

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

**295. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE HAMPSHIRE FOSTERING SERVICE,
ADOPTION SERVICE AND RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES**

1. On 31 May 2012, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved the updated Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Residential Children's Homes; it being a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, Children's Homes for Adoption Services for the registered provider (in the case of a local authority, the Executive Member) to formally approve the Statement of Purpose of Services on an annual basis.

2. The Regulations and Guidance for Fostering Service, Adoption Services and for Children's Homes states that the service provider (in this instance, the County Council's Children's Services Department) shall compile, a written statement referred to as The Statement of Purpose, which shall consist of a statement of the aims and objectives of the service and a statement as to the services and facilities to be provided by the service. The provider is also responsible for giving a copy of the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted, any person working for the purposes of the service, any foster/ adoptive parent or prospective foster/ adoptive parent, any child placed within any of the services and the parent of any such child.

3. The fostering service uses the Statement of Purpose as a competitive positioning tool that benchmarks local authority and independent services, which is useful in recruitment terms as prospective carers can compare services.

4. Children's homes must also have a Statement of Purpose that sets out the home's overall ethos, values and principles, which play a core part in promoting children's safety and welfare. They should be child focussed and able to demonstrate how the care offered to each child by the home will address their social, emotional, educational and behavioural needs.

5. The County has six children's homes for local children whose needs cannot be met within a family environment. They are all mixed sex units and range from 4-7 beds located throughout Hampshire, accommodating a total of 34 children. There are also three short break units providing overnight short breaks for children with disabilities in the county. In addition, there is a secure children's home for 16 children. This is a national resource and accommodates children under both criminal and welfare orders.

6. The adoption service uses the Statement of Purpose as a position statement explaining the important principles that underpin the service and is available to the public on the adoption website and to other partner organisations.

7. Ongoing work is taking place to develop Hampshire's Fostering, Adoption services and Children's Homes and the Statement of Purpose for each service will be revised at appropriate times in order to reflect these developments.

8. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Residential Children's Homes (search item reference 3570).

296. TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES

1. On 31 May 2012, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave approval to spend and procure a young people's substance misuse service, with an estimated contract value of £1.8m to commence on 1 April 2013 for 3 years.

2. The County Council currently commissions a Tier 3 specialist treatment service in line with national guidance to reduce young people's substance use and to minimise the harm caused by using substances. Since 2009, when the contract was awarded, on average 270 young people per annum have accessed the service, with alcohol and cannabis use being the main reasons for referral.

3. The Council provides a targeted service to educational settings (PRISM) to increase social inclusion and promote educational outcomes for vulnerable pupils who may be involved in substance misuse, with over 200 young people accessing the service per annum. The service is funded by schools forum and also provides the substance misuse provision at Swanwick lodge Secure Children's Home.

4. Following a review of substance misuse services for young people in Hampshire, a new model for delivery is being proposed that will improve the pathway for young people into services. This combines the targeted service aimed at educational settings and the specialist treatment service, resulting in one point of referral and access, including provision for Swanwick Lodge and training for practitioners. The new model will improve delivery by:

- Ensuring young people receive a seamless service appropriate to need;
- Providing one point of referral for practitioners working with young people misusing substances, therefore removing the current barriers associated with different referral routes, for example:
 - o where needs aren't met at Tier 2 having to make a new referral to Tier 3;
 - o young people being worked with in wrong tier service;
 - o waiting lists for Tier 2 service due to capacity issues;
 - o improving planned exits from Tier 3 service.
- Pooling existing budgets, resulting in savings linked with administration, premises and line management.
- Ensuring practitioners in the community are trained to deliver universal and targeted services as appropriate with care pathways into services.

5. Combined funding from the Home office and the Department for Health, known as the Pooled Treatment Budget (PTB), for drug treatment services is allocated annually to Drug Action team partnerships (DATs). Within this allocation, funding for the young people's pooled treatment budget is ring-fenced. Further to this the inclusion of the Processing Referrals Involving Substance Misuse (PRISM) funding is made available through the schools' budget. By consolidating the funding streams for the

young people's specialist treatment service, targeted services for educational settings, Swanwick Lodge and the YOT, there will be funding in the region of £1.8m over the three year period to deliver a more effective and value for money service.

6. Children's Services have already commenced the commissioning and procurement process and a project board consisting of key stakeholders will oversee and guide this process. The members will consult Children's Services and the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) to sign off key tasks and make key decisions and engage with young people to shape the future of the substance misuse services.

7. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Tender for the Provision of Substance Misuse Services (search item reference 3744).

297. RAISING PARTICIPATION IN THE POST 16 OFFER FOR STUDENTS FROM LOW INCOME FAMILIES

1. On 31 May 2012, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved the introduction of a new feature of the post-16 policy statement and associated budget, which provides support to low income students participating in post-16 education or training. He also approved the authority given to the Director of Children's Services to compile terms for distributing monies to Colleges and training providers, and for colleges to indicate particular awards to appropriate students.

2. The proposal for a pilot that trials support for Hampshire students from low income families to access the Post 16 education and training offer in the context of Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) forms part of the new feature of the post-16 policy statement. 3. It will offer support to Hampshire students from low income families by helping them with their transport costs. There will be no condition that students attend a particular college. Support would instead be dependent upon the learner having adequate attendance and completion of the course. Support would not, however, be provided to apprentices with employed status.

3. The timing of this proposal coincides with changes in support for low income students, as well as the expectation that by 2013, 100% of 17 year olds will participate in education, training or employment with training.

4. Local authorities have a key role in championing the needs of young people in their areas and work with local partners to achieve full participation. In Hampshire, other initiatives that align with the RPA include targeted work placements, work trials, developing a wider apprenticeship offer, a review of the post 14 learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) curriculum, the funding of other bodies such as Prince's Trust to provide training opportunities and targeted courses that improve qualifications in English and Mathematics. The Education and Skills Act 2008 places a duty on local authorities to promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area and to make arrangements to identify young people resident in their who are not participating, which will be demonstrated within this pilot.

5. It is estimated that, if ongoing, the total annual expenditure for this proposal would be approximately £247,000, which will be reported in the Home to School Transport Service's budget. Money will be distributed to colleges and training providers,

who will then provide support to students directly and follow an audit process that allows the County Council to account for spending. The proposed new support to Hampshire students from low income families will be included in the County Council's Annual Post 16 Transport Policy Statement.

6. Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Raising participation in the Post 16 offer for students from low income families (search item reference 3898).

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