



## Children's Services Newsletter

### Collaborative Commissioning Support Unit – November Briefing Note

**The Children's Services Programme is owned by the County, Unitary and Health Authorities in the South West, and supported by the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP)**

#### Summary

Briefing notes are issued monthly for those involved in Children's Services in the South West and describe the activities of the Collaborative Commissioning Support Unit (CCSU) and the SW RIEP Children's Services Programme. Please forward this note to colleagues who you feel will be interested. The Providers Forum met looking at Aiming High for Disabled Children.

#### Key People

The updated Commissioning Forum membership address list is on the SW RIEP website. Recruitment has been taking place for a Social Care Senior Programme Manager and a second Children's Services Programme Manager – names will be announced soon.

#### Commissioning Forum

The Senior Commissioning Managers from the authorities will meet on 28 November to engage with the new Commissioning Support packages from SW RIEP and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and to steer Commissioning Forum future activities. Health and the DCSF Commissioning programme will be represented.

Forum meeting dates for next year will be set soon, please put them in diaries and keep them free. The Forum is an important strategic meeting for commissioning in the region.



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## SW Region Provider Forum

The second meeting in 2008 was held on 23 October, with good attendance from Providers and Commissioners. The meeting discussed the revamped Cross Regional Placement Database, progress on implementing Outcomes Frameworks and Aiming High for Disabled Children.

## SW RIEP Delivery Plan

The Directors of Children's Services met in October and endorsed the delivery plan and initial funding allocations.

## Support for Local Authority Capacity Building

GOSW, IDeA, and Steve Huggett from National Strategies, with Somerset (SEN Regional Hub), are supporting key Local Area Agreement priorities and the legacy of the Regional Partnership.

An Obesity project is progressing with a workshop on 11 December. A teenage pregnancy project is being scoped.

Brokerage of expertise is delayed awaiting clarity on the interface with the Commissioning Support Programme and the new Centre for Excellence in Outcomes (C4EO).

## Support for Commissioning Process and Practice

This will be developed at the meeting of senior commissioning managers on 28 November. The DCSF support programme has a new website on [www.commissioningsupport.org.uk](http://www.commissioningsupport.org.uk)

## Data and Information Management

The updated CRPD database is easier to use and is being populated with Provider's information. There is also a useful documents section with all the processes and protocols. Local Authorities reps now have access via passwords.

The Annual SW Placement Survey of SEN (Schools), Social Care and Independent Fostering placements, has been collated and placed on the website, complete with useful trend data. There will not be a hard copy this year as authorities can find the comparison data they need on the website. There is also a SW Provider Directory, a data book to permit authorities to identify benchmarks, focusing on data that is important to commissioners, and an Information Toolkit. All documents are in the members section, available for the use of commissioners.

## Improvement and Efficiency Projects

**The Northern Group** suppliers list for Residential Care is in use.

**The Peninsular Placement Tendering Group** covers all Social Care and some Education placements in Devon, Torbay, Somerset, Plymouth and Cornwall with individual placements made by tender against Needs and Outcomes statements.

Additional providers who were successful in the recent tender have been added to the pre-qualified list. The process has been extended into SEN placements. The project review has defined a phase three which has been authorised to develop commissioning around the whole cycle.

**The Eastern Group SEN Residential Schools Placement Project** (ten authorities) is led by Gloucestershire to develop new relationships with Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools. Results of the tender will be announced this month.

Successful providers will join a pre-qualified list to be the first port of call for all residential SEN placements from January.

**A project to tender Independent Fostering Placements** involving six authorities is led by Gloucestershire using the new National Fostering Contract. The Tender is now open with details on:  
[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fosteringtender](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fosteringtender)

It closes at noon on Friday 5 December.

**Future Projects** will include Parent and Baby assessments and is being scoped by Laura Tufton and Linda Barnett in Somerset.

### **Joint Project with Health looking at Provision for Young People with Severe Behavioural and Mental Health Problems**

This is currently being scoped by CSIP. It was discussed with Health Leads at their meeting on 8 October, and pilot work is being looked at with authorities. New draft Health guidelines for continuing care are out for consultation.

#### ***and also***

**The National Fostering Contract is now available for use.** The Deloitte and Touche investigation into **the future of Secure Accommodation** is expected to report imminently. The National Commissioning and Contracting Conference took place in October with workshops on the Peninsula SEN work and Swindon procurement activities. Papers are on the conference website.

A conference was held in the Peninsula on their draft VCS support framework



## **Information on the Website**

Note change of address to [www.southwestiep.gov.uk](http://www.southwestiep.gov.uk) there is an 'r' missing in the website address, but when you have found it, follow the Programmes tab and then click on Children and Young People. New information is being added each month.

The member's area is accessed from the bottom of the Children and Young People page or from the Home page.

The contact is below if you need the password. Currently the member's area is restricted to Local Authority Commissioners.

**For Further Information** please ring John Lees on 01594 564771 or e-mail: [j.lees@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:j.lees@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

**If you would like to submit information for this newsletter contact:**

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