

report



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN’S TRUST BOARD MEETING

20 September 2010

agenda item number 5

REPORT FROM

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Pathway to Provision

Purpose of item

1. The purpose of this report is to support the accompanying document entitled the Pathway to Provision. The report provides a brief introduction and overview of the document’s contents together with an outline of the roll-out programme, which will take place this autumn.

Information and advice

Background

2. On the 24 August 2010, the Nottinghamshire Pathway to Provision was approved by the Safeguarding Improvement Board on behalf of the Children’s Trust Board and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). This approach was agreed by the Children’s Trust Board Chair and the NSCB Chair.
3. The Pathway to Provision document has been developed in response to the two recent Ofsted inspections of safeguarding and looked after children’s services in Nottinghamshire.
4. The Department for Education’s Improvement Notice requires Nottinghamshire County Council to ‘*have clear multi-agency thresholds in place, shared with and understood by all partners, in order for children and young people to access appropriate services and to ensure consistent and high quality referrals from other agencies*’. The Pathway to Provision document and the proposed roll-out programme aims to meet this requirement.
5. The purpose of the Pathway to Provision is to support practitioners to identify the child, young person and/or family’s level of need and to enable the most appropriate referrals to access provision. The document will also ensure that appropriate referrals are made to Children’s Social Care.
6. The Pathway to Provision is a two part resource which includes multi-agency threshold guidance and an on-line resource detailing provision offered by

individual services (including referral criteria and access routes). This on-line resource will be available through the Family Information Service Database by the end of October 2010 (see Appendix 1 for the outline of information that will be available online).

7. The Pathway to Provision document has three sections, together with supporting appendices. The main sections are as follows:
 - **Section A** – outlines the model referred to as the Nottinghamshire Continuum of Children and Young People’s Need which provides a framework to develop a common understanding amongst practitioners of children and young people’s needs and their vulnerabilities.
 - **Section B** – provides definitions and indicators for practitioners to assist in the identification of levels of need for children and young people. It also includes guidance on when to commence the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process and/or make a referral to a Joint Access Team (JAT), along with guidance on thresholds for Children’s Social Care.
 - **Section C** – outlines the Pathways to Provision at the four levels of the Nottinghamshire Continuum of Children and Young People’s Need. Services included in the Pathway to Provision on-line resource have mapped their provision against the four levels of need identified in this multi-agency threshold guidance.
8. The Pathway to Provision was launched electronically on Nottinghamshire County Council’s and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children’s Board’s web sites from the 6 September 2010. A version of this report will also be presented to the October 2010 meeting of the Safeguarding Children’s Board to ensure partnership-wide sign up to the document and roll-out programme.
9. It is intended that following the roll-out programme the document will be updated, and then there will be annual updates of the Pathway to Provision.

Proposed Roll out Programme

10. The sustained success of the Pathway to Provision will depend on an effective launch and roll out across the Nottinghamshire Children’s Trust. The roll-out programme will consist of a number of stages starting in September 2010:
 - The final version of the document available electronically from 6 September at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathwaytoprovision
 - In September, the Corporate Director of Nottinghamshire County Council’s Children and Young People’s Services, Anthony May, will send a letter to those working with children, young people and families. This will be emailed directly to those employed by Nottinghamshire County Council, and sent via members of the Children’s Trust Board for all other partner organisations
 - Articles on the Pathway to Provision will be included in Nottinghamshire County Council’s Team Briefings starting in September (articles can be used in partner publications during September and October)

- Road show events in each district, open to all practitioners working with children and young people and their families, will be held, in October
 - Briefings to all services' management groups across the Children's Trust will be held during the autumn
 - Briefings at individual services' conferences will also be held during the autumn
 - Briefings at all Joint Access Team meetings will take place during the autumn
 - Formal presentations will be made to the Children's Trust Board (September) and the Safeguarding Children's Board (October)
 - The Pathway to Provision will be included in the Common Induction Programme for the all starters to Children and Young People's Services, and the ongoing CAF and Lead Professional Training.
11. The roll-out will include key groups of staff including Children's Social Care and staff working in schools, especially head teachers. Idea has agreed to support the Council in the roll-out of Pathway to Provision and discussions are underway to finalise the detail of this support. Idea has experience of similar work elsewhere in the country.

RECOMMENDATION

12. That the Children's Trust Board:
- i. agrees to support the implementation of the Pathway to Provision across the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust;
 - ii. agrees to support the proposed roll-out programme for the Pathway to Provision document;

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