



Children's Unmet Needs – working with the Voluntary and Community sector to improve outcomes

**Jenny Coles – Director of
Children's Safeguarding and
Specialist Services,
Children's Services**



What we're covering today....

- How Hertfordshire is working with the VCS to improve outcomes for children, young people and families
- To share with you how Hertfordshire, as an “early implementer” of Health and Wellbeing boards has developed a Partnership Commissioning Framework for children's services
- Share with you examples of joint working with the VCS that are focussing on meeting needs better

Improving outcomes for children – how are the VCS currently meeting needs?

- Increase in VCS provision commissioned by children's services since 2005
- 2005 annual spend on VCS services £5M – in 2010/11 annual spend approx £11M
- Changing profile of funded organisations – shifted to more specialist and targeted services for most vulnerable children and their families
- Reflects the changing needs of children and ability of VCS organisations to meet these needs – responsive and flexible and provide good value for money

Meeting needs locally – some examples of VCS provision

- 31 children's centres are led by voluntary sector agencies (out of 82 in Hertfordshire)
- Specialist play schemes for disabled children
- Targeted support for BME children at risk of exclusion and underachieving
- Children's workers in women's refuges
- Wide range of substance misuse and counselling services
- Targeted early years services – i.e. Protective Behaviours

How can you tell us about unmet need?

- Build on our existing relationships and partnerships with you – Mori Survey
- For commissioned services this is through monitoring and sharing feedback – provide evidence and use case studies
- Gathering “intelligence” on local unmet need – feedback from service users, communities and other stakeholders
- Know how to link in with Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) leads in the LA and NHS

Hertfordshire's Partnership Commissioning arrangements – developing framework

- Herts is an early implementer – shadow arrangements in place from April 2011
- Children's Trust arrangements ended in June 2011
- Early implementers have been asked to explore joint working & commissioning across children services
- Focus on building new relationships particularly between GP Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the LA commissioning responsibilities

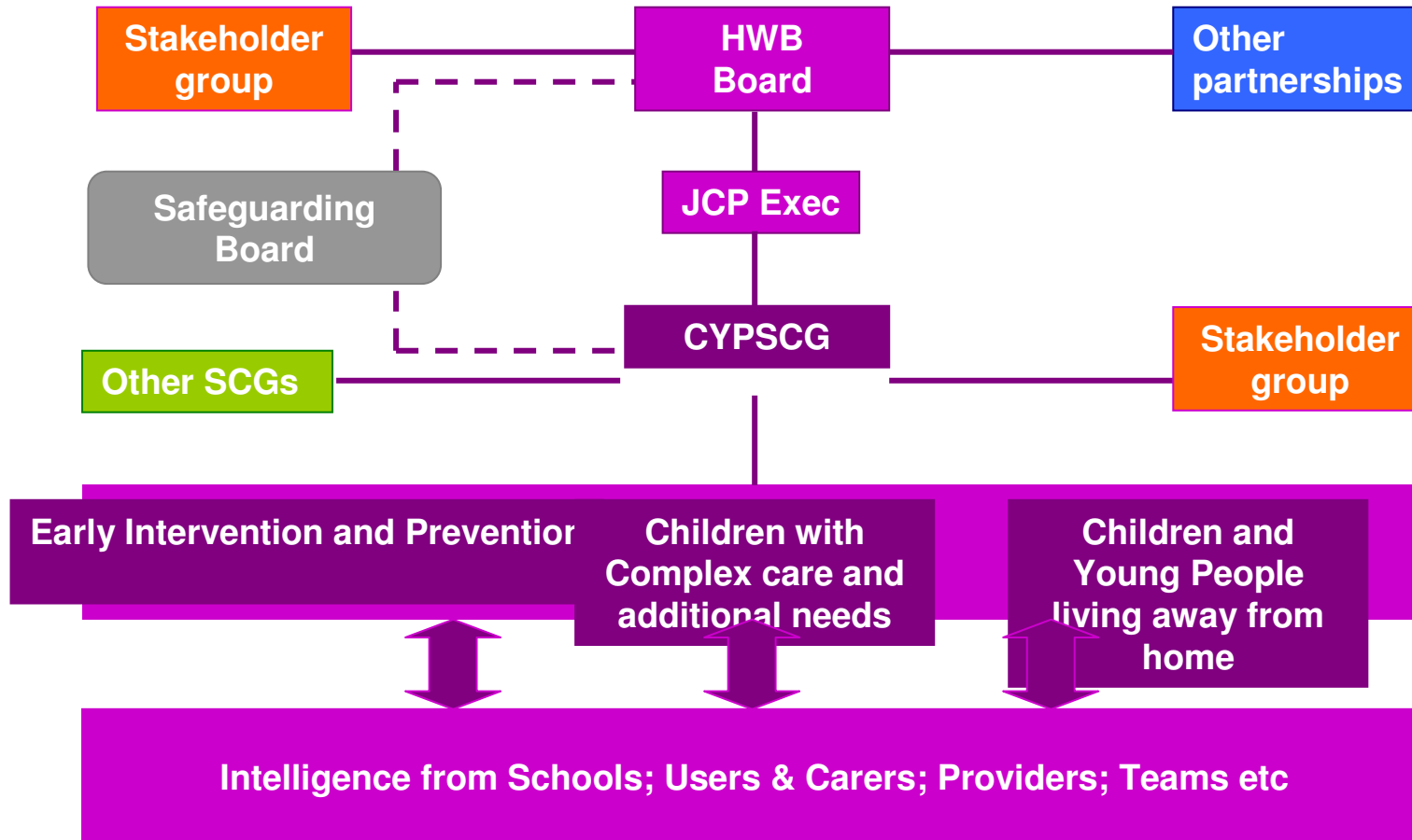
Hertfordshire's Partnership Commissioning arrangements

