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**CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PLAN - UPDATE**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an updated progress report on the implementation of the Child Health and Disability Team's Development Plan (**Appendix A**), staff briefing (**Appendix B**), Disability Booklet (**Appendix C**), and October 2016 newsletter for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, (**Appendix D**). This Plan addresses and builds on the recommendations included in this Committee's inquiry report in to Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD).

**Background**

2. The Cabinet approved a response to the Committee's inquiry report at its meeting on 15 December 2014. The report noted that the findings and recommendations are comprehensive and relate to a very wide range of complex strategic, policy and practice issues in relation to services for disabled children and their families. Several of the key findings and recommendations can only be realised over a sustained period and programme of improvement.
3. The response report also included a copy of the Child Health and Disability Team's Development Plan. Members commented that they wished to receive a further update of the plan at a future Committee meeting.

4. The Committee received its last progress report on the implementation of the Development Plan and inquiry recommendations at its meeting on 15 September 2015, when the Committee wrote to welcome that the Disability Team was more stable and that the take up of direct payments had improved. Members, however expressed some concern that there was still some partnership to be undertaken and that the eligibility criteria had still not been developed, and that consultation on the criteria should start as soon as possible. The Committee also recommended that regular consultation with children, families and carers should be started as soon as possible.
5. The Cabinet responded to the letter confirming that they agreed with its contents and that further updates on the Development Plan would incorporate the Committee's recommendations.
6. The latest update highlights that many of the Development Plan's actions are now embedded within the new Disabilities Futures programme with Cardiff's Children's Services being at the centre of the regional integrated programme. Among the many changes in the operational functioning and effectiveness of services that have been implemented in relation to CHAD and disabled children are the following:
  - The establishment for the first time of a Disability Index from 1 April 2016;
  - Permanent team managers and stability of leadership and staff teams;
  - Proactive safeguarding practice;
  - Greater effectiveness and flexibility in aligning commissioned provision to the needs of individual children and their families;
  - More coherent transitional support with significantly greater coherence and commonality of approach across the new Social Services Directorate;
  - Strengthening partnerships with parents and carers.
7. Maintaining the quality of service now delivered by the Child Health and Disability Team is essential in the success of the Disability Futures Programme. The involvement of the Operational Manager, Sarah Woelk,

has been key in ensuring leadership and flexibility in addition to providing consistency for families and children whilst services evolve. This ongoing engagement is a commitment in ensuring the development of services for children with disabilities in line with the aspirations within the Disability Futures Programme.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

8. The scope of this scrutiny is to consider the Children Health and Disability team's development plan, and to pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Director of Children's Services.
  - a. the progress being made to undertake the Actions identified in the Development Plan;
  - b. the impact of the actions to improve the effectiveness of the support for disabled children and young people;
  - d. any identified risks and the appropriateness of any proposed countermeasure;

### **Way Forward**

9. Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families) has been invited and may make a statement. Tony Young, Director of Social Service have been invited to present the Development Plan and to answer any questions Members may have.
10. Members are invited to consider the information set out in the attached report and to identify any issues on which they would wish to receive further information.

### **Legal Implications**

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal

implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

- 12.** The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Committee is recommended to consider the contents of the Development Plan attached at **Appendices A to D** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

**Davina Fiore**  
**Director Governance and Legal Services**  
**2 November 2016**