

Local Commissioning

Children's Centre Advisory Board Guidance

Introduction

The majority of Children's Centre services are common to all Centres and are commissioned through the Single Quindrat Commissioning Board process. These services and activities form a 'core offer' of integrated services for families with children aged 0-5 years available at all Children's Centres.

This 'core offer' can be supplemented by additional services and activities commissioned from each local Children's Centre by the Centre's own Advisory Board. These services are commissioned in response to specific, local needs identified by the Advisory Board often in response to consultation with local children and families. Similarly, the Advisory Boards are able to use their purchasing power to commission additional hours from 'core offer' services if local demand is greater than expected.

There will be an Advisory Board attached to the main Children's Centre in each Quindrat, though the remit of the Boards will extend to Children's Centre services delivered across the Quindrat, either in linked Children's Centres or other outreach locations.

Children's Centre Advisory Board

The key functions of the Children's Centre Advisory Boards are to:

- advise and support Children's Centre staff in the preparation of a local delivery plan detailing services, objectives, targets and outcomes for all Children's Centres in the Quindrat in line local priorities;
- identify local Children's Centre commissioning priorities for the Quindrat and on the selection of services providers to deliver against these priorities;
- develop and maintain robust and continuous consultation processes designed to reach all sections of the local community - particularly families and local community stakeholders - to identify evidence of local need and to ensure the views and needs of families are considered in the planning and development of the Centres;
- monitor the contracts awarded and ensure that the services commissioned are meeting local need; and
- feed monitoring information to the SQCB on a six monthly basis and highlight any areas of concern and emerging trends and service gaps to inform future commissioning.

Membership

The Advisory Boards are made up of local stakeholders working to support families of children aged 0-5. Membership includes representation from local parents, the health service, voluntary sector organisations, early years settings, and local authority child & family support teams.

Frequency of meetings

The Advisory Boards meet quarterly.

Implementation timescales

Action	Timescale
Establish Children's Centre Advisory Boards	November-December 2010
Agree local priorities	January 2011
Publish dates for Advisory Board meetings and funding allocations	January 2011
Advisory Boards publish 2011/12 Plans	March 2011

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