



CYMORTH COMMISSIONING UPDATE: JULY 2009

Cardiff Children and Young People's Partnership is introducing new commissioning arrangements for the way it spends Cymorth. This Update is intended to answer some of the basic questions that people might have.

WHAT IS THE CYMORTH FUND?

Cymorth is the children and young people's support fund ('*cymorth*' is Welsh for 'support'). It is an annual grant made by the Welsh Assembly Government to support the work of the Children and Young People's Partnership.

It is mainly used to fund projects which have a focus on preventative work with children, young people and their families or on tackling inequality. This year, the Welsh Assembly Government has also asked us to use it to prepare for the introduction of new legislation aimed at reducing child poverty and supporting the participation of children and young people in decision-making. It also funds the central support for the Partnership.

HOW MUCH IS INVOLVED?

In the current year we received just over £6m. However, this will be going down to just over £5m for 2010-11 because some of the Cymorth funding will be transferred Flying Start instead. (This money will still be used for the same kinds of services for families, just paid for by Flying Start rather than Cymorth.)

WHY IS THE PARTNERSHIP MAKING THESE CHANGES?

Most of the projects that currently receive Cymorth funding started before we agreed the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11. This set out the 21 things that everyone involved in the Partnership, including children and young people themselves, decided were the most important things that needed to happen to improve their lives. This means that some parts of the Cymorth programme aren't necessarily what we need to happen now. The process for deciding who should deliver the services hasn't always been very clear either.

So the Partnership decided to make these changes for some very important reasons:

- To make sure that the funding helps us deliver our Plan
- To provide a more transparent and equitable process

The whole fund will be reviewed, including central costs - not just the projects.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

There will have to be changes in the programme to make sure that the projects that we fund help us deliver the outcomes for children and young people that we identified in the Plan and meet the Welsh Assembly Government's requirements.

Some of the current services are already doing that. But we will also need to do some things differently or even stop doing them all together so that we can do new things.

As we review whether we have got the right mix of services, it is also a good time to make sure that we have got the right organisations providing those services. The new arrangements will ensure that there are opportunities in place for both new and existing providers to be part of the new programme.

However, the most important thing is that the changes in the programme are good ones and improve the lives of children, young people and their families.

WHEN WILL THINGS START TO HAPPEN?

The five Core Groups, which are the Partnership's planning groups, will be carrying out a major piece of work over the summer to identify which services they feel need support from Cymorth in order to deliver the priorities they have been responsible for in the Children and Young People's Plan.

By November we will have made decisions about what services we want to fund and what the next stages in the process are going to be. However, there is a firm commitment to start having new agreements in place from 1 April 2010.

WHO IS GOING TO BE MAKING THE DECISIONS?

A number of groups will be involved in making these decisions:

- The Core Groups (and their sub groups) will make recommendations about what areas of work they need to deliver their parts of the Plan. The Core Groups have representatives from all the statutory partners, the voluntary sector network and the Parents' Network.
- The Joint Commissioning Group will make sure that there is a good balance of provision across the whole programme before the proposals go to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board for approval.

HOW CAN WE HAVE A SAY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS?

Many organisations have representatives on the planning groups. But we also want to make sure that we involve all stakeholders, including children, young people and families, in the process. This will be done through working with existing groups like U-Share, Llygaid y Ddinas, the Parents' Network and the Children and Young People's Network (supported by Voluntary Action Cardiff).

There will also be some awareness-raising and training sessions for providers to make sure that we maintain good communication and also provide some support in areas where they might need development.

WHERE DO I GO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions or would like more specific information about any of this, please contact Ceri George, Joint Commissioning Officer at the Children and Young People's Partnership:

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