

## 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service Consultation

Report of the Chief Officer Childrens Services

*Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.*

### **Recommendation:**

That Children's Scrutiny Committee:

Agree to establish a process to ensure a full contribution is made to the consultation that will commence at the end of November regarding the future of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS) in Devon.

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 Responsibility for Public Health Nursing (School Nurses) transferred, with a wide range of other public health duties, from the NHS to Local Government in 2013. In October 2015 the Public Health Nursing (Health Visitors) responsibility also transferred to Local Government. The PHNS was jointly commissioned by the CCG and DCC as part of an integrated Childrens Community Health Service, with Virgin Care Limited (VCL) as the provider.

1.2 VCL had a five year contract to 31.3.18. At the end of 2017, Cabinet agreed a consultation on future organisational form. As part of that consultation Peoples Scrutiny convened a half day spotlight review (insert link to spotlight review report). Evidence was taken from a range of witnesses and a report submitted to inform Cabinet's decision making. In March 2017, Cabinet committed to a one year contract with VCL to allow time for further exploration and examination of options.

1.3 Negotiations in relation to the one year contract are just reaching a conclusion.

### **2.0 Plans**

2.1 Devon County Council has identified Best Start in Life as one of its key purposeful systems. Work is underway to investigate how the whole system

works to support families to get the right help at the right time and thereby ensure every child in Devon can get the best start in life. There is compelling evidence that effective help in the early years and early in the development of problems, pays dividends later.

- 2.2 Once the investigative phase of work is completed, Devon will be seizing the opportunity to re-design its Best Start in Life system and the future delivery arrangements for PHNS are a crucially important element in that.
- 2.3 Scrutiny played an important role in the last consultation and has an equally important role to play in the current consultation. Cabinet will make decisions on the future of PHNS, early in the New Year.

**Electoral Divisions:** All

Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Childrens Services: Jo Olsson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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BACKGROUND PAPER                      DATE                      FILE REFERENCE

Public Health Nursing Spotlight Review

Health & Wellbeing / People's Scrutiny on 8 March 2017

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s6830/Public%20Health%20Nursing.pdf>