decisions

The recommendation is to run a formal consultation on the proposed IDS service model and eligibility criteria. The consultation should run for 12 weeks (May-July 2013). It will seek views about how we plan to implement government policy and impending legislation with the new service model. It will also seek views on how we can allocate available resources in a way that is fair, open, and provides a proportionate response to need.

The consultation should be a public consultation advertised at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/consultation) . In particular, the consultation would be aimed at parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities.

A report on the consultation and the proposed IDS redesign will be brought to Cabinet for approval on 12 September 2013.

The results of the consultation will be used to inform further the Equality Impact Assessment to assist the Council in making a decision.

## Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below and in the officer report):

### Background:

Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service (IDS) is a partnership, bringing together education, health and social care services for children with disabilities and their families.

Services for children with disabilities are changing in national policy, such as set out in the SEN white paper and Children and Families Bill. A key feature of legislative changes is enabling parents to have greater control over the services they would choose to meet their assessed needs, and for the local authority to stimulate a wider diversity of options for families to choose.

In line with the national austerity programme, in 2011 Warwickshire County Council approved a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2011-2014. In total, the Council is required to make savings of £66m during the life time of this plan. All expenditure across WCC is being reviewed in order to achieve the required savings.

As a result of these financial pressures, funding for the IDS is being reduced. The IDS budget allocated for administration, staffing, resources, market management, social care and short breaks is £5.5m. This allocation is to be reduced by £1.736m as part of the MTFP, to £3.8m in 2013/14. This has been approved as part of the 2013/14 budget put before the County Council on 5 February 2013. It is not anticipated that this savings target will be revised.

This provides the opportunity to redesign the IDS to meet current national and local policy objectives (with particular reference to making it easier to access services and streamlining services), and review eligibility criteria for support to ensure a fair distribution of support focusing on those in greatest need. WCC will continue to meet all its statutory duties in providing support to disabled children and their families. Legal Services has advised that changes of this nature should be subject to a twelve-week consultation and final approval by Cabinet.

There are no funding reductions or changes to IDS Teaching and Learning services supporting disabled children in schools as part of these proposals. Services funded by the NHS under the umbrella of the IDS also do not form part of this consultation.

It is anticipated that significant savings will be achieved from administrative, facilities and staffing efficiencies, and securing better value for money from purchased services; with services being protected where possible in new settings.

**Financial Implications:**

None listed.

Report Author:	Ross Caws
Head of Service:	Sarah Callaghan
Strategic Director:	Wendy Fabbro
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Heather Timms

## Checklist

**Urgent matter: yes/no\***

No

**Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)**

No

**Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?**

No

**List of Reports considered** [please attach or forward a copy]

Report from author.

**List of Background Papers** [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

None

**Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.**

Portfolio Holder – Cllr Heather Timms  
Sarah Callaghan  
Wendy Fabbro  
Chris Lewington  
Kate Harker  
Legal – Jane Pollard