

11 February 2018**Agenda Item: 11**

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire and seek approval to bring a further report in six months.
2. To inform Committee of the work of the Early Help Review Board which is focussed on succession planning for the end of the programme.

Information

3. Phase Two of the Extended Troubled Families Programme runs from April 2015 to March 2020. Nottinghamshire has been set a target of engaging 5,170 families through the programme by March 2020, and has met incremental attachment milestones set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) with 4,902 families attached to date. The mechanism for securing funding from the programme continues to be a system of Payment by Results, based on outcomes per family. Payment is divided into two parts, with an attachment fee of £1,000 being paid for every eligible family that services engage with, and a further £800 where a claim for successful outcomes can be made.
4. In this financial year Nottinghamshire has increased the rate at which claims are being made and to date there have been 1,521 successful claims for successfully 'turning around' attached families, which is 29% of the end of programme target. Where there has not been a claim in many cases it does not indicate a failure to make any progress but can mean that the sustainability of progress made is being monitored before a claim can be made – of the 4,902 attached families, there are 2,465 actively being worked with or whom are closed and where progress is being monitored. It does however continue to be the case that the bar for evidencing success is high with a requirement to show progress across all identified triggers. In some cases a family can have made progress on the programme without being eligible for a full claim.
5. In July it was reported to the Committee that Nottinghamshire had been amongst a group of local authorities which received challenge from the MHCLG about the rate of successful claims made by their programme. In response to the challenge, the Corporate Director for Children and Families Services took over the chairing of the Troubled Families Board to

oversee a Recovery Plan which included a series of milestones which would indicate progress. Early indicators of success were met and MHCLG acknowledged this by releasing attachments fees which had been held back. However whilst the current claim rate is higher than in previous quarters, Nottinghamshire continues to have a lower claim rate than some statistical neighbours.

6. Table 1 compares Nottinghamshire to its statistical neighbours, from figures reported in the recently published Local Authority Performance Table for Quarter 2 2018/19.

Local authority	Maximum funded families up to 2020	Number of families on the programme up to September 2018	Total claims for results up to September 2018	Number of families achieved significant and sustained progress up to September 2018	Number of families achieved continuous employment up to September 2018	% of final target achieved
Staffordshire	4,680	4,680	1,159	1,024	135	25%
Nottinghamshire	5,170	4,752	1,297	1,141	156	25%
Essex	7,570	6,850	2,082	2,048	34	28%
Derby	2,230	2,287	621	550	71	28%
Lancashire	8,620	12,498	2,740	2,416	324	32%
Derbyshire	4,510	7,392	1,498	1,120	378	33%
Lincolnshire	4,760	7,199	1,699	1,249	450	36%
Cumbria	3,380	3,136	1,511	1,399	112	45%
Kent	9,200	9,200	5,081	4,855	226	55%

Table 1: Statistical Neighbour Comparison at September 2018

7. In Nottinghamshire the majority of families attached are at tier three or four of the Pathway to Provision, meaning they have significant entrenched difficulties at the point at which they start to receive support through the programme. The “distance travelled” for a Nottinghamshire family where a claim is made therefore represents a significant achievement. By comparison, some authorities will target a different cohort of families where fewer triggers are met and where the change needed before a claim can be made is small. In the final year of the programme Nottinghamshire will explore ways in which progress for families at tier two of the Pathway to Provision can be captured where partners have undertaken whole family work with eligible households. This will include work undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions and district councils and will ensure Nottinghamshire draws down as much as possible of the available funds.

Troubled Families funding - implications for the Family Service

8. The Family Service was developed in 2015 to bring together related elements of early help with services which support the delivery of statutory children’s social care functions. Over a number of years significant savings have been made from this range of services with an

increasing reliance on the grant and payment by results income from the government's Troubled Families Programme to support these services. The Troubled Families income totals approximately £2.1m per annum and is paid by central government, having been sourced from government departments who are felt to be beneficiaries of the programme outcomes. Whilst there are no official government spending plans past March 2020, the consistent narrative is that the Troubled Families Programme will end at that point which is a significant resource implication.

Other Options Considered

9. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To keep Committee informed of the current performance of the Troubled Families Programme.
11. To inform Committee of the risk of a reduction or deletion of grant funding for early help services post 2020.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

13. The risk of the grant funding ceasing in 2020-21 has been recognised as part of the 2019-20 budget setting process for a projected amount of £1.2m. This will be reviewed and included in the construction of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in future years. The service is considering options for change although the scope to introduce any changes is limited by the need to have a sufficient workforce to generate the "attachment fees" (paid for each family successfully engaged according to the provided criteria) and "payment by results" to gain Troubled Families income.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee agrees to receive a follow up report in the next six months and that this be included in the work programme.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 14/01/19)

14. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 25/01/19)

15. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 13 above.

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.

Nottinghamshire County Council Family Outcomes Plan

Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire update and establishment of posts in the Troubled Families Team: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16 July 2018

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1198