



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY  
REVIEW BOARD  
8 April 2019**

# ITEM 6

Report sponsor: Suanne Lim, Service Director  
Children's Integrated Services  
Report author: Andrew Kaiser, Head of  
Specialist Services

## **Report on the Integrated Disabled Children's Service.**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 This report is intended to provide scrutiny panel with an update with regards to the current position and picture relating to the Integrated Disabled Children's Service (IDCS).
- 1.2 The IDCS is a multi-disciplinary/multi-agency service who work with disabled children from 0-17 to provide services, advice and signpost to other resources. The service is jointly funded between Derby City Council (DCC) and the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- 1.3 The IDCS multi-agency service areas include: a Field Work team, a residential short breaks service, a Community and Home Support Team, Occupational Therapy staff (in Health and Social Care), a Youth Service Team and Community Short Breaks. There is a total of 74.91 FTE staff delivering services, which includes managers, DCC staff and staff commissioned to delivered services from health, i.e. nurses at the residential short breaks unit.
- 1.4 The service aim is to reduce the impact disability has on that child's life with the key principal being that mainstream community based services should be used to achieve this.
- 1.5 The criteria for the service can vary dependent upon which area of the service a child and their family need to access, which is in turn dependent upon their threshold of need. However, generally, a child has to be aged 0-17, be a resident of Derby and have moderate to severe Learning Disability with supporting evidence of the diagnosis needing to be provided.

### **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To ensure that the scrutiny panel are made aware of current services being delivered by the IDCS along with the current workload, pressures and developments in the service.

### **Reason**

- 3.1 To provide scrutiny panel with an opportunity to comment on the current delivery of

services workload, pressures and developments in the IDCS.

## **Supporting information**

- 4.1 As described the IDCS is a multi-agency service that includes a Field Work Team, residential short breaks, a Community and Home Support Team (CHST), an Occupational Therapy Team, Youth Service and Community Short Breaks.

Community Short breaks provides respite for families; helps to increase children's social network and reduce social isolation. Breaks can be from 1 hour sessions to full day trips. It is for families not receiving any other similar type of support. Children have person centred plan with activities that meet their ability level, needs, wishes and feelings. There is also a direct payments option that allows parents to employ their own carer, pay for their own activities etc. but they have to show spends twice per year. The Criteria is for children aged 0-17 with any diagnosed disability and not receiving any other similar service. Services are commissioned by DCC and run by external organisations.

The CHST delivered a range of work for families including: managing behaviour issues, self-care, continence advice and sleep problems. They offer hands on support to children and families to facilitate behavioural change and will often work with the Complex Behaviour Service to achieve this. The team works primarily within the family home but will offer advice and support to access the community. There is a home care aspect to the team, which provider's direct care in family's homes to ensure support for morning and evening routines.

This service is for 5-19 year olds with a diagnosed mild - severe Learning Disability and health needs that cannot be met by a GP or School Nurse and any Physical Disability (with or without the aforementioned Learning Disability and GP criteria). This is part the Early Help offer for children with higher level disabilities in Derby. The team is inspected by CQC and is currently rated 'Good'.

The Fieldwork Team consists of Social Workers and Child Practitioners who complete assessments, planning, safeguarding work and statutory requirements for Looked after Children. The team links in with the Preparing For Adulthood (PFA) agenda for older children with an assessed Learning/physical Disability. They are supported by other teams across the IDCS. The team work with children who are assessed as needing services at a threshold of Child in Need or above, which means that the child's health or development would be impaired without the provision of services to prevent this. The team also work with cases that are subject to Child Protection or Looked After Child plans.

The residential short breaks service provide overnight breaks for disabled children based at the Lighthouse, which has 10 en-suite bedrooms, in 2 units (Sun and Star). The units are presently run by a combination of nurses (provided by the NHS) and residential workers (DCC staff). The service is inspected by OFSTED and currently has a 'Good' rating.

Criteria for the service is for children aged 0-17 year olds with a diagnosed moderate-severe Learning Disability or any other life limiting illness. The service is used where parents are providing waking care and children have a very high level of personal care needs. Children stay 1-3 nights per month on average. Sun unit is used for children with high level multi health needs and Star for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and challenging behaviour.

Occupational Therapists help children to be independent in the family home, assess for aids and adaptations, make arrangements for these and access grants for larger adaptations. The criteria for this service is A CHILD having a diagnosed permanent and substantial Physical Disability and or diagnosed moderate-severe Learning Disability.

