

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Board

30th November 2017

Report of the Head of Social Work Services - Andrew Jarrett

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All wards

Permission to Enter into An Inter-Authority Agreement for the delivery of a Regional Multi-Agency Placement Support Service

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the establishment of a regional Multi-Agency Placement Support Service (MAPSS) pilot, and to seek delegated authority for the Head of Social Work Services for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (the Council) to enter into an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) with the City and County of Swansea (CCoS) and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in relation to the regional MAPSS pilot.

Executive Summary

2. Following a successful joint bid by the Council, CCoS and BCBC to the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF), £313,784 has been made available to implement a regional MAPSS pilot until March 31st 2018.
3. The Council is the lead authority in the establishment and delivery of the regional MAPSS pilot. This is a joint service with CCoS and BCBC and has involved working closely with partners in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU HB) and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the three local authority education departments.
4. MAPSS aims to provide additional placement support to children and young people who have complex needs and are Looked After by the Council, CCoS or BCBC. This will be achieved providing support around the Service User through the delivery of a co-ordinated multi-agency response
5. There is a need for the Council to enter into an IAA with CCoS and BCBC. This agreement sets out the terms and conditions of the arrangement and governance of the partnership arrangement.

Background

6. MAPSS is a regional pilot funded through Welsh Government ICF until 31st March 2018. The service is delivered by a virtual multi-disciplinary team operating across Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend. MAPSS will provide additional placement support around the child or young person and their carer through the delivery of a co-ordinated multi-agency response.
7. The service aims to help Looked After Children across the Western Bay region with, or at risk of, mental illness and/or emotional and/or behavioural difficulties by providing specialist placement support. The Service will support children and young people by ensuring practice across the Western Bay region is preventative, pro-active, planned and promotes permanence. The high level objectives for MAPSS are:
 - Establishment of an effective and robust pathway to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of looked after children with particularly complex needs;

- Improved placement stability for looked after children;
 - Reduction in the number of children placed with independent foster placements and children's homes;
 - Reduction in the number of looked after children subject to school exclusion;
 - Reduction in the number of children placed out of area;
 - Increased confidence, skills and knowledge of foster carers and professionals;
 - Shaded responsibility of caring for our most vulnerable children amongst a wider group of individuals;
 - Improved links to CAMHS for children with more acute mental illness;
 - Increased understanding of evidence on the number and types of mental health and emotional difficulties to inform future staff training programmes and service developments
8. The Council is the lead authority in the establishment and delivery of MAPSS. A Steering Group has been established to oversee the implementation and delivery of MAPSS, this Steering Group reports to the Heads of Children's Services Group.
9. MAPSS has been developed as a virtual team, this team will include a number of seconded posts as well as externally contracted services. A budget has been made available to each partner authority to purchase sessional psychology and therapy services. Once all arrangements have been put in place, the MAPSS virtual team will include:
- One Lead Clinical Psychologist;
 - One Consultant Social Worker;
 - One Education(Welfare) Officer;
 - One Business Support Officer;
 - One Project Manager;
 - Spot purchased sessional contracts for additional psychology;

- Spot purchased sessional contracts for therapies.
10. The Lead Clinical Psychologist was assigned to the team in October, it is anticipated that all post holders will be appointed by the end of November 2017. Referrals into the service commenced in October 2017 and will be supported by existing social work resources until the MAPSS Consultant Social Worker is in post. Purchasing sessional contracts for any identified therapies or additional psychology will be undertaken by the referring authority.
 11. The partner authorities have agreed to an initial activity split of 50% CCoS, 25% BCBC and 25% the Council. In the spirit of partnership, all authorities have agreed to review these figures if required to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people across the region.
 12. There is a need for the Council to enter into an IAA with CCoS and BCBC. This agreement sets out the terms and conditions of the arrangement and governance of the partnership arrangement. A draft agreement is annexed to this Report and is presently being considered by the three partner authorities.

