

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Acting Strategic Director  
Children & Young People  
**SUBJECT:** Children's Disability Services  
**WARDS:** All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To outline the progress made in Children's Disability Services in Halton and seek agreement to the expansion of the Pooled Budget for Disabled Children and revised 'Building Bridges' Multi Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

- (i) That the Executive Board agree to the expansion of the pooled budget as highlighted within this report.
- (ii) That the Executive Board approve the 'Building Bridges' Multi-Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Children's Disability Mini Trust**

3.1.1 The Children's Disability Mini Children's Trust was established in April 2006 and built upon an existing Section. 31 registered pooled budget, with a strong track record of partnership working and a multi-agency strategy for services to Children with Disability.

3.1.2 The key features of the Children's Disability Mini Children's Trust were agreed to be as follows:-

- Development of Vision statement
- Revision of the Multi agency Strategy for services to Children with Disability
- Co-location and joint management of services
- Joint funding (HBC & PCT) and appointment of a Strategic Manager post to manage services across the two agencies
- Definition of cohort of children and families to be served by the Children's Disability Mini Trust
- Expansion of pooled budget to include core services

3.1.3 The progress of these developments has been overseen by the Children with Disability Partnership Board, the Children & Young People's (C&YP) Commissioning Partnership and the C&YP Alliance Board.

### 3.2 Joint appointment of a Strategic Manager Post

3.2.1 The post of Strategic Manager (Children with Disabilities) has been implemented as a joint appointment between the Halton and St Helens PCT (HStH PCT) and the C&YP Directorate. The post provides the Disability Lead within the H&StH PCT and leads the newly established Complex Needs Division within the C&YP Directorate. This post is established as the joint lead for Children's Disability Services and as the lead for the Children's Disability Mini Trust, providing an integrated model of leadership and management.

3.2.2 The following services have now been brought under the management of the jointly funded Strategic Manager as part of the Children's Disability Mini Children's Trust

- Children's Disability Social Work team
- Inglefield Short Break Unit
- Woodview Child Development Centre
- Community Sick Children's Nursing Team
- Paediatric Physiotherapy
- Paediatric Occupational Therapy
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapists

The inclusion of these services into the Mini Trust alongside those services already in place within the Trust establishes the basis for developing integrated services to disabled children and their families.

### 3.3 Co-location and Joint Management of Services

3.3.1 The services outlined in 3.2.2, have been brought within the Children With Disabilities Mini Children's Trust. However, these services now need to be further re-organised into a coherent and effective management structure as outlined in Appendix 1.

3.3.2 It is planned that the post of Clinical Lead, Health will be established by the H&STH PCT to parallel the role of the Principal Manager, Social Care, within the overall structure. This role will provide operational leadership across the health service elements of the Mini Trust and will lead on the development of Continuing Care processes and leadership of the Shaping Services Team.

3.3.3 The staffing structure proposal will be established with an intention of reviewing roles and functions over the following year to identify further opportunities for front line integration.

3.3.4 It is the intention that all services outlined in 3.2.2 be co-located and appropriate premises are currently being sought.

#### 3.4 Development of Vision Statement; Definition of Cohort

3.4.1 A development day was held on 4 July 2006 to establish the way forward for the CWD Mini Trust. The day was facilitated by Christine Lenehan, Director of the Council for Disabled Children a leading national figure in this service area. Senior managers and practitioners of the PCT and the Children and Young People's Directorate, schools and Connexions attended the day. The role and function of the CWD mini trust was encapsulated in the vision statement outlined below.

- *Every Child with a disability in Halton has the right to fully participate in all aspects of their community. Services will work in partnership with disabled young people and their families to achieve full participation alongside their peers.*
- *Specialist Services will be delivered in a co-ordinated, multi agency and multi disciplinary way on a continuum with preventative and universal services to ensure timely access to the appropriate service.*
- *The promotion of the needs of disabled children and young people and their families and carers will influence local policy and practice to ensure equity of access to all aspects of their communities.*

3.4.2 The cohort of children and young people that the CWD Mini Trust will serve was agreed as:-

*A child with disabilities and complex needs is defined as a child whose needs would be encompassed by a combination of the definitions outlined above and who would require a wide range of support from specialist and universal services to enable the child and their family to maximise their opportunities, reach their potential and participate on an equal basis with their peers.*

3.4.3 The CWD Partnership Board held a Stakeholder Event on 11 September 2006 at the Brindley. This was again facilitated by Christine Lenehan and provided the opportunity to outline the future direction of child disability services focussing on integration and partnerships. The day also provided an opportunity to consult stakeholders and to celebrate success so far. Feedback on the day has been excellent and reinforces the achievements so far in improving services for disabled children and their families.

