

By: Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member, Specialist Children's Services
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To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny
Committee – 22 March 2012

Subject: **UPDATE ON THE RE-COMMISSIONING OF EMOTIONAL
WELL-BEING AND CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The purpose of this report is to inform and update Members about the progress on the joint commissioning of emotional well-being and Community CAMHS within Kent and Medway.

Introduction

1. (1) In July 2011, Kent County Council Cabinet Members and NHS Kent & Medway agreed to align funding in order to jointly commission new emotional well-being and mental health services for children and young people. This decision was made in response to significant evidence identifying the need to establish a more integrated system that would enable interventions to be delivered to children and young people in a more targeted and timely fashion.

(2) It was agreed that the new services would take the form of an Emotional Well-being Service delivering support within universal settings (Tier 1), alongside a 'Community CAMHS' model comprising targeted (Tier 2) and specialist (Tier 3) mental health services. Each element of service would be aligned to ensure clear pathways for children and young people between the different tiers.

(3) Since then, NHS Kent & Medway have been leading on the procurement of the Community CAMHS model, and KCC has been leading on procurement of the Emotional Well-being Service through its newly established Early Intervention and Prevention Multiple Supplier Framework. *(Please note that the Emotional Well-being Service will be restricted to Kent as Medway will continue to commission its own Emotional Well-being Service).*

Procurement update

2. (1) Specifications and evaluation criteria have been developed for both the Emotional Well-being Service and Community CAMHS model, with reciprocal contribution from NHS Kent & Medway and KCC, as well as input from a range of partners, stakeholders, and feedback from children and young people.

(2) For the Community CAMHS procurement, a 'pre-qualification' stage has been run to identify providers of suitable quality prior to issuing an 'Invitation to Tender'. This process has identified several potential providers who will now be invited to take part in the remainder of the procurement process for Community CAMHS.

(3) A comparable 'pre-qualification' stage was effectively carried out by KCC during the establishment of the Early Intervention Multiple Supplier Framework, which screened providers against a robust range of quality criteria before awarding them a position on the Framework. Only providers who have been accepted on to KCC's Early Intervention and Prevention Framework under the relevant 'Emotional Well-being' categories will be able to tender to deliver the proposed Emotional Well-being Service.

(4) Specifications for both the Community CAMHS and Emotional Well-being Service will be issued within the next few weeks, and eligible providers will be given between 4-6 weeks to submit their tenders. Evaluation of tenders will be conducted by small panels with representation from both NHS Kent & Medway and relevant colleagues within KCC. There are plans to involve children and young people within this process.

(5) It is anticipated that contract award for both services will take place in April / May 2012.

Transition to new arrangements

3. (1) In response to feedback from the market and the need to align with the Community CAMHS procurement process, a decision has been taken to synchronise the implementation dates of the Community CAMHS and Emotional Well-being Services. The entire model is therefore planned to become operational in September 2012. This will enable new providers to share a 'mobilisation' period over the summer months and ensure a smoother transition to the new model. It will also enable the implementation of the Emotional Well-being Service to coincide with the new academic year, avoiding potential disruption to children and young people by changing providers mid-term.

(2) Current providers of emotional well-being and mental health services for children and young people have had their contracts extended until 31st August 2012 and appropriate notice periods will be served. Should they not be successful in securing one of the new contracts, current providers have also been invited to identify any staff members who may be eligible for Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment), or TUPE, to providers of the new services. In line with TUPE regulations, this information will be made available (in an anonymised format) to bidders as part of the tendering process.

(3) A transition plan is being developed jointly by KCC and NHS Kent & Medway to manage the transfer of services from one provider to another and to ensure as far as possible continuity of support for individual children and young people. This plan will shortly be put into operation.

Recommendation

4. (1) Members of the Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to **NOTE** the progress so far with regard to the re-commissioning of an Emotional Well-being Service and Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (Community CAMHS).

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Background Documents: None