HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

13 July 2016

AGENDA ITEM

11

INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY PROVISION

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Author:- Steve Marshman, Senior Commissioning Manager

Tel:- 01438 843962

1. Purpose

1.1 To seek agreement of a roadmap towards multi-agency, integrated commissioning of speech and language therapy for children and young people aged 0-25 in Hertfordshire by April 2018.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Speech and Language Therapy for Children and Young People is currently commissioned separately by Hertfordshire County Council (on behalf of School's Forum), East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG. However, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust is the single provider which links all partners
- 2.2 Around £5m is spent by all partners in total per year on speech and language therapy services, including around £1.7m of DSG funding. The monitoring and contract management of Speech and Language Therapy provision is disjointed, with multiple agencies undertaking this work with varied outcome and monitoring approaches
- 2.3 A review of all Speech, Language and Communication services and provision for CYP in educational settings is being undertaken through one of the workstreams of the SEND Strategy and will inform future development and commissioning opportunities.
- 2.4 The review will seek to give guidance to the allocation funding across different contributing services to speech, language and communication needs, including SALT, what our total resource envelope will be, and, having established which services we want to have, then how they fit together

2.5 The recommendations from the review will be considered in the wider context of the joint ambition across Children's Services and CCGs to implement an integrated commissioned service for Speech and Language Therapy for children and young therapy aged 0-25 with SEND, as stated in the 0-25 SEND Commissioning Strategy.

3. Recommendations

3.1 For School's Forum to give agreement to the proposed roadmap towards multi-agency, integrated commissioning of speech and language therapy for children and young people aged 0-25 in Hertfordshire by March 2018, in line with recommendations from the SEN Review and feedback from Clinical Commissioning Groups

4. Background

- 4.1 Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities have the statutory responsibility to meet needs as stated in Education Health and Care Plans (or Statements of Educational Need, as was the predecessor). This will often include speech and language therapy, particularly for younger children¹
- 4.2 Clinical Commissioning Groups have a statutory responsibility to deliver community services, of which Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people is one.
- 4.3 Across Hertfordshire, specialist Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people is delivered by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, but is commissioned separately by multiple stakeholders; East and North Herts CCG, Herts Valleys CCG and Hertfordshire County Council (on behalf of the School's Forum)
- 4.4 Overall, HCT receives around £5m per year to run Speech and Language Therapy services for young people in Hertfordshire. Even with different commissioning bodies, there is one management structure.
- 4.5 The decision about "who pays" is related to the EHCP if speech and language therapy is a stated need on the EHCP/Statement, then the local authority pays; otherwise, the CCGs pay for the therapy. That being said, all contracts are "block" in that the provider is paid a fixed sum regardless of the level of activity undertaken.
- 4.6 Contract management is undertaken separately by each partner.
 Hertfordshire County Council, including Senior Commissioner and County
 Lead for SEN, meets with HCT quarterly to review monitoring information
 and discuss issues. This currently includes activity data and some
 information on outcomes

_

¹ 0-25 SEND Needs Assessment (2015)

- 4.7 Separately, CCGs meet with HCT regularly, with bespoke meetings for quality of provision and contract issues. However, children's Speech and Language Therapy is only one component of a large contract which includes community services for older people. As such, these meetings are not focussed solely on speech and language therapy for children.
- 4.8 Efforts have been made in previous years to produce an aligned speech and language therapy contract across education and health. The last attempt, in 2013, resulted in a service specification being written but not fully adopted by either commissioner or provider. This has inadvertently led to the service being confused about which model to adopt, with some areas of the county having school staff trained to deliver interventions, but other areas still relying on specialist therapists.
- 4.9 A review of Speech, Language and Communication is being undertaken through the SEN Workstream in the County Council, from the point of view of education. The review is expected to make draft recommendations around commissioning approaches by November 2016, with a consultation exercise following, and the final recommendations to be made by March 2017.
- 4.10 The table below details the current funding and commissioning arrangements for Speech and Language Therapy services in Hertfordshire.

