





























































































## **Subject: Review and Redesign of the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service**

Dear Colleagues

Since it began almost two years ago the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH) service has been delivering programmes to some of our most vulnerable residents. Our partnerships are vital to this delivery and I know, like me, you want to make a positive difference to our most vulnerable families and young people.

In order to make sure we are providing the best service that we possibly can, we have to challenge ourselves and review our progress. In December last year, the Local Government Association (LGA) carried out an IPEH peer challenge and support event. The LGA very clearly acknowledged that the workforce was passionate and motivated and that it was providing a good and wide range of services across a broad continuum of need. They also raised questions about whether the service was having enough of an impact in reducing demand for children's social care, if it was affordable and sustainable and whether it was sufficiently focused on outcomes.

At the same time, the Council is facing an unprecedented financial challenge and other parts of children's social care are experiencing a significant increase in demand. This means that the money we have available to spend has to be focused on those in the greatest need and in those areas that deal with our highly vulnerable children and families.

The peer support and challenge findings, benchmarking information and the fact the service is nearly 2 years old, have prompted the right and proper proposed decision to review and redesign IPEH into a much more targeted and focused early help offer. At this stage it's not possible to give the detail of what this will look like but I'm sure that you understand the need to focus on the parts of the service that will have the biggest impact. We have committed to reducing the IPEH part of the children and families budget by £4.9m over the next two years so that can be reinvested in other parts of the Directorate. The proposed decision of the Cabinet Member, after discussion with the Cabinet, has been made and the proposed decision paper is attached.

I know that this proposed decision will prompt many questions. A timetable for engagement is being worked up by the Interim Director of Children's Services, Andrew Fraser, and his team. This will be ready by the beginning of February and will be shared with you for you to get involved in the design of the new targeted early help offer. We want to involve you in shaping the service for the future.

This engagement sessions will help to inform the production of a detailed proposal which will be debated by the Children & Young People's Services Select Committee on the 7th March. This will lead to a formal Cabinet decision later in March, so that the start of implementation can commence from April 2019.

If you have any queries or concerns please do attend our forthcoming engagement sessions and look out for further communications.

Kim Curry | Executive Director, Children, Adults, Families, Health & Education, [West Sussex County Council](#)

Location: County Hall, West Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ

External: 01243 777100 | E-mail: [kim.curry@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:kim.curry@westsussex.gov.uk)











