

**23 May 2016****Agenda Item: 12**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **THE TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - UPDATE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides an update on delivery of Phase Two of the Government's Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. In the first phase of the Troubled Families Programme, delivered between 2012 and 2015, Nottinghamshire 'turned around' or addressed the main problems of the required 1,580 families affected by poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment.
3. Phase Two of the programme, which will last until 2020, retains the first programme's focus on families with complex problems but extends the range of families with a focus on six key areas:
  1. Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
  2. Children who have not been attending school regularly
  3. Children who need help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as in need or are subject to a Child Protection Plan
  4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion or young people at risk of worklessness
  5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
  6. Parents or children with a range of health problems.
4. The "Families Outcomes Plan for Nottinghamshire", attached as **Appendix 1**, which defines what "significant and sustained progress" is for a family against these domains, was approved by the Children and Young People's Committee on 20 April 2015 and must be reviewed intermittently. For a family to be classed as "turned around" in phase two of the programme all of the identified problems in the family must be addressed with significant and sustained progress achieved. Nottinghamshire's target number of families to be turned around by 2020 is currently 5,260, although this could be revised during the term of the programme. The County Council receives £1000 for each family it works with up to an annual cap and an additional £800 for each family turned around.

5. The programme also makes an annual grant to fund service transformation, defined as making services more holistic so that they address more fully the underlying problems of the adults and children in each household targeted. This includes better identification of families who are vulnerable and better understanding of the impact of services and outcomes for all family members.

## **Progress in Nottinghamshire**

6. The new Family Service, which will be the primary mechanism through which families are engaged in the Troubled Families programme, commenced in November 2015 as part of the service transformation theme. This includes the same model of work being adopted by targeted elements of the Council's Children's Centre provision from February 2016. Each family must have a full assessment of need including gathering evidence from all involved agencies. This is followed by a Family Action Plan, agreed with the family, that addresses all of the problem areas and commissioning of a range of support and interventions to make the necessary positive changes. A key professional must stay involved with the family until the outcomes are achieved. Three Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) staff are currently seconded into the Family Service to progress adults into work when this is an issue. The Family Service also links closely to domestic violence, adult substance misuse and mental health providers.
7. Through matching data held by the County Council with that from the police, the DWP and Probation Services the Council has been able to identify 6,074 families meeting the eligibility criteria to date. The process of identifying and engaging new families will continue throughout the programme. During the first year, in line with the programme objectives, the Council has been concentrating on engaging those families with a high number of eligibility factors as these will be the ones that take the longest to turn around.
8. At the end of February 2016 when the first return was made to Government, the Family Service had engaged 450 families in the programme and a further 400 have been identified, being worked with by Children's Social Care where whole family interventions can be put into place at an appropriate time. With the Children's Centre provision also adopting the Troubled Families model from February 2016, it is currently projected that the Council will have engaged with in excess of 2,000 families by the end of the 2016-17 financial year.
9. As would be expected at this stage, having engaged families with multiple problems, very few have reached the point of being "turned around". By the end of February 18 families had met the necessary outcomes. It is projected that this number will grow exponentially over coming years and by the end of 2016-17 the target is for 900 families having reached outcome.
10. It is expected that the Families Outcomes Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure that it matches with local priorities, available service provision and the needs of families. The Council is currently in the process of piloting new Families Outcomes Plan measures and recommendations for an updated plan will be presented to Committee in September.

## **Other Options Considered**

11. The report is for noting only.

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

12. This report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the update on delivery of phase two of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire is noted.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

15. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (SS 05/05/16)**

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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.

The Troubled Families in Nottinghamshire – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 20 April 2015

The Troubled Families in Nottinghamshire – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 16 November 2015

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

All.

C0820