

26th September 2006

Email to Ray Shostak, Tom Jefferey

Cc Policy Review Team

CSR 2007 - call for evidence

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important issue.

My apologies for a "late entry" but as you know I am rather busy with CPA/JAR and 3 inspections and lately our work with WAVE Trust.

I will comment on all 4 areas.

It is worth saying that the initiatives over the last 3/4 years from ECM, NSF, Children's Centres etc are a good foundation and have undoubtedly helped children.

The current financial pressures of all agencies especially NHS; and the possible unintended consequences of separate service reductions; pose a threat to the range of early intervention and prevention services as agencies re focus to minimum necessary and re active service.

Prevention

The balance of universal and enhanced services needs to be influenced by the cumulative evidence, research and data.

Much is known and though not 100% certain – there is a good enough basis for the linking of funding for universal and enhanced provision to be linked to key indicators of need and "potential" for problems eg the young, first, single parent; the impact of focussed support during pregnancy and 0 – 3.

Such funding would need some ring fence to ensure focus on these groups; not as victims or causes of problems but at risk of experiencing difficulties – similar to medical prevalence and focus on diabetes, heart etc. The no blame but real gain approach will need a clear national information programme.

Disabled Children

The key here is a single clear pathway from diagnosis / onset of disability though early years, school, training, transition and employment.

A multi agency pathway with clear core offer and a social disability not medical model. The emphasis moving away from legal challenge via SEN and tribunals to agreed partnership outcome plans between families and agencies.

If the health, school and support systems are not re engineered to one system we miss an opportunity. Key performance indicators and money linked to a payment by results process could bring about change.

Youth Service

The excellent but separate structures of YOT, Connexions, Youth service, have had an impact – but their time is ended.

A more integrated Young People's service, one structure, one fund – joined up outcomes would be a step forward.

The 3 elements are

- universal activity
- enhanced activity (targeted on need/risk)
- individual challenge and support

Such a powerful single and outcome focussed service that had active engagement of young people in design and delivery would mesh well with local focus and need and extended schools, clusters etc.

We have done some work on this in Harrow.

High Cost Families

The enhanced service via a lead professional and multi agency group to challenge and support such families is essential.

This reduces visits, records, process – engages family and agrees on realistic outcomes of meaning to family and professionals.

This requires detailed analysis of the issues – under the ECM outcomes and a structured approach to manage delivery.

We have done work on this approach in Harrow.

My comments are brief – we have examples re: young peoples services and High cost families which I would be happy to share.

We are working on the other two proposals and would be pleased to share progress as it happens.