- Partnership Commissioning framework agreed by Children's Trust Executive in February 2011
- Commissioning framework was developed with input from the voluntary sector, including the CYP Forum and a number of Roundtable Discussions that took place in 2010/11
- One overarching Children and Young Peoples Strategic Commissioning Group (CYPSCG) covering -9 months – 19 (24 for CWD, LDD)
- 3 Strategic Commissioning Groups (SCGs)
 - i. Early Intervention and Prevention
 - ii. Children with Complex Care and Additional Needs
 - iii. Children and Young people living away from home

Strategic Commissioning Groups

- Responsible for developing commissioning strategy/delivery plan for each groups service area
- VCS reps are being nominated through the CYP forum – currently 2 of the 3 SCGs have VCS representation. New Commissioning strategies/delivery plans effective from April 2012
- Multi agency/sector representation, including schools, parent/carers, police, community paediatricians, health commissioners, GPs

Hertfordshire's Partnership Commissioning framework



People and partnerships achieve better outcomes at less cost not frameworks!

New Initiatives – VCS ‘breaking new ground’

Big Lottery Fund- Improving Futures Partnership Bid

- Big Lottery announced new “Improving futures Fund” March 2011 – focussing on children aged 5-10 with multiple and complex needs and their families
- Expressions of Interest VCS led and with LA endoresment
- Led by VCS Strategy group and VCS CYP forum agreed the Partnership and developed the bid
- Led by Westminster Drugs Project, Safer Places and Watford Women's centre. ***“One Herts – One Family – Changing Family Life for a better tomorrow”***

One Herts – One Family progress

- Short listed to final stage
- Now finalising Business plan – total value of bid £900,000 over 3 years
- Targeting children aged 5-10 and their families – combination of intensive practical family support model and range of therapeutic support for children
- Example of how VCS can meet unmet need – and attract new funding to help address needs

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder

- New approach to identifying special educational needs
- £225,000 over 18 months
- Enhancing the role of the VCS, parents and carers in SEND strategic planning and assessments
- Develop personal budgets for young people and their families
- New single assessment – outcome focussed and including health, education and social care

Conclusion - Improving how we meet needs together

- Develop VCS engagement and the new commissioning arrangements
- Build on links with VCS infrastructure groups
- Increased focus on localism
- Promoting early intervention and preventative services – VCS has good track record
- Evidence need and impact of services