

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

17 DECEMBER 2012

CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – EVIDENCE FROM DIRECTORATE OF WELLBEING, CARE & LEARNING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce senior representation from Directorate of Wellbeing, Care & Learning, in attendance today to present evidence relating to Children with Complex Needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the evidence submitted, make any enquiries felt pertinent and incorporates the evidence gathered into the overall review.

Consideration

3. As the Panel is aware, it is currently underway with a piece of work investigating the topic of Children with Complex Needs. The Panel has already received initial evidence from the Director of Public Health, on Low Birth Weight, with more analysis to come, concentrating on childhood immunisations in Middlesbrough.
4. At the meeting today, the Panel will hear evidence from Directorate of Wellbeing, Care & Learning. On behalf of the Panel, the following questions have been put to the Directorate. They have been addressed in a paper, prepared for the Panel.
 - 4.1 How does the Council define 'Children with Complex Needs' in the context of children's social care?
 - 4.2 On the basis of that definition, how many are you aware of in Middlesbrough?
 - 4.3 How would the authority normally become aware of Children with Complex Needs?
 - 4.4 Is there any intelligence to indicate that there are children with complex needs that are not engaging with services?

- 4.5 The Panel has previously heard that appropriate care placements for children with complex needs are often out of area and very expensive. Why are they so expensive?
- 4.6 Connected to the question above - what evidence do you have that repatriating children in out of area placements, into more local ones, would save money? Wouldn't staff costs be fairly fixed, wherever a facility was located?
- 4.7 To what extent is there a market of possible local providers now?
- 4.8 If necessary, how would the local authority go about stimulating the market to encourage possible providers to establish themselves?
- 4.9 What progress has been made in identifying or stimulating providers of care for children with complex needs?
- 4.10 What framework does Children's Social Care have in place to establish the quality of outcomes for people using the service?
- 4.11 How does the Department ensure that the views of families & the children involved, influence services?
- 4.12 The Panel has heard previously that the Department has encountered difficulty in securing CHC funding from NHS sources to support clients? Could you provide a couple of anonymised case studies to highlight some of the issues faced?
- 4.13 What intelligence does the Department have about how future demand looks for services aimed at Children with Complex Needs, from population data?
5. It is anticipated that representatives of the Directorate will initially speak to the prepared paper, ahead of addressing questions from the Panel. Following consideration of the paper and the associated debate, the Panel is asked to note the evidence submitted and incorporate it into the overall review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

6. Please see briefing paper, prepared by Directorate of Wellbeing, Care & Learning.

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