

12 January 2015

Agenda Item: 07

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

THE TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with an update on the development of the Government's Troubled Families programme in Nottinghamshire and informs the Committee about the inclusion of Nottinghamshire as an early adopter in phase two of the programme.
2. The report also seeks approval to establish a Business Support Assistant (Scale 4) post to collate data required for the next phase of the Troubled Families programme.

Information and Advice

3. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) describes 'Troubled Families' as "those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector". The Government states that it is "committed to working with local authorities and their partners to help 120,000 troubled families in England turn their lives around by 2015". The aims of the programme are to:
 - get children back into school
 - reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour
 - put adults on a path back to work
 - reduce the high costs these families place on the public sector each year.

Performance of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire

4. In October 2014 the DCLG released the latest local and national statistics for the programme. A summary of performance compared to the most similar county areas is attached at **Appendix 1**. The figures in brackets for Nottinghamshire are those following the recent claim submitted in October.
5. In total 225 new claims for families 'turned around' were made in October. 147 of these were 'partial' claims. Partial claims are those where crime, anti-social behaviour and education were improved but the household remains workless. 96 full claims were also made with 18 households engaging with the work programme, 19 returning to work and

60 maintaining continuous employment. 32 previous “partial” claims were also converted to full ones as the additional work criteria were met after a claim had been submitted.

6. This brings the total claims since the programme began to 1,033 and brings Nottinghamshire to the 65% target required for entry into phase two of the programme, which will run from 2015 to 2020.

Details about the Troubled Families Programme from 2015 onwards

7. Nottinghamshire has been invited and accepted the offer to become an early adopter of the phase two programme in January 2015. The expanded programme will be based on a cluster of six headline problems, each of which will have a number of more detailed descriptors:
 - parents and children involved in crime or antisocial behaviour
 - children who have not been attending school regularly
 - children who need help
 - adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
 - families affected by domestic violence and abuse
 - parents and children with a range of health problems.
8. Families will be identified as having met criteria within two of the problem groups; if on assessment it is found that there are additional criteria within other groups a positive outcome must address all problems identified.
9. The current estimate is that we will work with 5,260 families across Nottinghamshire during the five year period. For each family we will be paid an upfront “attachment fee” of £1000 per family and a results payment of £800 for positive outcomes achieved. We will also receive an annual ‘Troubled Families Coordination Grant’ to fund the development and implementation of plans for local service transformation, the collection and provision of family progress data for a minimum 10% representative sample of families and the completion of the troubled families ‘cost savings calculator’. We will require additional capacity for monitoring and processing data to ensure that we meet the conditions of the grant.
10. The extended programme requires that we have a Troubled Families Outcomes Plan. This plan will contain both a strategic and family specific perspective. The strategic plan should bring together the annual plans produced at both County and District level, across a range of agencies. Once produced the high level plan will be presented to Committee.

Establishment of a Business Support Assistant (Scale 4) Post

11. In order for there to be sufficient capacity to collate the data required for this next phase of the Troubled Families programme additional administrative time will be required. The Committee are therefore asked to approve the establishment of a Business Support Assistant (Scale 4) post specifically for this purpose. The annual cost for this post will be a maximum of £26,269.

Other Options Considered

12. Consideration was given to delaying a decision on the inclusion in the second phase of the programme but given the progress to date it was felt appropriate to accept the invitation to become an early adopter.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The establishment of a Business support Assistant is to ensure that the data required by central government for the monitoring of performance and payment of grants is properly collated.

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.

Financial Implications

15. The establishment of a Business Support Assistant will cost a maximum of £26,269 per annum. This amount is available from the Troubled Families (Infrastructure) Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- 1) the development of the Troubled Families programme in Nottinghamshire and the inclusion of Nottinghamshire as an early adopter in phase two of the Troubled Families programme be noted.
- 2) the establishment of a Business Support Assistant (Scale 4) post to collate data required for the next phase of the Troubled Families programme be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (SR 24/12/14)

16. This decision may be approved by the Children and Young People's Committee subject to the necessary consultation with the recognised unions and compliance with the Council's employment policies and procedures.

Financial Comments (CS 24/12/14)

17. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 15 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.

The Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 29 September 2014

Troubled Families Programme expanded to help younger children – DWP Press Release 19 August 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/troubled-families-programme-expanded-to-help-younger-children>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0551