



CYMORTH COMMISSIONING UPDATE: JUNE 2010

BACKGROUND

Over the past year, the Partnership has been carrying out a review of the way in which it uses its Cymorth funding. The purpose of the review was to make sure that the programme of projects and services was more closely aligned to the priorities in *Cardiff Children and Young People's Plan*.

Information about this process, how the decisions were made and the commissioning programme are set out on the Partnership's *Ifanc* website: www.ifanc.org.uk.

NEW GUIDANCE FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

In May the Welsh Assembly Government [WAG] announced that it intends to use the money allocated to Cymorth to establish a new fund which supports the delivery of its strategy for tackling child poverty.

This means that Cymorth will no longer be transferring into the local authority's core funding in April 2011. It also means that the way in which the funding can be used will be changing. No detailed guidance has yet been published in relation to this, so it is not clear at present how much discretion local partnerships will have to identify the services they need or how far the new programme will be prescribed by WAG.

THE CARDIFF PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE

It is a positive sign that WAG are still committed to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people. However, the current lack of detailed information about the new arrangements does have implications for our commissioning plans and has led to uncertainty for everyone involved. In Cardiff, as elsewhere in Wales, this is causing a great deal of anxiety for funded projects.

The Partnership has taken decisions aimed at managing the uncertainty as best we can and to make the most effective use of the resources available until March 2011.

- We cannot go forward to tender on the three-year contracts planned until there is further information from WAG about the new guidance.
- However, there will be advertisements of grants for pieces of development work to enable progress to be made on priorities in the current financial year.
- Existing projects which were going to be re-tendered have been informed that they will continue under the current arrangements until 31 March 2011.
- There will be a Partnership response to the consultation on WAG's strategy for tackling child poverty, which will underpin the new programme, with a Partnership consultation event planned for 14th July.
- The Partnership is writing to WAG, drawing attention to the urgency required in receiving more detailed information from them. This will be crucial for all of us in being able plan effectively for the future.

We will keep projects and others informed when further information becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any specific queries, please feel free to contact the Joint Commissioning Officer, Ceri George, (Tel: 029 2052 8088).