

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 10.00am**

**SUBJECT: Children's Services Reports: Introduction and Overview**

**Report of Jenny Coles, Director of Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services**

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To introduce the four reports being presented by Children's Services and to highlight the areas where ownership by strategic partners is being sought.
- 1.2 To seek support from Health and Wellbeing Board members for the overall direction of travel and the delivery of the recommendations specified within the reports.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 In line with Health and Wellbeing strategic priorities, Children's Services are working in an increasingly integrated way across the partnership. This extends from shared operational protocols to shared and/or pooled budgets. The four reports illustrate the progress that has been made to date as well as the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- 2.2 Early Years Commissioning up to Five Years

The expiry of the contracts for Hertfordshire's Children's Centres has coincided with the proposal to transfer public health responsibilities for children under five years, including the Healthy Child Programme, the Family Nurse Partnership programme and health visiting services, from NHS England to the local authority. This provides an opportunity to consider the services together and develop a shared vision for future delivery, defined within the context of 'universal proportionality'.

The report describes these changes and requests agreement to the development of a joined up approach to future commissioning through an integrated project. Ownership of this approach across the partnership will prevent potential duplication or promote shared commissioning intentions, as the project progresses.

### 2.3 Child and Mental Health Services Update

This report introduces Herts Strategy for Young Minds, a multi agency 3 year strategy that describes proposals for the further development of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, tiers 1 to 3. The proposals have been developed following extensive consultation with the range of key stakeholders.

Overarching priorities include improved inter-agency working, earlier intervention through universal services, improved access/pathways into local CAMHS services, improved ASD services and crisis support to manage children and young people more effectively out of A & E services. The report seeks to inform H&WBB members about the current approach as well as seeking their views. Once the approach has been endorsed, implementation plans will be monitored and reported into the two Clinical Commissioning Groups and CYPCEG to discuss and agree investment priorities.

### 2.4 Thriving Families Update

The H&WBB requested an update on progress achieved through the thriving Families Programme. The programme is a key strand of the prevention and early intervention strategy shared across the partnership. Its success is vital if the demand for specialist, usually high cost, services is to be managed.

This report updates Board members on progress that has been made and begins to identify the costs associated with the support that is provided to families and the potential savings that might be achieved. Potential savings are not attributed to 'what if' scenarios, for example, how much would it have cost if the child had come into care.

### 2.5 Hertfordshire's SEND Pathfinder

The Children and Families Bill outlines the most significant change to how children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will be supported for 30 years. Instead of receiving a Statement of Special Educational Needs, children who need it will, from September 2014, receive a single Education, Health and Care Plan that can extend until the child/young person reaches 25 years. The Bill emphasises choice and control for families and requires that information about all support is made available through the Local Offer.

The requirements to join up around both planning individual support and commissioning services prompts a new and invigorated discussion around the configuration of services and opportunities for integration. The report seeks to raise awareness of the pending legislative changes and agreement to explore opportunities for integration.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Each report details recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider.