

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2018****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL  
WORK****UPDATE ON THE EMPOWERING PEOPLE EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES  
PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval of the revised arrangements for the delivery of the Empowering People Empowering Communities Programme in Nottinghamshire.

**Information**

2. The Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme was developed by the Centre for Parent and Child Support at South London and Maudsley NHS and the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) Research Unit, King's College, London, and is an internationally recognised evidence-based peer-led parenting programme.
3. EPEC provides a system for training and supervising parent-led parenting groups that help parents to learn practical parenting skills for everyday family life and develop their abilities to bring up confident, happy and co-operative children. Parents attending the EPEC Parent Group Leader training course are supported with childcare costs where required. The National EPEC Team based in South London and Maudsley NHS Trust has received funding from NESTA and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to scale up the programme nationally through the setting up and running of 16 new EPEC hubs across England.
4. In January 2018 Nottinghamshire's Family and Parenting Multi-Agency Planning Group, which includes representatives from Public Health, Children Centres, Social Care, Family Service, Support to Schools and CAMHS, submitted an application to become a partner in the EPEC Scaling Programme and the bid was accepted. The EPEC project will last 18 months and will enable the Council to develop evidence based peer led parenting programmes in Nottinghamshire. As part of the programme the Council was required to establish an EPEC Hub and employ a 0.6 fte Hub Coordinator whose role will be to work with partners to recruit parents to the programme, establish a model of accreditation and run a number of parenting programmes.
5. During the 18 months of the programme the focus will be on delivering the EPEC Scaling Programme to parents with children aged under 5 years. At the end of the scaling

programme the ambition is to take the learning and develop the EPEC model for families with children aged 5-12 years and then for families with teenagers. This will enable the Council to build its capacity to deliver evidence based and community led parenting programmes to families in Nottinghamshire.

6. The Committee agreed at its meeting in March 2018 to establish a 0.6fte EPEC Hub Coordinator post to manage the programme, recruit, train and supervise Parent Group Leaders and build the EPEC programme in Nottinghamshire. Because of the initial focus on under 5 year olds it was intended to base the EPEC coordinator within the children centres so they could make use of the already well established volunteering network to recruit Parent Group Leaders. The Council was unable to successfully recruit to the position and instead the children centres have been commissioned to host the Hub and release one of their Community Development Workers to be the EPEC Hub Coordinator.
7. This change of approach has proven to be very effective. As part of the EPEC Scaling programme Nottinghamshire was committed to training a minimum of 16 Parent Group Leaders to deliver 10 Being a Parent programmes over the 18 month life of the programme. To date 13 parents in the Ashfield and Mansfield districts have successfully completed the training and graduated as Parent Group Leaders. They will deliver the first four Being a Parent Programmes starting in September and October 2018 in Ashfield and Mansfield. An additional 15 Parent Group Leaders from the Newark & Sherwood and Bassetlaw districts, who will deliver the Being a Parent programme to parents in those localities, will also be trained in late September 2018.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The 0.6 fte EPEC Hub Coordinator post was unsuccessfully advertised on two occasions and the Council was therefore unable to appoint to the post. Consideration was given to advertising for a third time but there was concern about whether this would jeopardise the ability to deliver the EPEC programme within the timescales agreed with the national team.

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

9. Commissioning the Hub Coordinator post through children centres allows the Council to deliver the project in a similar way to the original plan. The work will remain embedded with the children centres to ensure the requirement to work with families with children under 5 years is met.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. 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**

11. The costs associated with the programme were agreed by Committee in March 2018 at about £55,000 including non-staffing costs. Although the change in approach has not impacted on these costs the delay in recruitment of the EPEC Hub Coordinator post will reduce the staffing cost element.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

12. All employees within Early Help services are subject to Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks. In addition, all staff complete safeguarding training both as part of their induction and for their continuous professional development.

## **Implications for Service Users**

13. EPEC is an evidence based peer-led parenting programme. It will provide parents who have graduated from parenting programmes or interventions to become facilitators of parenting programmes, build their confidence and gain accreditation.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee approves the change in approach to delivering the Empowering People Empowering Communities Programme in Nottinghamshire.

**Steve Edwards**

**Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 21/09/18)**

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

## **Financial Comments (SAS 21/09/18)**

15. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 11 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.

Establishment of an EPEC Hub Coordinator post within Early Help Services – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 19 March 2018

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

All.

C1153