



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee

26 October 2011

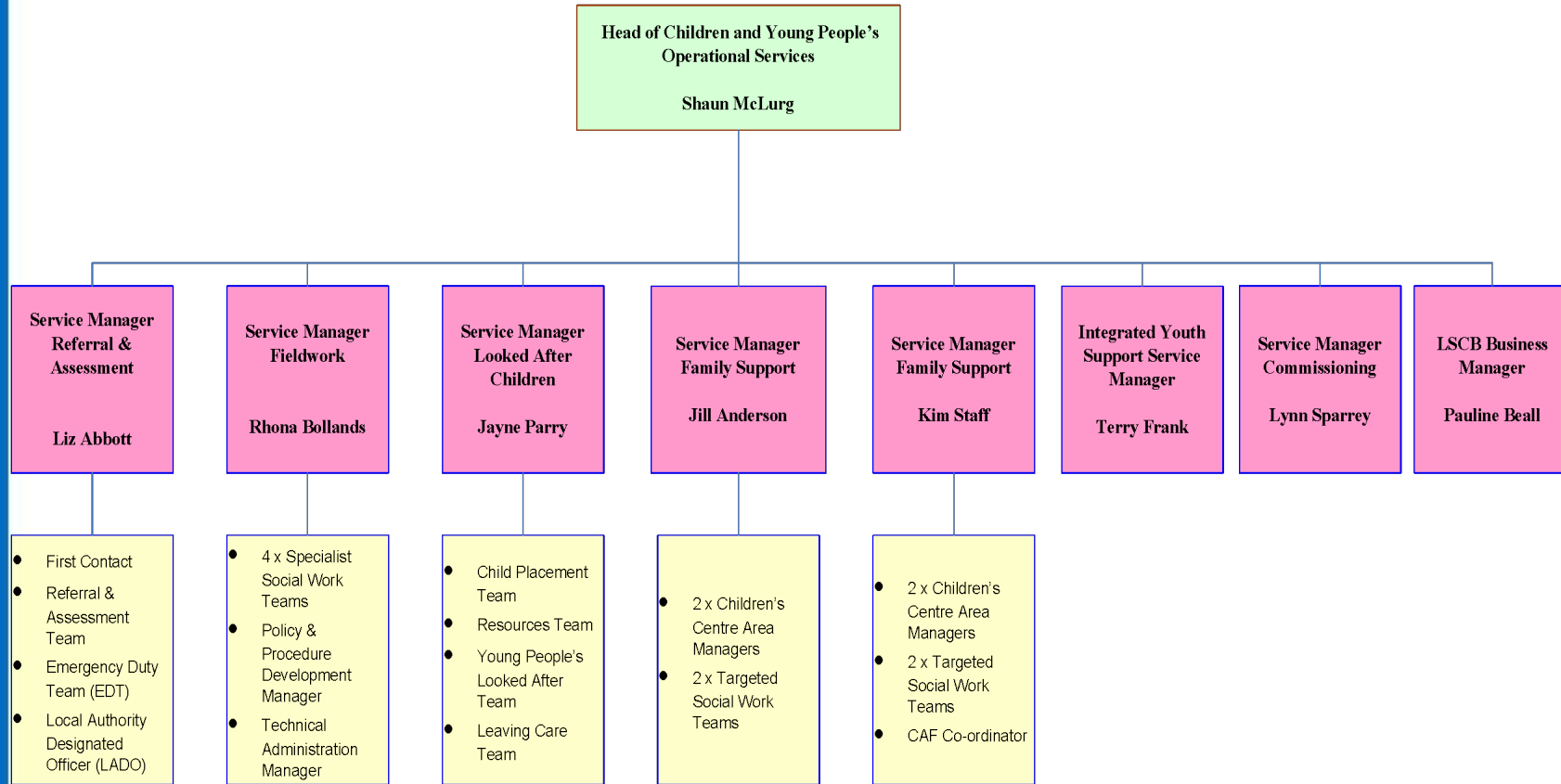
EIT Review of Children's Social Care

Passionate about Stockton-on-Tees

Format of Presentation

- **Current Structure** Shaun McLurg
Head of CYP Operational Services
- **Legal Framework** Rhona Bollands
- **Current Issues** Service Manager, Fieldwork
- **Case Study** Jill Anderson
Service Manager, Family Support
- **Workload/Budget** Shaun McLurg
- **Key Questions** Head of CYP Operational Services
- **Next Steps**

Current Structure



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Legal Framework

- Children Act 1989
 - Section 17 'in need'
 - Section 47 'significant harm'
 - Section 20 'accommodated'
 - Section 31/38 Care Order
 - Section 44 Emergency Protection Order
 - Police Protection
 - Section 25 Secure Accommodation

- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000

- Children Act 2004

Current Issues

- 'Baby P'
- Media coverage
- National shortage of social workers
- Workload pressures
- Munro report

Case Study

- Referral
- First contact
- Initial assessment
- Section 47 investigation
- Initial child protection conference
- Ongoing involvement

Workload

- Quarterly reporting to Cabinet
- Referrals 155 – 277 (per month)
- Initial Assessments 155 – 267 (per month)
- Core Assessments 79 – 154 (per month)
- Child Protections Plans 200 – 264 (total)
- Looked After Children 285 – 301 (total)

Budget

- Overall budget for 2011-12 £19.5m
- Independent fostering agency budget £3.265m - currently projecting £392k overspend
- Children's homes agency placements £2.536m - currently projecting £751k overspend
- Social work staffing budget £3.107m – currently projecting £80k overspend

Key Questions

1. The current organisational structure for children and young people's (CYP) operational services is based on a separation between targeted and specialist social work. How successful has this been in responding to the needs of our service users on a 'right first time' principle and is there a more effective way of structuring the service in the future?
2. As a result of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) EIT review, it is proposed that management responsibility for the home visiting service will transfer to CYP operational services. Given there are already a number of staff within the service area engaged in very similar activities, how should this service be structured in the future in order to maximise the impact for our service users?

Key Questions continued (1)

3. The proposed direction of travel for the EIG EIT review also means that there will be a loss of one service manager post from CYP operational services. How should the service manager portfolios be arranged in future in order to take account of this?
4. Given the current budget pressures within children's social care, are there any services currently being provided which need to be reviewed, provided from elsewhere within the council or ceased altogether?

Key Questions continued (2)

5. A number of temporary arrangements have been established across children's social care in order to address current workload pressures. Which of these have been effective in responding to the needs of our service users and should therefore be continued (budget permitting) and which need to be reviewed or ceased altogether?
6. There have been ongoing difficulties in recruiting to some children's social care posts and as a result a range of different financial incentives have been offered eg golden hellos, recruitment and retention payments etc. How successful have these been in attracting and retaining high quality staff in an increasingly competitive market and do they need to be continued in the future or are there more effective ways of achieving this goal?

Next Steps

- Agree project scope
- Establish project team
- Send out briefing note to staff
- Convene development day
(18/11/11)
- Present progress report to committee
(01/12/11)

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?