

Parent Carer Voice Meeting: 14.01.09

Update on FACB Budget Pressures

1. Context

- The spend on carers breaks is increasing year on year:-

2006/07 spend: £2,538,000

2007/08 spend: £3,030,000

2008/09 budget: £3,519,000

- The 2009/10 budget settlement is tough, and still under negotiation. CYPS is recommending a carers' breaks budget of around £4m, a 500K increase on 2008/09 budget, but short of 2008/09 spend. There will also be new monies from 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' of over 400K, some of which will go towards carers breaks.
- The detailed case audit was completed in November. Almost all of the 1100 families in receipt of carers breaks now have an up to date FACB banding.
- There are a relatively small number of children in 52 week a year placements and 82 children in 'shared care' type arrangements whose care costs exceed the FACB ceiling of 18K.
- The management action we took in September 2008 has contained spend, but the budget will still overspend. This is being covered from other DCC / CYPS budgets.

2. Reasons for the budget pressures

- Demographic change
- Improving access to joint agency services
- Some over-allocations against FACB bands, mainly of long-standing commitments
- Historic dependence on 'block contracted' high cost residential care
- Greater sophistication by parents/carers in using the FACB tools to maximise points.

3. Have there been savings elsewhere

- 52 week a year placements have reduced slightly in last 2 years.
- More children with very complex needs are being educated in Devon schools with home support packages

over/...

4. Recommendations for budget management, 2009/10

- The FACB points system should be revised to:-
 - a) group points into 11 bands, each with a maximum allocation
 - b) have an upper FACB scheme limit of 13K, with allocations above this level being determined by Area Managers.
 - c) that FACB points are a guide to inform resource allocations, not an automatic entitlement. Individual allocations to be decided through case planning involving family, keyworker and authorising manager.

- direct payments policy is updated, in consultation with PCV

- residential services are paid by activity, and not block contracts

- AHDC money is targeted at SW Devon first, and then N Devon, to re-dress historic differences in resourcing across Devon.

- a charging policy be introduced for families in receipt of compensation awards.

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09.01.09