

Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 3/2016

Date: 8 March 2016

To: All Members of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: At the meeting of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 October 2015 Members discussed Children's Social Care Corporate Risk SR26.06 (Implementation of projects to better manage demand around edge of care and early help) and requested a briefing note setting out what the projects were, together with start and end dates

Heading: Corporate Risk SR 26.06 - Children's Social Care (Implementation of projects to better manage demand around edge of care and early help)

Background

Detailed below as requested are the project titles with start dates to better manage demand around edge of care and early help:

Early Help

We have a number of mechanisms in place to support collaboration: a single workflow, an early help panel and an early help steering group, along with the appointment of four coordinators to support joint working in the family. We have also agreed an Early Help Outcomes Framework that will be key to drive change.

We are currently piloting a new Early Help Assessment aligned to our Early Help Outcomes Plan 2015-20 with our partners across Medway so activity can now be recorded, monitored and quality assured effectively. Outcome measures will be reported to the multi agency Early Help Steering Group and Safeguarding Children Board from June 2016.

We have recently recruited an Early Help trainer to deliver and support our partners in the delivery of the Early Help assessment and the model of area-based work is now in place.

The Tier 2 Mental Health Service and Single Point of Access has also moved within the Integrated Family Support Service structure to ensure the right decision, with the right plan for the right family is in place strengthening the pathways for Children and Young People with emotional health and well being concerns.

The Parenting Service has been strengthened with the additional post of the Systemic Family Therapist. Groups and one to one work will be developed across the area based model making this provision more accessible for families where parenting support is needed.

SMART Team - Start date: September 2015

A pooled resource of practitioners are now working an edge of care model being responsive to delivering outcomes to families that are in crisis. This has already had an impact on the number of families that would have previously come into care. Further discussions continue to take place to further embed this model and engage a wider partnership approach. Partners involved in the Community Safety Partnership Senior Executive Group are also interested in developing this work further.

Social Impact Bond (SIB) - Start date: July 2017

Earlier this year, Medway Council commenced a competitive tender for an Edge of Care Social Impact Bond partner and have just published a VEAT notice that formally notifies providers that a preferred contractor is to be appointed. Publishing a VEAT notice requires any dissatisfied tenderers to submit a legal challenge as to the ineffectiveness of the tender within a '10 day' standstill period.

A report seeking agreement to award the contract to the preferred provider to deliver the SIB is due to be presented to Procurement Board and Cabinet over April and May 2016 with the service commencing in July 2017.

Further information Ann Domeney Interim Assistant Director Children and Adults Directorate ext 1215