

Overview & Scrutiny

Confidence in your Council

Briefing Report No: **286/2010** Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with complex needs arising from disability– progress update**

Wards Affected: **All Wards in Torbay**

To: **Health Scrutiny Board** On: **2nd December 2010**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Board on the process of procuring short breaks for children and young people with complex needs arising from a disability.
- 1.2 Reports 153/2010 from 17th June 2010 and 188/2010 from 15th July 2010 provide the rationale for the procurement exercise.

2. Recommendations for decision

In July 2010 the Health Scrutiny Board considered the proposal to embark on a procurement process for short break services to include overnight, day care, in-reach care and emergency breaks for children and young people with complex needs arising from a disability. A presentation about the Short Breaks Transformation work that has been jointly undertaken by Torbay Children's Services, Integrated Joint Agency Children's Disability Service, and Torbay Care Trust were shared with the Board on 15/07/10; along with the draft service specification.

It was agreed that the Board did not have sufficient information at that stage to indicate whether the proposed change would constitute a substantial variation to the provision of services or a substantial development of services; and it was agreed that once tender options had arisen from the procurement process, the Board would be better placed to make this judgement.

It was discussed that Torbay Care Trust would embark on the procurement process with a view to sharing the outcomes of this with the committee; it was thought that this information might be available by December 2010. However it has been imperative to follow Torbay Care Trust's Commissioned Services Procurement Governance Approval process, which provides Torbay Care Trust

Board with assurance through scrutiny.

It has taken some time to navigate the process which seeks approval for the commissioning and procurement approach from a range of strategic committees incorporating senior managers, GPs and clinicians. The proposal to embark on a procurement process for short breaks has been approved by the Paediatric Clinical Commissioning Group (including paediatricians and GP's), Commissioning Group, the Professional Executive Committee (including GP's and other health professionals), Management Team, Integrated and Strategic Governance Committee. The Children's Trust Commissioning Board has also signalled agreement to this commissioning and procurement approach for short breaks services for children with complex needs.

The Board will appreciate that the release of the Health White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' has far-reaching implications for the future of commissioning and it has been essential to ensure that the Bay-wide GP Consortia are in support of the direction of travel for commissioning short breaks for this cohort of children.

The Board is asked to note that the ring-fenced Aiming High for Disabled Children funds received by the local authority from central government will cease post March 2011 which will impact on services for Disabled Children in the Bay. Therefore it is crucial that both Torbay Care Trust and the Integrated Joint Agency Children's Disability Service jointly plan and commission services for the future in order to make the most of available resources. The Integrated Joint Agency Children's Disability Service and Torbay Care Trust will present their joint vision for Aiming High for Disabled Children: Lasting Change to the Children's Trust Board in January 2011, of which the procurement of short breaks for children with complex needs will form a part.

Torbay Care Trust are now in a position to go ahead with the tender process for this area of service and an advert will be placed on the 'Supply to Health' and 'Supply to Gov' procurement websites in December 2010.

A Provider Briefing event will be organised for January 2011 and will provide an opportunity for potential providers to seek clarification around the tender brief and process; and a small number of parent/ carer representatives will be invited to attend. As previously discussed a member of the HOSC Board will be invited in an observational capacity.

Parents and carers will also be invited to participate in the evaluation and short listing of tenders. It is anticipated that this will take place in April/May 2011.

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background papers

- Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Physical and Learning Disabilities- Health Scrutiny Board, 17 June 2010
- Commissioning Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Physical and Learning Disabilities- Health Scrutiny Board, 15 July 2010