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**EARLY HELP**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report is to update Scrutiny on the current position of Early Help following the extensive remodelling of the service following the MTFP being agreed in June 2016.

**Summary**

2. The report updates on the progress toward full implementation of the service and the achievements to date.

**Yvonne Coates  
Head of Early Intervention**

## Main Report

### Introduction

3. Scrutiny is aware that the extensive remodelling began in June 2016 with the Mid Term Financial Plan being agreed.
4. To date staff consultation has been completed and all staffing positions are now recruited into the final groups within their new roles by June 1st 2017. The staffing reductions have been achieved without the need for any compulsory redundancies
5. To support the new method of working a series of staff engagement and training days have been planned through 2017, to continue to engage staff in development of the model and gaining the skills necessary to undertake the change in roles.
6. Staff have fully engaged in the process and welcome the opportunities this has offered to further develop their skills, the new case management system allows staff to record their work in a professional and timely manner. Although it is early days for the new recording system the development of the performance score card to support activity and quality will have a direct impact on the quality of service offered.
7. The 0-3 service has been absorbed into the service and to date albeit early days families have not raised any concerns regarding the transition and a new drop in service has been developed in May 2017 for parents who use this service. At the first session 12 families attended and reported on the positive experience this had been for them and their children. Monitoring will continue on this service to ensure it continues to meet the needs of this group. Scrutiny requested a further report on this element of the service to be brought in October 2017 which will include feedback from parents and agencies.
8. The Early Help Co-ordinator has continued to offer training to a wide range of agencies. Schools in particular have been very positive on the revised paperwork and training offer.
9. Currently performance on the number of Early Help assessments is reporting a steady increase in the number of Early Help Assessments being completed as of the 31st March 2017. The number completed by internal and external agencies was 87, a 40% increase on the previous year. Further performance data is being developed to ensure the source of the Early Help assessment is available to allow targeting of those agencies that do not complete assessments. In addition to the quantitative data an audit programme is being developed to ensure that the quality of service is of a high standard.
10. The Children Centre consultation commenced mid-April and was completed at the end of May 2017. The responses will be analysed and presented to Cabinet for next steps consideration.

## **Recommendation**

11. It is recommended that scrutiny note the report and the progress to date and the improved performance in Early Help assessments.