Financial Impact

13. In this financial year £313,784 from ICF has been made available for the delivery of the service. As the service is fully funded through ICF there should be no financial impact on the Councils base budget in 2017/18.
14. Robust financial monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that the project stays within budget and monthly financial reports will be submitted to the MAPSS Steering Group. Any projected overspend or underspend will be reported to the Heads of Children Services Group.
15. The indicative maximum sum which each partner authority will have available to purchase sessional contracts for psychology and therapy services is (please note these figures are indicative only as of the date of this report and maybe subject to change):

Beneficiary	Q3	Q4	Total
Swansea (50%)	54,628	34,537	89,165

NPT (25%)	27,314	17,268	44,582
Bridgend (25%)	27,314	17,268	44,582
Total	109,256	69,073	178,329

16. Although the service will be fully funded by ICF in 2017/18, there is a potential risk that therapeutic interventions for some children may need to continue in a planned way post March 2018. It has been agreed by the Heads of Children's Services Group that the arrangements and costs of meeting any continuing therapeutic interventions for children referred into MAPSS, will be the responsibility of the referring authority if ICF funding for the MAPSS project is not available in 2018/19.
17. As therapeutic sessions are undertaken in a planned way in line with the identified needs of the children or young person, the potential financial impact to the Council arising from point 16 is low. In addition, robust continuity planning will be undertaken if the project is unsuccessful in attracting additional ICF funding for 2018/19.

Equality Impact Assessment

18. As this report relates to entering into a partnership working agreement, there are no equality impacts associated with this report.
19. An Equality Impact Assessment Screening will be undertaken as part of the development of a new ICF bid for the 2018/19 financial year. The result of this screening and any subsequent Full Equality Impact Assessment (if required) will inform the content of the bid and delivery of any potential service in 2018/19.

Workforce Impacts

20. As noted in point 9, the MAPSS virtual team will include a number of secondments. These secondments will be fixed term until March 31st

2018, with a possibility to extend for up to one year pending agreement of funding.

21. On 16th August 2017, CSMG endorsed a decision for the Head of Adult, Children and Young People Services to approve recruitment into the MAPSS posts. This was on the basis that the pilot would not exceed six months (November 2017- March 2018), thereby negating the requirement of formal approval from the Personnel Committee at this stage. An update report will be provided to Scrutiny for information once MAPSS is fully operational.
22. If an application to ICF to continue the delivery of MAPSS in 2018/19 is successful, a report will be provided to The Council's Scrutiny and Personal Committee to request permission to put in place suitable contractual arrangements for any ongoing employment of the required posts.

Legal Impacts

23. Advice from the Councils legal department is for all partner authorities to enter into an IAA.
24. The IAA sets out the terms of the partnership, including governance arrangements, expectations, responsibilities, liabilities and indemnity.
25. The term of the IAA will be from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2018 or until the date upon which ICF funding ceases to be available from the Welsh Government, whatever is the latest. This period is reflective of the ICF funding cycle.

Risk Management

26. Without an IAA in place, there is a potential risk to the Council in the event of a dispute between partner authorities as there would be no formal legal agreement setting out the terms of the partnership.
27. There may be a risk to MAPSS if the proposal for BCBC to move to the Cwm Taff Health Board area is approved as the preferred option. A Risk Assessment Plan with mitigation proposals for MAPSS has been undertaken; this assessed the overall risk to the project as low. In the event of any potential change to the ABMU HB footprint, the Council will work with all partners to mitigate any potential negative impact on MAPSS.

Consultation

28. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

29. It is recommended that:
 - a. The contents of this update are noted, and;
 - b. The Head of Adults, Children and Young People Services be granted delegated authority to agree the final terms of the Inter-Authority Agreement with the City and County of Swansea and Bridgend County Borough Council and to accordingly enter into the Inter-Authority

Agreement with the City and County of Swansea and
Bridgend County Borough Council.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

30. Entering into an IAA will provide the Council with a legally binding agreement setting out the approved terms of working in partnership with CCoS and BCBC. This will offer protection to the Council in the event of a dispute between partner authorities.

Implementation of Decision

31. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

32. Appendix 1 - Draft Agreement between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, the City and County of Swansea and Bridgend County Borough Council in relation to the Multi-Agency Placement Support Service - Subject to amendment.

List of Background Papers

33. None
34. Officer Contact

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