



CYMORTH COMMISSIONING UPDATE FOR PROJECTS: JULY 2009

As you will be aware, Cardiff Children and Young People's Partnership is introducing new commissioning arrangements for the way it spends Cymorth. This Update is intended to bring providers who currently receive Cymorth funding up to date with what is happening.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Following the Partnership Commissioning Workshop on 12 June, all Cymorth providers were informed that the current funding arrangement would continue until 31 March 2010 and that new provider agreements would be in place for 1 April.
- There was further discussion about the arrangements at meetings of the Joint Commissioning Group [JCG] (3 July) and Partnership Board (8 July) when the next steps in the process were agreed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- The five Core Groups have been asked to carry out a major piece of work between July and September. They will be identifying the kinds of services that are needed to deliver the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan, which are suitable for Cymorth funding.
- These proposals will go to the JCG in the autumn so that they can look at the balance of proposed services across the whole programme. They will also be assessing which services are most crucial to the delivery of the priorities and which carry the highest risk to children and young people if they are not delivered.
- By November the Partnership will have made decisions about what services we want to fund and what the next stages in the process are going to be.
- By November, the Partnership will also be reviewing whether it will be possible to introduce all the changes we want across the whole programme before 1 April next year. At this stage, we will be able to give projects further information about progress and about next steps.

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 and its 21 priorities. Also this year, the Welsh Assembly Government is asking us to use Cymorth 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. 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 to 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 people providing those services. The Board has decided that they will move to arrangements that include procurement and tendering. This will provide opportunities for both existing providers and new providers to be part of the new programme.

We recognise that this will mean a continuing period of uncertainty for current providers. We also realise that use of a tendering process itself will make demands on organisations, especially those in the voluntary sector. We will be working with VAC and their Children and Young People's Network to make sure that there is support and training if needed.

However, the most important thing is that we work with everyone involved to make sure that the changes in the programme are good ones and improve the lives of children, young people and their families.

HOW CAN WE HAVE A SAY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS?

Many organisations have representatives on the planning groups, either as individual organisations or as sectors. This is the best route for you to have an input about the decisions that are made. There will also be some awareness-raising sessions for providers to make sure that we maintain good communication and give you a chance to ask questions about what is happening.

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 and the Parents' Network.

WHERE DO I GO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

A number of documents have been produced to support the work that is taking place in the planning and decision-making groups. These are public documents and anyone can request copies.

If you would like copies of the documentation or if you have any further questions, please contact Ceri George, Joint Commissioning Officer at the Children and Young People's Partnership:

Tel: 029 2052 8088

E-mail: C&YPFramework@cardiff.gov.uk