



Children's Services Programme – May Briefing Note

26/04/2007

Projects owned by the County, Unitary and Health Authorities in the South West and supported by the South West Centre of Excellence

Summary

This is one of a regular series of briefing notes for those involved in Children's Services projects in the South West. Please forward it to any other interested parties.

The DfES application package for bids for funding Pilot Regional Commissioning Units has been submitted and we await the result promised for week commencing 14th May. A well attended seminar was held to share learning from the Peninsula Placement Tendering Project.

Key People

The Commissioning Forum membership address list is on the SWCoE website.

Projects

Commissioning Forum:

The next meeting is on Friday 18th May at the Cleve Hotel and Country Club, just off junction 26 of the M5, starting at 09:30. There will be a significant input on commissioning with the Voluntary Sector led by the NCVCCO, as well as a "View from the Bridge" from GOSW and input on the new "Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being" from the Department of Health. Following all the work that has been done this month on the DfES bid we will also look at the plans for the Collaborative Commissioning Support Unit, significant Sub-Regional projects, and improving the availability and use of information.



Children's Services Supply Base Management System (CRPD)

A joint bid with other regions has been made to the DfES for funding to revamp the CRPD in ways suggested by South West users and scoping work is underway for project completion by September. The Exceptional Fee process for 2007 is well underway and members are getting weekly reports. Participating authorities should now know which existing members they are to shadow to learn about monitoring.

A list of all Residential Providers in our region has been obtained from CSCI and this is being developed into a form that should assist market mapping. It is intended that funding from the Children's Services Programme and the South West DfES bid will facilitate a review of existing information and how it can be used, and to define any further requirements to support management decision making.

Provider Forum

The next meeting of the Provider forum is on 8th June at the Rookery Manor Hotel, Bridgewater, starting at 09:30 and it is hoped each local authority will send at least one representative who will have an interest in one of the working groups (Outcomes: Tracy de Bernhardt Dunkin, SW School & College; Placement Processes: Ruth Bayard, Regard Partnership; Contracting: Brian Jones, SENAD group; Placement Support: Paul Mills, Woodside Foster Care; and Needs Analysis Angela Geer, Care UK).

Development and Piloting of Model Partnerships with Providers

The Northern Group (Swindon) of seven authorities has agreed the draft of the Gateway 2 report, and evaluation criteria for a joint tender of a call-off contract to meet needs for Residential Home provision. The invitation to tender should go out on the 24th May.

The Peninsular Placement Tendering Group held a seminar on the process that was well attended by authorities in the region as well as representatives from Wales, the North West and Worcestershire. Learning from the work in the far South West can inform much of our future activity. Future developments will include Cornwall tendering most placement by 1st September; and Plymouth and Somerset joining the group later in the year. It is hoped that Somerset will lead the application and development of the process to SEN residential school placements.

Invitations have been sent out to authorities to express interest in further SEN residential schools placement projects to be sponsored by the SWCoE programme and supported by a reference group run by the Regional Partnership

And Also

The National Residential Contract consultation period is now complete and a meeting on 9th/10th May will review the results.

Ten authorities have expressed interest in DfES consultancy help on any aspect of commissioning and GOSW have now submitted the list.

Information on the Website:

Keep looking at the Children's Services information on the South West Centre of Excellence Website. Go to www.swce.gov.uk. Currently the top two downloads are both Children's Services items – so someone is using it!

On the public pages you will find:

- This briefing note under South West News
- A tab giving Children's commissioning contacts and areas of good practice
- Access to documents such as the DfES Joint Commissioning Guidance, the Green Paper: Care Matters, the Audit Commission Report on Out of Authority Placements for Special Educational Needs and Outcomes Driving Commissioning, a NW Good Practice Toolkit. **New this month:** "Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being" from the Department of Health, and "a Regional Framework to Support Commissioning" from East Midlands. These and others are in a section headed National Requirements and Guidance, Children's Services

In the Members Section many other documents relating to the Programme can be found. The contact is below if you need the password.

Contact

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