

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the  
Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools  
on or after 22 March 2013**

**Service User Consultation on Integrated Disability Service (IDS)**

**Recommendations**

- 1) That the Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools approves the start of formal consultation; and
- 2) That feedback from the consultation and proposed changes are subsequently submitted to Cabinet for approval on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Warwickshire Integrated Disability Service (IDS) is a partnership, bringing together education, health and social care services for children with disabilities and their families.
- 1.2 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.

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.

- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.

## 2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 It is proposed that the future service would align to guidance in the draft Children and Families Bill and SEN and should be targeted at children and families needing support, and those on the edge of statutory care and in care. Those with high needs would experience minimal or no change to the services they receive. Those with low needs would see a reduction in the availability and frequency of services they currently receive; however, this would be managed on a case-by-case basis to minimise the impact of these changes.
- 2.2 It is also proposed that services are reconfigured to increase the use of individual budgets, giving more choice and control to parents and carers of disabled children.
- 2.3 Key features of the proposed new service model are:
  - **Increased provision of child and family centred information and advice to all.** Online information and advice to be accessible from a wide range of organisations in one place.
  - **Increased use of self-assessment.** All families to be able to describe their needs via a 'self-assessment' process they can do at their own convenience that will explain the options for support. For those children who may require statutory care, assessment will continue to be conducted by the social care team. Children in care may receive additional packages of support dependent on their assessed need.
  - **Increased use of individual budgets.** Resources to move from the local authority to the family, so that they can meet their needs in a way best suited to the family circumstances via the 'individual budgets programme' which will be accelerated. Families would receive different levels of individual budgets depending on their need, with those with the highest need receiving the highest allocations. Families will then

have access to a 'marketplace' where they will exercise choice and control over how their individual budget is spent.

- **The local authority should develop a marketplace of provision in which families buy their own care and support.** We propose to establish a marketplace of organisations that provide a range of care, support and equipment so that families have a wide choice in deciding the use of their individual budget to meet their needs.
- **Review of the family key worker roles.** The Family Key Worker service has been a key element in providing low level support to families and preventing children from entering the statutory care system. This service is to be maintained; however, its current role will be reviewed with a particular focus on how this role fits with the delivery of individual budgets (family support and brokerage).
- **Statutory social care support will continue to be provided through social work teams.** Whilst changes in the design and caseload capacity of these teams may occur, WCC should continue to deliver statutory social care provision through the current model.

### 3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 A report on the consultation and the proposed IDS redesign will be brought to Cabinet for approval on 12 September 2013.
- 3.4 The results of the consultation will be used to inform further the Equality Impact Assessment to assist the Council in making a decision.

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