The Youth Service work with 11-15 year olds with moderate Learning Disabilities in youth groups to develop learning in informal situations. They look at independent skills and social inclusion and run an independent travel training service to ensure young people can travel to school independently from school year 10.

Families with children accessing the Lighthouse can access Personal Budgets (PB) in the form of Direct Payments (DP), which are given directly to families to allow them to purchase the care/support they need for their child. Children needs to have a diagnosed moderate-severe Learning Disability or other condition i.e. life limiting illness. DCC have to provide a PB where it holds or is preparing an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for a child and they (or their parent) ask for this.

The PB needs to be used to purchase services for needs that are identified in the EHCP and can be in form of a DP where a parent has the money and commissions services, a notional budget where the LA, college or school holds and commissions services, or 3rd party where an individual or organisation holds and commissions, or a combination of all 3.

### **Current Workload.**

There are currently:

102 Child In Need cases open to IDCS

7 Child Protection cases open to IDCS

29 LAC cases open to IDCS

170 cases open to OT team

487 Early Help cases open to IDCS

327 attended youth service provision during Q3 2018/19 (98 x 11-18 years and 229 x 19+ years)

394 Cases open to the Community Short Breaks Team

57 young people accessing the residential short breaks service, some of whom may also be open to Social Workers in the Fieldwork team.

### **Current Pressures.**

The Residential short breaks service is undergoing a re-design due to the desire to offer a longer term model that offers an improved short break experience for children, based on other models across the East Midlands. Furthermore, the current health provider has served DCC with notice of its intention to withdraw from delivering health services from 31.5.19. This offers an opportunity to re-design to a care led model with DCC staff having the opportunity to be trained to deliver health care tasks within the parameters of guidance set by the Royal College of Nursing. This requires detailed staff and public consultation, which is due to imminently commence.

There is a waiting list for Occupational Therapy (OT) services and some staff sickness, which creates risks, as it can mean that children and their parents/carers do not have access to the correct equipment or adaptations to meet the needs created by their physical disability. We are looking to address this by way of accessing funding from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to recruit an additional OT to support the existing team and we are in the process of advertising this post nationally, as local recruitment did not lead to successful recruitment. We are also following up a further additional funding opportunity from Derby Homes for an additional OT post for 12 months, which would likely again to require national advertisement.

The Fieldwork Team have gone through a number of staffing changes of late including the resignation of the Team Manager, who has been replaced by a very strong internal candidate, who will commence role on 1.4.19. We have recruited a new Senior Practitioner who has been a Social Worker at the IDCS for a significant period of time and we have 2 relatively new Social Workers in the team, who will be joined by a third following recruitment to back fill for the Social Worker who is now in a Senior Practitioner role. Whilst this creates some instability, it also offers opportunities to develop the team and create a strong team identity.

### **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 Consultation is continuous in many parts of the service and forms part of the services ongoing performance and quality assurance reports. There is also ongoing consultation and engagement with parents of children who access the residential short breaks service. This takes the form of parental sessions and surveys and also mystery shopper calls to parents to ask them about the quality of service they receive.

Parental feedback is most often very positive with them telling us that they value the service and feel listened to and helped with issues. Parents with children who access the residential short breaks tell us that they value breaks at weekends and school holidays so that they can provide focus on their other children.

### **Other Options**

- 6.1 Several areas of the IDCS have a statutory delivery base, i.e. residential short breaks, and the work in the Field Work team. The work of the Early Help teams such as CHST and CSB ensures that families who have a lower threshold of need have access to services that can prevent escalation of need to a higher and more costly threshold. We are looking (as described in this report) on how we utilise all services at our disposal to support families.
- 6.2 We are looking to re-design the way services are delivered at the residential short breaks unit to bring about improvements in children's experience of their short break, whilst ensuring this still provides good value for money.

### **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 The IDCS is joint funded by Derbyshire CCG and DCC, with the service having both a pooled and non-pooled budget, which covers different areas of the service and includes staffing as well as other costs such as building and lease costs etc...

### **Legal implications**

- 8.1 Given the multi-agency and multi need nature of the service, there is a variety of legislation and regulation that covers the services that are delivered by IDCS, this includes the Children Act 1989, The Chronically Sick and Disable Persons Act 1970, the Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.

### **Other significant implications**

- 9.1 NA, this is an update report and the main operational points are covered through

this report.

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>	NA	
<b>Finance</b>	NA	
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Suanne Lim	
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Andy Smith	
<b>Other(s)</b>	NA	

  

<b>Background papers:</b>	NA
<b>List of appendices:</b>	NA