3.4.4 A set of draft local performance indicators have been developed and the CwD Partnership Board has agreed to there being piloted from January 2007 for a period of 6 months. Work is also underway to

implement the Alliance Board performance management framework linking to these indicators.

3.4.5 In September Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills visited Halton Child Disability Services as part of their fact finding toward the Comprehensive Spending Review. The information provided to them reflected the multi agency working and development of integrated working and good practice. The feedback from the visit has been very positive and Halton is seen an example of good practice in the development of services for disabled children.

### 3.5 Revision of the Multi Agency Strategy.

3.5.1 The Building Bridges Multi Agency Strategy has now been revised to bring it up to date with the Children Act 2004 and the Every Child Matters Programme and reflects the new Alliance Board Structure and the Children and Young People's Plan.

3.5.2 There has been wide consultation with stakeholders in the revision of the strategy and the final draft has now been agreed by the Children's Disability Partnership Board and the Children And Young People's Directorate SMT.

3.5.3 The final draft of the Building Bridges Multi Agency Strategy is attached as **Appendix 2**.

### 3.6 Expansion of the Children's Disability Pooled Budget

3.6.1 The Children's Disability Pooled Budget has operated formally within the Partnership Agreement since 2004. It has been a high functioning budget that has maintained a healthy balance sheet and is governed by a formal Partnership Agreement

3.6.2 The services that are currently within the Partnership Arrangements and the pooled budget are as follows:-

- Halton Information Exchange
- Shaping Services Team
- Strategic Management
- Support Services for children with a life limiting illness
- Child Development Centre Coordination
- Carers Short Break Commissioned Services

3.6.3 It is proposed that the following additional services are included in the Partnership Arrangement and Pooled Budget from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

### **Halton Borough Council Services**

- Child Disability Team
- Inglefield Short Break Unit
- Carers Support SLA
- Transition Co-ordinator

### **Halton and St Helens PCT Services**

- Community Sick Children's Nursing Team
- 20% of Speech and Language Therapy Service relating to Children with Complex Needs
- Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy
- Woodview Administration
- Team Around the Child

3.6.4 The benefit of expansion of the Partnership Arrangement is that it will substantially increase the flexibility of developing integrated services for Disabled Children in Halton and further develop the Children's Trust arrangements.

3.6.5 The CWD Mini Trust will become the commissioner and provider of services to this group and will operate within the overall structure of the Halton Children's and Young People's Alliance, with a strong focus of linking to the preventative, universal and integrated process arms of the Alliance Boards work.

3.6.6 There is a robust model of governance in place through the Children and Young Peoples Commissioning Partnership, which provides the Executive Commissioning Function to the Mini Trusts. Budgetary performance and pressures would be managed through this process.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposals are consistent with the Council's agreed policy on the development of Mini Children's Trust's and the Every Child Matters, Change for Children Programme

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 The plans for Children's Disability Services in Halton are seen as an example of good practice and have been praised by representatives of DFES, HM Treasury and DoH. The risk of not progressing with the plans would be higher in relation to the Joint Area Review planned for March 2008, which will expect to see significant progress.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The financial details of the proposal are outlined in **Appendix 3**, which sets out the current 2006/7 and proposed 2007/8 levels of contribution of each partner by total, percentage contribution, and whether the contribution is grant or core funding.
- 7.2 Financial risks are minimal as the demands on the pooled budget are predictable and stable and for the most part consist of staffing budgets. The management of the budget remains within Halton Borough Council and is governed by a robust Partnership Agreement previously agreed with this board and a history of strong performance.
- 7.3 Governance arrangements would continue to be prescribed within the Children's Disability Partnership Agreement, which has been agreed by the Council's Legal Department.
- 7.4 Risks are minimised as the contributions from each partner are in the form of existing posts and budgets with strict arrangements in place for managing the pool within the Partnership Agreement.
- 7.5 The Children's Disability Pooled Budget has demonstrated high performance and financial probity. This is an excellent basis to build upon and its expansion will enable further flexibility in delivering services to disabled children and their families in Halton.
- 7.6 There is no planned increase in expenditure and over time there should be opportunities for efficiencies and redesign as services are delivered in an integrated way.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 The development of integrated services for children with complex needs in Halton will serve to support the delivery and equality and the promotion of diversity for children and young people in the Borough.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Children Act 2004 Every Child Matters 2003	Kath O'Dwyer's Office 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Grosvenor House	Margaret Chaplin, Divisional Manager, Complex Needs.
NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services		