

HTPCT Financial Plan – Implications for Children’s Services.

Due to a late change to the TPCTs overall financial allocation for 2006/7 the TPCT has undertaken a significant review of its financial plans for 2006/7 over the past 3 months. The net impact of the changed financial allocation was a reduction in available resources of c. £11m. As a result of this all areas of expenditure have had to be reviewed and savings plans put in place to ensure that the TPCT is able to meet its statutory duty to break even.

A series of discussion papers have been taken to TPCT Board meetings in April and May 2006. The two documents that relate to children’s services are attached for information.

- 1) May Board paper – summarised responses received to initial discussion paper and proposed way forward. It sets out a total of £350k savings across the range of TPCT provided community children’s health services. (NB this is a reduction in the initial savings target of £100k) The proposed option incorporates different elements of the initial two options presented (see below). Some of the changes proposed within the initial discussion document relating to the overall service model have been retained, although the timescales have been amended to reflect the complexity and level of change required (e.g. relocating some services to NMUHT).

This paper was approved by the TPCT Board in May and will now be implemented.

- 2) April Board paper – initial discussion paper setting out savings target of £450k and two options as to how savings could be achieved. This paper was circulated to partners for comments within a two week timescale.

The TPCT recognises that these service changes and budget reductions will be of concern to children and families and partner organisations and is committed to managing the changes as carefully as possible to minimise the impact on direct service delivery and to ensure that children with the highest levels of assessed needs are prioritised.

A number of respondents to the discussion document noted that the timescale for response was very short. The TPCT recognises that the very tight timescales have limited scope for stakeholder discussion, however it was not notified of the reduction in its allocation for 2006/7 until February 2006 and this has necessitated very rapid action to ensure deliver a balanced financial plan for this year.