

Health and Wellbeing Board

25 September 2017



Special Educational Needs and Disability Joint Commissioning Plan 2017-2018

Report of Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adults and Health Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on joint commissioning activity relating to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) and seek approval of the Durham SEND Joint Commissioning Plan 2017-2018.

Background

- 2 The national SEND reforms introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014 focused on two key themes: greater cooperation between education, health and social care and a greater focus on the outcomes which will make a real difference to how children and young people with SEND lives their life.
- 3 Section 26 of the above Act specifically requires local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEND to secure positive outcomes.
- 4 In response to these reforms, County Durham's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities 0-25 (2016-2018) established a shared vision for local children and young people with SEND:

Our shared vision in County Durham is for all children and young people with SEND to have every opportunity to take control of their lives, be as independent as possible and achieve their full potential.

- 5 Robust local joint commissioning arrangements across education, health and care are key to the delivery of this vision. Current local performance measures indicate that outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Durham remain varied. Local children and young people with SEND generally make less progress than their peers nationally across all age stages, barring the early years and whilst participation in further learning beyond statutory school age is high, the numbers of young adults with SEND in employment remains comparatively low.

- 6 In response, our aim is to secure personalised, integrated local support that delivers positive outcomes for all children and young people with SEND and gives parents confidence. An emphasis on joint commissioning activity will bring together support across education, health and social care from early childhood through to adult life which will prevent, delay or reduce needs from escalating.
- 7 The practice of jointly commissioning individual packages of education, health and care for children and young people with SEND is firmly established in Durham with multi-agency panels meeting regularly to consider how best to meet the needs and aspirations of children identified within their Education, Health and Care plans. Alongside the above, Durham County Council and Durham CCG's have also historically made full use of provisions within the National Health Service Act 2006 (Section 75 and Section 256 agreements) to enable the pooling of budgets to secure joint service development and commissioning activity (particularly in relation to Short Breaks/Respite provision and Paediatric Therapy Services).

Joint Commissioning Plan 2017-2018

- 8 The development of an annual SEND Joint Commissioning Plan has built upon this foundation and establishes a local understanding of the joint commissioning process alongside a suite of agreed principles that will underpin day to day joint commissioning activity across education, health and care. It should be noted that there is a specific emphasis within the document on the co-production of services with children and their families which is a key area of development across local joint commissioning arrangements.
- 9 The document sets out Durham's joint commissioning priorities for 2017-2018 across education, health and care and details how each of these priorities will be taken forward over the year. Joint commissioning activity over 2017-2018 will focus upon:
 - Review of Local Short Breaks/Respite offer
 - Review of Community Equipment, Aids and Adaptations pathways
 - Review of Paediatric Therapy Services
 - Developing the provider market to secure improved Transition pathways
 - Review of Maternity and Early Years Pathways
 - Review of Health and SEND needs of Young People who offend
 - Review for children and young people with complex social communication needs (including Autism)
 - Commission Independent Travel Training
 - Review of Durham's High Needs Educational provision
 - Analysis of Speech, Language and Communication needs
 - Participation in the North East 12 Collaborative Commissioning Activity (Phase 2) focusing upon independent Special School and College placements; independent specialist respite services and independent Children's Residential Homes

- 10 It is anticipated that joint commissioning arrangements should enable partners to make best use of all the resources available to improve outcomes for children and young people in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.
- 11 Individual work-streams will be monitored via the SEND Joint Commissioning Partnership. The overall progress of the plan will be reported on a quarterly basis to the local SEND Strategy and Accountability Group, with the Healthy Child Programme Board, Health & Wellbeing Board, Children and Families Partnership alongside Durham CCG Governing Bodies receiving an annual report.

Recommendations

- 11 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
 - a) note and comment on the joint commissioning activity relating to children and young people with SEND planned for 2017-2018
 - b) approve the Durham SEND Joint Commissioning Plan 2017-2018.

Contact: Mark Smith Tel: 03000 267395

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The current levels of local spend in relation to SEND are detailed in the plan. It is anticipated that joint commissioning arrangements should enable partners to make best use of all the resources available in Durham to improve outcomes for children and young people in the most efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.

Staffing – All joint commissioning activity within the plan is scheduled to be prioritised and delivered within existing commissioning teams across Durham County Council and Durham CCG's.

Risk – Evidence of robust joint commissioning arrangements between Local Authorities and CCG's continues to be a key area of focus within CQC/Ofsted Local Area SEND Inspections. A poor inspection outcome carries a reputational risk to both Durham County Council and Durham CCG's.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The SEND Joint Commissioning Plan sets out how we will to deliver positive outcomes for all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability. The plan establishes equality and diversity as a key commissioning principle to ensure that all of our commissioning activity recognises diversity and promotes equality so that people with protected characteristics are not disadvantaged.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - The commissioned activity referenced within this report will ensure that all commissioned services have full regard to the liberty of both children and adults under Article 5 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Consultation – The SEND Joint Commissioning Plan establishes how we will take forward the commissioning intentions highlighted within County Durham's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities 0-25 (2016-2018) which was developed in partnership with local children, young people and their families.

Procurement – All commissioning activity resulting in the procurement of services for children and young people with SEND will be undertaken will have due regard to the Public Sector: Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament.

Disability Issues – The Durham SEND Joint Commissioning Plan 2017-2018 has been developed to establish joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability to support the delivery of positive outcomes and give parents confidence.

Legal Implications – Section 25 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities that should ensure integration between educational provision and training provision, health and social care provision, where this would promote wellbeing and improve the quality of provision for disabled young people and those with SEN. Local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities (Section 26 of the Act).