

**Briefing for Cllr Madden on Pre-Birth to 19 commission, now known as the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service (ECFWS).**

**For People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018.**

- What we commissioned is different from what we've had before; this is because the Early Years' review which we undertook, prior to the procurement, showed us that we needed something different.
- Families wanted something different, people who were working in the system to whom we spoke wanted something different, and we needed to do something different to do a better job of meeting the aspirations that we want for Essex children and families.
- Key things that we needed to do differently are more joined up services, through professionals and practitioners working closer together, having less static buildings to allow services to be taken out to where the families already are in their communities, rather than relying on them to attend centre based services and support, using the considerable strengths and assets that exist within families to make outcomes sustainable, and better outcomes for those families worst off in Essex
- A core part of this join up, of which we are very proud, is the joint contracting with West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, on their children's therapy services. Such services are the commissioning responsibility of CCGs, but families are not interested in who commissions what part of the service pathway, they just want it all to join up. So the joint contract with West Essex CCG is a considerable benefit to families and we're already seeing some of the green shoots of this. We should shout about the fact that this is a national first for Essex – no other Local Authority has done this. Despite our best efforts in ECC, the other 4 CCGs were not in a position to jointly contract with us at the start of this contract, in April 2017. This was due to their own contractual arrangements with their existing service providers. But the contract has been written so that all the other CCGs, or any other organisation that could usefully partner with us to improve families seamless experience, could join us if they're able during the remainder of this 7 plus 3 year contract.
- We set Virgin Care and Barnardos a very challenging task and they've spent the first year reviewing what they inherited and how it could best be configured to deliver the new outcomes which we've commissioned. We now have, across Essex, 12 Family Hubs (one per district) with 29 new integrated Healthy Family Teams to support families achieving positive outcomes. Importantly, these teams are multidisciplinary, are more centred around the needs of families than professional staff boundaries. There has also been significant investment in

developing a single information technology system so that all staff, regardless of their professional background, can see the same information about families. This is a real achievement in the first year, given the significantly different IT systems that the provider inherited from previous providers covering different parts of Essex, and previously separate ECC contracts. It goes a long way to families telling their story only once, rather than lots of times to different staff – a problem which came out strongly in the Early Years review we undertook before the procurement. There is also a lot of good work being undertaken with community capacity building and emerging examples of some local communities are being supported to develop and run their own services

- Performance - Richard will talk through the performance of the service so far. The point I'd like to make is that the service has been tasked, in the first year, with keeping the ship afloat, whilst undertaking substantial staff and service transformation in line with the innovative, outcomes based specification that we've commissioned.