

**24 September 2012****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, EARLY YEARS AND EARLY  
INTERVENTION SERVICE****DEVELOPMENT OF A FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report outlines the establishment of a Family Nurse Partnership in Nottinghamshire and seeks approval for funding to support the establishment of a Nottinghamshire Partnership.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed, evidenced based, intensive nurse-led prevention and early intervention programme for vulnerable first time young parents and their children. It is the first part of the preventive pathway for the 2-5% of most disadvantaged children.
3. The primary purpose of the Family Nurse Partnership is to reduce the impact of multiple deprivation and improve the short and long term health and wellbeing outcomes of children born to vulnerable young first time mothers. Its key objectives are to:-
  - Improve the health and wellbeing of a cohort of the most disadvantaged children and families
  - Prevent social exclusion by early intervention
  - Improve child health and development (including future school readiness and achievement)
  - Improve parenting capacity and economic self-sufficiency
  - Improve pregnancy outcomes for young first time mothers through their engagement in preventative health practices
  - Improve child health and development by helping parents to provide a secure, nurturing and stimulating environment for their children
  - Improve economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents to develop a vision for their own future with their baby
  - Ensure that families receiving the service also receive the core Healthy Child Programme schedule
  - Maximise the engagement of vulnerable clients through effective partnership relationships and offer evidence based preventive interventions and reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing

- Ensure victims of domestic abuse are given the opportunity to disclose and are signposted to appropriate support services.
4. New knowledge on the neurological development of babies and the importance of the parent-infant relationship emphasises the importance of early preventive intervention in pregnancy and the first 2 years of life for children, if outcomes are to be improved and societal costs reduced.
  5. The FNP is specifically targeted at first time parents where the mother is less than 20 years old when her first child is born. The programme is seen nationally as an integral part of maternity, new born and early years provision, and brings together health and social care partners.
  6. In the UK, the FNP licence is held by the Department of Health's FNP National Unit. The Unit has authorised Nottinghamshire's Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Council, through the Public Health Team, to commission the delivery of a Nottinghamshire FNP for the period from April 2013 to April 2016.
  7. The number of live births to teenagers aged 16-18 is an accepted marker of need for the FNP. In Nottinghamshire, the districts of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield, and Newark and Sherwood have the highest numbers of live births to teenagers.
  8. The Nottinghamshire FNP Programme will be jointly commissioned in these areas by the Clinical Commissioning Groups of Mansfield and Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood, Bassetlaw, Nottingham North and East and Nottinghamshire County Council. Delivery of the programme is planned to commence in April 2013, with Nottinghamshire County Health Partnership having been appointed as the service provider following a competitive tendering process.
  9. The FNP will be delivered by 1 Supervisor, 1 Administrator and 8 Family Nurses overall. Each nurse will have up to 50 clients. There will be 2 Family Nurses each for Bassetlaw, Nottingham North and East, Mansfield and Ashfield, and Newark and Sherwood, with the expectation that the Family Nurses and Supervisor establish and maintain close and effective links with health and social care services in each of the delivery areas. The Service team will be based in local venues and integrated where possible within children's centres.
  10. The FNP will provide structured home visiting from early ante-natal until the child is 2 years of age, by the same Family Nurse to ensure consistency of support. Families in receipt of FNP support will be supported to access wider service provision, including children's centre activities.
  11. The FNP programme supports Nottinghamshire County Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy (2011) and is supported by the Early Years and Early Intervention Service as the programme links well with children's centre service delivery.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. No other options have been considered as the FNP is a proven, evidence based programme with a high national and international reputation, and a track record of

delivering positive outcomes for targeted children and young parents. These positive outcomes include:

- Healthier pregnancies
- Young mothers and fathers becoming more responsible parents
- Providing more babies with a good start in life
- Vulnerable parents developing positive outcomes for themselves and their children.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

13. The establishment of a Nottinghamshire FNP programme is a key priority within the Nottinghamshire Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, approved by County Council in September 2011.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Implications for Service Users**

15. The establishment of FNP arrangements in the areas identified will support improved outcomes for parents and families in the target cohort.

### **Financial Implications**

16. The annual cost of the FNP to 2016 will be £500,000. Of this, £400,000 will be provided by the involved Clinical Commissioning Groups. In view of the strategic ambition to establish a Nottinghamshire FNP set out in the County Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, the service's close fit with children's centre and other Council led children's service provision, and the programme's reputation for delivering improved outcomes, it is recommended that £100,000 annual funding be provided for the programme from the revenue budget of the Early Years and Early Intervention Service, with effect from April 2013. This is achievable within existing resources.
17. The Group Manager of the Early Years and Early Intervention Service will sit on the multi agency steering group that will provide governance to the FNP, and will therefore be involved in the monitoring of the performance of the service provider, both in terms of service delivery and the achievement of positive outcomes for service users.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the development of a Family Nurse Partnership for Nottinghamshire be noted.
- 2) funding towards the Family Nurse Partnership of £100,000 per year for the period to April 2016, drawn from the revenue budget of the Early Years and Early Intervention Service, be approved.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 06/09/12)**

18. The Early Years and Young People's Sub Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 10/09/12)**

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report.

### **Background Papers**

Family Nurse Partnership Service Specification  
Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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