Commissioner	Criteria	Age Range	Annual Value	End Date
Hertfordshire County Council (on behalf of School's Forum) [COUNTYWIDE]	Hertfordshire children with communication difficulties noted in EHCP / Statement which is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council	0-19	£1,698,000	31 st March 2018
Herts Valleys CCG	Children registered with a GP in the Herts Valleys CCG area, with a communication need but not currently covered under the HCC criteria	0-19	£1,600,000 (estimate)	31 st March 2017 (but renewed annually)
East and North Herts CCG	Children registered with a GP in the East and North Herts CCG area, with a communication	0-19	£1,650,095	31 st March 2017 (but renewed annually)

Commissioner	Criteria	Age Range	Annual Value	End Date
	need but not currently covered under the HCC criteria			
TOTAL (estimate)			£4,948,095	

4.11 Integrated speech and language therapy contracts have been established in other local authority areas; if this project is to move forwards then an element of the work will focus on learning from the experience of others

5. Contents of report

- 5.1 This paper proposes this board commits to begin considering options around the procurement and delivery of services to best support speech, language and communication needs, to be in place by April 2018, following the timeline as listed below
- 5.2 There is a proven track record of positive partnership working between Hertfordshire County Council, East and North Hertfordshire CCG and Herts Valleys CCG (which covers the West of the county)
- 5.3 Under increasing financial pressures, there is a growing requirement for agencies to establish joint commissioning arrangements which can offer better value for money through reduced management costs, and improved outcomes for service users, through a more defined single approach
- 5.4 There has been a long-held commitment to move towards an integrated commissioning model for Speech and Language Therapy, but for numerous reasons, including staff turnover, this has yet to be achieved
- 5.5 This timeline below recognises the current contracts in place, as well as the potential complexity in disaggregating budgets and agreeing where contract management best sits
- 5.6 The proposal envisions that the specification is fully co-produced with key stakeholders including service users and families, and schools, and that, depending on decisions taken, that the full market is engaged to ensure that the model is deliverable and sustainable
- 5.7 During the process, consultation will be undertaken with other local authority areas which deliver jointly commissioning SALT services, in order to feed their learning into the process
- 5.8 It is possible that a full tender could take place for this service, which would represent risks in terms of a potential dip in performance post-mobilisation, although all options will be explored and considered jointly during the process

- 5.9 Once agreed, a project board, made up of key partners from each agency is to be established to take this work forwards
- 5.10 As a key stakeholder and contributor, the School's Forum will be fully involved in the project, and local schools/settings, including Special Schools and FE Colleges, will be key stakeholders
- 5.11 East and North Hertfordshire CCG Joint Partnership Board considered this proposal on 16th June 2016, with the group in full agreement to move forwards, pending the agreement of all other partners. The CCG agreed to take the proposal to the Full Governing Body meeting for a workshop.
- 5.12 Herts Valleys CCG Children, Young People and Maternity Board will consider this proposal on 27th July 2016.

Decision	Completion Date	Lead	Notes
Seek "in-principle" agreement and timescales for joint commissioning of SALT provision from: • ENCCG • HVCCG • CS Core Board • School's Forum	June-August 2016	0-25 SEND Commissioning	AD Education Provision at HCC to be fully appraised
SEN Education Review makes draft finding	November 2016	SEN	CCGs to be part of consultation process
Review of procurement options and strategy in the light of CCGs and HCC requirements for SALT. To include recommendations around procurement options	January 2017	0-25 SEND Commissioning	
SEN Education Review recommendations published	March 2017	SEN	CCGs to be fully appraised of outcome via Boards
Co-production of draft service specification	April – June 2017	0-25 SEND Commissioning	Wide range of stakeholders
Agree joint commissioning approach (external tender, and where contract management will sit) with ENCCG	June 2017	0-25 SEND Commissioning	

Decision	Completion Date	Lead	Notes
HVCCGCS Core BoardSchool's Forum			
Pre-procurement Market Engagement as necessary	July 2017	0-25 SEND Commissioning	
CCGs to disaggregate CYP SALT costs from main block contract	By August 2017	CCGs	
CCGs to signal commissioning intention to break SALT out of main block contract	By August 2017	CCGs	
Formal procurement	September – November 2017	0-25 SEND	
begins (if agreed) Award of contract	November 2017	O-25 SEND Commissioning	
Mobilisation	November 2017 to March 2018		
Integrated service begins	1 st April 2018		

6. Conclusion

6.1 School's Forum is asked to support the road map to move towards an integrated evidenced-based and value for money model of delivery to meet the needs of children and young with speech, language and communication needs by 2018.