

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 20th December 2012

Lead Officer: Corporate Director: Modernisation and Well-being

Report Author: North Wales Commissioning Hub Manager

Title: Update Report on North Wales Commissioning Hub

1. What is the report about?

This report provides a progress update on the development of the North Wales Commissioning Hub (NWCH) for social care, health and education care home placements (see overview in appendix 1).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the operation of North Wales Commissioning Hub

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 discuss and provide observations on the content of the report; and
- 3.2 determines whether it wishes to periodically monitor and evaluate the HUB's effectiveness in commissioning quality services and realising value for money.

4. Report details.

NWCH is a collaborative project between the 6 north Wales Councils and BCU Health Board. It is unique in Wales spanning as it does children's and adults services and in partnership with the NHS. Its establishment was based on a Full Business Case and NWCH is hosted by Denbighshire County Council. It is accountable to a Management Board, chaired by Sally Ellis.

The first member of staff, to a team of four, commenced in mid May 2012 and the team was fully staffed as of October 1st.

NWCH has four main functions:

- To ensure value for money in current high cost placements
- To source new placements through transparent process and ensure value for money
- To monitor the quality of services

- To work with partners to develop the market to ensure services are able to meet current and future demand

Over the last three months NWCH has been developing the underpinning systems and processes to enable it to operate effectively. Capacity has also been invested in meeting with operational teams of all partners to ensure that the role of NWCH is understood and that internal changes are made accordingly. The work programme is attached in appendix 2.

To date, annualised cashable savings of £298,000 have been made which includes a saving of £20,000 for Denbighshire County Council. Plus cost avoidance of £27,000 across the region; in addition there are annualised savings of £209,000 arising from negotiation on Learning Disability care home placements.

NWCH have sourced 51 placements between August and November 2012.

Other work underway includes the development of a regional Approved Provider Framework for children's residential placements and a quality monitoring framework for adult services.

Having developed the framework, the Quality Monitoring Officer has a schedule of visits to carry out on behalf of Denbighshire.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

NWCH contributes to the following Corporate Priorities:

- Vulnerable People are protected and are able to live as independently as possible
- Modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Denbighshire Council's contribution to the annual running cost of NWCH is £12,615

7. What consultations have been carried out?

All partners were consulted on the Full Business Case. NWCH is currently commencing engagement with Providers on proposed developments.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This project should help ensure that the Council secures good quality and value for money services. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan assumes cashable savings can be made this year of £25k which looks to be achievable and £100k next year. Systems should be in place to ensure that both the cashable and non-cashable savings can be quantified to allow budgets to be adjusted where appropriate.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

A risk matrix has been prepared for the Management Board but this has not yet been discussed and signed off.

10. Power to make the Decision

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution

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