

Children's Services Budget Challenge

25th October 2011



In attendance:

- Bronwen Lacey
- Colin Moore
- Maggie Carter
- Mairead MacNeil
- Barry Keel
- Anthony Payne
- Adam Broome
- Carole Burgoyne
- David Northey
- Patrick Hartop
- Claire Oatway

Challenges facing Service

- Change programme which is ongoing over the last 18 months amidst reduction in budget. However, achieved excellent rating from Ofsted with performance and value for money improving
- Ofsted highlighted challenges around aspiration and the post 16 agenda
- Concerned about level of commitment from partners around Locality working
- Increasing demand for children's social care services
- Making the most of trading relationship with schools

Risks

- Economic climate with rising levels of child poverty and youth unemployment
- Rising birth rate in recent years particularly in the most deprived areas of the City
- Shifts in the way educational spend is managed locally
- Judicial reviews and impact on spending controls

What is the service doing

- Diversion from Care and reducing the placements and costs for independent residential and foster care.
- Localities agenda including Common Assessment Framework expansion and effective, co-ordinated early intervention
- Care First developments have led to efficiencies
- Improving attainment of vulnerable groups
- Improving attendance and reducing persistent absence
- Reducing exclusion

What help can we do with

- Help from Community Services in managing the transition to adulthood. There are issues around the cost of care packages for those in transitions.
- ICT to support interagency working and information sharing
- PCT Cluster re contracts
- PHNT re: integration of services for disabilities
- Plymouth Community Health Care for locality working
- Corporate approach to trading with academies

- Police and health support to multi-agency safeguarding hub to stem need

CMT Challenges

- Different perception of partnership working in Community Service centred around the role of adults as parents
- Has good practice from the work around Care First and remodelling the Adult Social Care Service been picked up in Children's Services.
- Confirmation of a 3 year commissioning plan with market statement