

10 November 2014

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP (KTP)

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Committee with information about the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Children, Families and Cultural Services and Nottingham Trent University.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire's Children, Families and Cultural Services department is in the process of developing a revised operating model based on the following principles:
 - we will target our resources where they are needed most
 - we will integrate and align our services in localities, and make accessing them as easy as possible
 - we will help children, young people and families as early as possible, to deliver better outcomes for them
 - we will keep children together with their families where it is safe to do so
 - we will help and support families to achieve their potential.
3. The operating model aims to enable the following outcomes to be achieved:
 - the most **vulnerable children will be effectively protected and supported**
 - **children will stay with their families** wherever this is possible and safe for them
 - **children in our care will experience high quality and stable support**
 - **children and young people will attain higher educational standards** than the national average and attend good and outstanding schools
 - **we will close the attainment gap** between disadvantaged children and young people and their peers
 - **children, young people and their families will receive the early help support** they require to be safe, healthy and thriving
 - **children and young people will have improved health outcomes**
 - all residents will have **access to high quality and sustainable cultural services.**
4. There has been recognition in the department of the need to ensure that services provided to children and families are evidence-based and informed by research, thus maximising the possibility of securing improved outcomes for children and families, and

reducing the need for higher cost statutory interventions. In order to facilitate this, in January 2014 the Council entered into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Nottingham Trent University. The KTP project will last for 30 months, providing the Council with the opportunity to access academic skills and expertise, and apply them to the area of effective family support.

5. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships have a long history in the UK, dating back to the 1970s. Where originally projects were focused specifically on engineering processes, over time this has diversified, and there are currently around 700 such projects running in a variety of settings. This KTP is jointly funded by the Council and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which is the gold standard of research funding. Funding for the project covers supervision from organisations, substantial training and personal development for the associate, and provisions for equipment and resources. KTP projects benefit both organisations through strengthened relationships, a continual flow of knowledge and experience, and a range of positive outputs and outcomes. The project provides a unique opportunity to utilise academic expertise and evidence to directly inform strategic planning and practice.
6. Catherine Goodall is the KTP Associate, a Design and Implementation Analyst tasked with researching, mapping and evaluating current processes and services, and designing data collection methods. With a background in the Social Sciences, a Master's Degree in International Relations, and research experience, Catherine is well placed as a lead on this project. The skills required for the KTP project such as sustained project management, research expertise, data handling, and a range of other skills, can be strengthened through supervision and support at both organisations, personal development opportunities and training.
7. Specifically, the KTP in Nottinghamshire involves:
 - undertaking literature reviews of the evidence base for structured parenting programmes and of whole family approaches and making recommendations to inform the department's family support offer within the revised operating model
 - engaging children, young people and families in reviewing and developing the key elements of family support through a participatory action research approach
 - collaborating with a range of managers and practitioners to ensure that changes are appropriate, informed by practice expertise and implemented efficiently
 - developing a consistent and structured approach to targeting parenting programmes based on need, and measuring the impact of such programmes
 - embedding evaluative approaches within the wider department, ensuring there is a culture of assessing the impact of interventions with children and families, and using evidence to inform commissioning.
8. To date, initial literature reviews of the evidence base for effective parenting programmes and approaches to working with families have been completed. The latter is being used to inform the decision making process for the methodology to be used across children's services (both early help and social care) for the assessment and planning of children's needs. This decision will be taken by the end of the calendar year, in order to undertake the necessary implementation planning prior to 'go live' in April 2015, to align with the single assessment for social care and the launch of the Integrated Family and Youth Support arrangements.

9. In relation to parenting, a pilot is being developed to standardise the assessment of parenting needs, identify and target appropriate and relevant parenting support, and provide a standardised and rigorous data collection process to evaluate impact. This pilot will form part of the Integrated Family and Youth Support arrangements. Workshops with a range of practitioners across the County have been conducted to guide the initial design of the pilot. Once implemented, the pilot will be tested, evaluated and adapted as necessary.
10. Throughout the KTP, children, young people and their families will be involved through Participatory Action Research (PAR). Meaningful and sustained engagement of children and young people ensures that the project is grounded in local need, and that services users are given the opportunity to shape and evaluate changes to service design and delivery. Ethical approval for this research has already been gained through the University's standard procedures.
11. Overall the project aims to use the expertise of the partners, rigorous and methodical research, and the experiences and views of children and young people, to improve practice within children's services, with the aim of improving outcomes and better meeting the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

Other Options Considered

12. This report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the information about the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Children, Families and Cultural Services and Nottingham Trent University.

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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 (KLA 22/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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