
Subject:

Review Sure Start Commissioning Budget

Cabinet Member: Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED

- 1.1. It is recommended to reduce the commissioning budget available to Sure Start from 2013 / 14 specifically in relation to the commissioning of services from Pennine Acute NHS Trust which ceased on March 31st 2012 and a grant allocated to Meadowfields Community centre.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The outcomes previously commissioned from Pennine Acute NHS Trust are being achieved through other ways of working.

3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1. To refocus the commission. The process for new birth registrations has been supported by a number of new initiatives across the Borough and Greater Manchester which means this can be achieved by other methods.
- 3.2. Over the past 18 months Sure Start has refocused the speech and language commission to support and train staff in Private, Voluntary and Independent sector childcare providers to support children. Most children with poor communication do not have a clinical condition which requires therapy intervention but they do require opportunities to develop their speech and language.

4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- 4.1 During the development and establishment of Children's Centres, Service Level Agreements were signed between Sure Start, RMBC and the Pennine Acute NHS Trust relating to Midwifery and Speech and Language Services.
- 4.2 The Service Level Agreement with midwifery delivered outcomes in relation to the registration of new births and parental consent enabling Children's Centres to then act on this information. In Rochdale Borough we have an excellent partnership with midwifery and over 95% of antenatal and postnatal appointments take place in Children's Centres, which enables Sure Start staff to access parents both prior to and after the birth. The introduction of 'tell us once' and changes in the content of the 'Red book' which records all key information from pregnancy has also enabled the council to re-look at how consent is acquired. Midwifery remains a key partner in the delivery of Early Years Services and this joint working is not affected by the conclusion of this Service Level Agreement.
- 4.3 Speech and language outcomes in the Borough are very poor for children entering school. The commissioned work with Speech and Language has enabled us to skill up staff in Children's Centres and across Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare settings to promote good communication skills, identify and respond to any early concerns and make appropriate referrals. The continuation of this will be undertaken by staff within these settings as a central part of their role. The effectiveness of this will be monitored through the Children's Trust
- 4.4 The grant to Meadowfields Community Centre originated when the centre was part of the original framework for delivering Children's Centres services across the borough. Whilst an important partner in delivering support to children and families the Community Centre does not fulfil a role above or beyond other centres and childcare providers in the Borough and therefore

the additional grant is not required for specific outcomes. The centre does deliver the Free Early Years Entitlement for 3 and 4 years old for which there is a separate Service Level Agreement and funding.

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families has been consulted.

5.2 Pennine Acute NHS Trust were consulted before these service level agreements ended on March 31st 2012.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED

5.3 Consultation will be undertaken with Meadowfields Community Centre.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. **Theme:** Building Success

6.2. **Proposal Title:** Reduce Sure Start Commissioning Budget

6.3. **Breakdown of Savings from the Service:**

Service Name: Support for Learning

Area of Service: Sure Start

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: Saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Total Savings £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees Other Costs Income lost (Show as minus)	146				146	
Net Savings Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)	146				146	
Total Savings Implementation Costs	146				146	
Total Savings less Implementation Costs	146				146	

6.4 **Financial Impact on another service?**

This proposal will not have a financial impact on another service.

6.5 **Details of the Financial Impact on another service:** N/A

6.6 **Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:** This proposal will have a financial impact on Meadowfields Community Centre.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant legal implications relating to this proposal at this stage although issues of sensitive data and contractual terms require review.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The proposals within this report do not have any staffing implications for the Council.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

11. JOINT WORKING

11.1. The Children's Trust and Health and Wellbeing Board have both identified joint commissioning of services as a key priority in the year ahead. This decision will remove funding which could have been used to support and enable that process in the short term.

11.2. Colleagues in Pennine Acute NHS Trust have worked hard with us to minimize the impact on outcomes in relation to Speech and Language and new birth registrations. Evidence shows that communication and language remains a significant issue in the Borough and we are working closely through the Children's Trust to maximise skills across all sectors including the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector childcare providers.

12. EQUALITIES IMPACTS

12.1. **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:** This proposal has no staffing implications and therefore there are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

12.2. **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** There are no significant equality/community issues arising from this report.

13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

13.1 This proposal will have an impact on Meadowfields Community centre.

Background Papers: There are no background papers relating to this report.
