

8 December 2014

Agenda Item: 13

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER AND CONSULTANT IN PUBLIC HEALTH

FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on progress to date on the delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme within Nottinghamshire County.
2. To update the Committee on performance in relation to the core model elements and fidelity goals of the FNP programme in accordance with the Department of Health sub-licence requirements.

Information and Advice

Background summary

3. FNP is a licenced, evidenced-based, intensive nurse led prevention and early intervention programme for vulnerable first time young parents and their children, delivered by specially trained Family Nurses. It is the first part of the preventive pathway for the 2-5% of most disadvantaged children.
4. The licence is held by the Department of Health who have authorised NHS England to commission the FNP programme to a cohort of first time young mothers from early pregnancy until their child is 2 years old. The requirements of the licence ensure that the original research conditions are replicated and fidelity to the original research is maintained through robust monitoring.
5. The FNP aims to:
 - reduce the impact of deprivation
 - improve the short and long term health and wellbeing outcomes for young parents and the children born to vulnerable, young, first time mothers
 - to reduce the short and long term cost of ongoing care, and enhance economic self-sufficiency by improving the life chances of FNP clients and children.
6. The programme is commissioned by NHS England and a transfer of commissioning responsibility to Nottinghamshire County Council (Public Health) is due to be effective from October 2015. Planning between NHS England Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

Area Team and Nottinghamshire County Council has commenced to support this transfer of commissioning responsibility.

7. The Nottinghamshire FNP is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust (Health Partnerships) and commenced delivery in February 2013. The current contract is in place until August 2016. There are eight Family Nurses, each of whom holds a caseload of up to 25 clients, thus offering the programme to up to 200 families across Nottinghamshire.

Current progress

8. The Nottinghamshire FNP programme has been recruiting clients since February 2013, adhering to the recommendation that Family Nurses recruit between 2-3 clients per month for the first 12 months of the programme in order to promote a rolling recruitment process and prevent blocking of the programme.
9. The programme is currently supporting 191 clients, with the majority of children in the baby or toddler phase of the programme. 67% of clients have been enrolled before 16 weeks of pregnancy which exceeds the fidelity goal of 60%, with all other clients being enrolled before 28 weeks gestation.
10. Eligible clients exceed the capacity of the local programme in Nottinghamshire however, particularly in Mansfield and Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood localities. To date 287 eligible clients have been turned down or not considered for the programme due to this capacity gap.
11. The programme has made 3,296 successful planned client visits over the past 12 months with a further 240 attempted visits.
12. The adherence to the fidelity of the programme has resulted in positive early outcomes. This was reinforced in the annual assurance review carried out by the FNP National Unit in March 2014, who were assured that the programme was being delivered in accordance to core model elements and to fidelity. Outcomes to date include:
 - clients receiving the required dosage (expected visits in pregnancy and infancy phase) are well above comparator programmes and national average
 - the number of clients leaving the programme before their child is two years old (known as the attrition rate) is well below programme goal
 - 69 clients (47.6%) have initiated breastfeeding
 - 97.2% of children are up to date with their immunisations at six months. This exceeds the percentage for all children in England
 - reduction in smoking greater than comparator programmes and national average (though higher rates at enrolment)
 - number of clients with subsequent pregnancy(ies) since birth of infant at 12 months infancy is well below comparator programme and national standards
 - 59% of mothers with children over 12 months in the programme are in employment, education or training
 - of the 80 questionnaires completed over the past 12 months, 96% of clients rated the service quality as good or excellent.

13. The programme has experienced recent staffing challenges, due to staff changes including turnover, maternity leave and sickness. This has highlighted the challenges in maintaining continuity of Family Nurses and reflects challenges experienced nationally due to the scale of the service. Service risks have been mitigated by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust's proactive approach to training and seconding additional staff into the service to minimise the risk to frontline delivery.

Priorities for coming year

14. The programme will continue to be delivered in accordance with the core model elements and fidelity requirements, particularly as children progress into the infancy phase of the programme. Delivery will continue to be overseen by the multi-agency FNP Advisory Board.
15. The commissioners and provider will work together to prepare for the graduation of clients from the programme as their children reach 2 years of age, and agree an approach to recruiting new clients on an equitable, rolling basis.
16. NHS England and Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to plan for the safe transfer of commissioning responsibility to the Local Authority from October 2015.

Other Options Considered

17. This report is for noting only.

Reasons for Recommendations

18. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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

That:

- 1) the progress to date on the delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme within Nottinghamshire County be noted.
- 2) performance in relation to the core model elements and fidelity goals of the FNP programme, in accordance with the Department of Health sub-licence requirements, be noted

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 21/11/14)

21. 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.

Nottinghamshire County FNP: Progress Update, October 2013, Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/childrenstrust/about-the-childrens-trust/childrenstrustboard/?entryid217=346128>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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