

Member Briefing

Number: 1129

Title: Introducing the new Early Help and Prevention Service from 1 January 2018

Summary: To update members on the Early Help and Prevention Service following a review of the Integrated Early Support Service earlier this year.

Background

Earlier this year, a review of the Integrated Early Support (IES) Service was carried out to ensure we continue to work productively and effectively with our partners, targeting families with multiple and complex needs that sit within partnership plus on the [continuum of need](#).

The review ran alongside the commissioning of the new Starting Well Service.

Changes to the Integrated Early Support Service

A new Early Help and Prevention Service will be introduced on 1 January 2018.

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) will deliver the new Starting Well Service from the children's centres in west Cheshire from the start of the new year. This will mean the centres will no longer be managed by the Integrated Early Support Service.

The Education Welfare Service, currently part of IES, will move into the Education Directorate. From 1 January 2018, the Education Welfare Service will focus on ensuring the Council meets its statutory duties regarding school attendance and will no longer undertake casework. Schools have been informed about the changes and a transition plan is in place to support colleagues.

The Early Help and Prevention Service

The new Early Help and Prevention Service will focus on three key areas.

- Family casework and domestic violence and abuse
- Early help, schools and partnerships
- Community safety and youth service



A business and governance team will provide the back office function to support the whole service including the administration of the troubled families payments and sourcing new funding streams to support further prevention opportunities.

The service will continue to work to help local children, families and young people with complex needs and adults affected by domestic abuse. Often this will require support from a number of partner organisations and sometimes it can be for families who no longer need help from children's social care.

Help can include supporting adults affected by domestic violence and abuse, victim support for people at risk of domestic abuse, support packages for children who have witnessed domestic abuse, support with health concerns, emotional health and wellbeing support, support for young carers, housing support, supporting people back into work with training and work experience and benefit claim advice.

The Starting Well Service will be integral to the Early Help and Prevention Service. We will work closely with CWP to ensure co-ordinated support is available for families and to empower parents to make positive change. We will continue to deliver some of our targeted interventions in the children's centre buildings. This will include parenting provision and gateway along with some one-to-one sessions.

The separately attached presentation gives an overview of the Early Help and Prevention Service offer along with information about the services we have commissioned to support families to get the right help at the right time.

Find out more

Further information about the service can be accessed via the web links below (**due to be live from 22 December 2017**):

Council website: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/health-and-social-care/children-and-young-people/children-and-young-people.aspx

Local Offer website:

www.westcheshirelocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/cheshirewestandchester/directory/home.page

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