

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBJECT: REGIONAL COMMISSIONING HUB

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 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).

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 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 adult's services and being in partnership with the NHS. Its establishment was based on a full business case presented to the Flintshire Social and Health Care Scrutiny Committee on 13/02/12. The NWCH is hosted by Denbighshire County Council and is accountable to a Management Board, chaired by Sally Ellis (Director DCC).

- 2.02 The total running costs of the NWCH were estimated to be £145,000 annually over a three year period. Costs are shared proportionately based on projected savings and in scope population of service users. Flintshire currently contribute £36,381.

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

- 2.03 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
- 2.04 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 in 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.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Flintshire's annual contribution is currently £36,381. This is slightly higher than other Authorities due to higher rates of costs savings being anticipated in the business case.
- 3.02 To date, annualised cashable savings of £298,000 have been realised across the Region this includes a saving of £38,090 for Flintshire County Council.
- 3.03 In addition cost avoidance savings of £11,900 have been realised for Flintshire and a further £97,767 of annualised savings arising from work undertaken on "open book accounting" and negotiation on Learning Disability Care Home placements during 2012/13.
- 3.04 An adjustment was also made to the cost of children's placements in Flintshire as a result of intensive local work to improve procurement practice. A total of 5 children's placements have been re-negotiated and therefore removed from the expenditure and saving profile.
- 3.05 NWCH have sourced a total of 51 placements between August and November 2012, Flintshire has made 7 referrals to the Hub in this period.
- 3.06 Other work underway includes the development of a Regional Approved Provider Framework for Children's Residential Placements and development of a "Specialist Learning Disability Specification" for "Complex and Challenging Behaviour" services. Work is ongoing to draft a Regional Quality Monitoring Framework for use across adult services.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and progress achieved by the Regional Hub since it became fully operational in October 2012.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 See 3.00 above and Appendix 2

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 N/A

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 N/A

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 N/A

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 See Appendix 2

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 As above

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: North Wales Commissioning Hub

12.02 Appendix 2: NWCH Work Programme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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