

Review of entry policies for young people's centres – update Feb 2012

Context

Following budget decisions and structural changes in Oxfordshire County Council the Early intervention Service was created and came into operation in September 2011. This has incorporated 'open access' work with young people into the thirteen Early Intervention Hubs and satellites across the county. The Early Intervention Hubs operate to the procedures agreed with regard to admission policies in the previous report (December 2010).

Since the start of the Early Intervention Service there has been a clarification of the responsibilities for open access work including: refining and confirming risk assessment procedures and enhancing managerial sign off; ensuring appropriate membership information is collected and held by each centre; putting in place online data systems to record involvement with children and young people; updating and clarifying planning and evaluation procedures and revising overall quality assurance processes.

The place of risk assessment as the key tool for ensuring the safety of staff, children and young people remains at the heart of practice and is applied across the Early Intervention Service.

Conclusion

The Early Intervention Service has built on the guidelines and policies listed in the previous report and continue to ensure that these remain dynamic. Workforce development across the Service contributes to this with training in place to support and develop staff practice. The policy put in place as a result of the scrutiny review has been fully integrated as 'business as usual' for the service.

Ruth Ashwell

Service manager – Youth, Engagement and Opportunities