

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	20th June 2017
Subject:	Integration of Services for Children and Young People with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability

Summary:

This paper identifies the opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities through integration of commissioning and service delivery.

Actions Required:

- Members are asked to confirm a strategic intent to develop an integration plan for Health and Local Authority services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- CCGs are asked to commit resource to undertake the work required to review and remodel the current commissioning arrangements for health provision. LCC commitment has been confirmed.
- It is proposed that this work is governed via the Women and Children's Joint Delivery Board reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1. Background

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has as one of its themes improving health and social outcomes and reducing inequalities with the desired outcome being that children are able to get the best start in life and achieve their potential. Specific actions have been identified to reduce inequalities by targeting vulnerable groups such as children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and to improve service delivery through greater integration.

Joint commissioning to meet the needs children and young people with SEND is a requirement under the Children and Families Act 2014 as is the publication of a Local Offer which describes the services available and the routes to access them. Both were flagged as areas requiring development in a peer review undertaken in Lincolnshire earlier this year (which is attached as Appendix A) and will be subject to joint inspection by Ofsted and the CQC.

We have joint commissioning arrangements in place for meeting the mental health needs of children with a learning disability via a Section 75 agreement. The provision of short breaks for children and young people with disabilities is commissioned from a pooled budget as part of the Better Care Fund in Lincolnshire. These current arrangements do not cover the whole range of needs of this group. The current integrated commissioning arrangements which are in place could be further enhanced by increasing our collective ability to improve outcomes and the life chances of children and young people with SEND:

- Whilst there are individual bespoke packages of care in response to need, there needs to be a greater clarity over some specific health services for this group e.g. continence; specialist therapy services, including those for sensory integration; and end of life care.
- The Joint Commissioning Board has identified that the current pathways for the diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the provision of ongoing support have areas of duplication and this leads to families and professionals being unclear about which services to access. The JSNA identifies the relatively high numbers of children and young people who have special educational needs as a result of ASD and or ADHD. We also have higher numbers of these young people in the Transforming Care cohort who are in high cost placements, a number of which are out of county. There is a collective ambition to better meet the needs of this cohort nearer to their home.
- Children's Services are currently undertaking a review of special schools to ensure that the Council is able to meet the needs of as many children as possible close to home. The provision of health services alongside education provision will be crucial to this being successful. This will provide Health commissioners with the opportunity to refresh the health offer for local schools and to review systems and processes on how CCGs can better meet the health needs of individuals with Education Health and Care Plans where they have needs which are beyond the core offer but do not meet the threshold for Continuing Care funding.
- There is currently a process for identifying the funding split between agencies of expensive and/or complex care packages so costs are apportioned appropriately between education, health and care. Whilst this is effective and is functioning well, it is time consuming and has the potential to hinder timely decision making. Pooled budgets are an option that has been used elsewhere to support more effective decision making.

2. Conclusion

- Children, young people, parents and carers have all told us that the complexity of current commissioning and provision makes it hard for them to access and gain benefit from the services provided.
- Integrated commissioning is consistent with local and national policy.
- Integrated provision is an opportunity to improve outcomes by streamlining assessment, planning and delivery of care.
- Integration has the potential to reduce duplication and achieve greater efficiency.

3. Consultation

No specific consultation has taken place regarding this proposal.

However regular consultation with parents and children takes place via the Lincolnshire Parent and Carer Forum. CCGs have recently established formal links with the Forum in partnership with Healthwatch. There is a consistent message that services need to be more integrated and the offer easier to understand and access.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report form the Peer Review of SEND in Lincolnshire

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer, Children's Services who can be contacted on sally.savage@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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