

20 April 2015**Agenda Item: 08****REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER AND CONSULTANT IN
PUBLIC HEALTH****FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of progress to date on the delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership Programme (FNP) in Nottinghamshire.
2. To seek approval of the proposed expansion of the FNP programme, including investment proposals and recommendations for targeting of additional resources.

Information and Advice

3. FNP is a licenced, evidenced-based, intensive nurse led prevention and early intervention programme for vulnerable first time young parents and their children. FNP commenced delivery in February 2013 and is currently available for a maximum of 200 clients.
4. The referral and acceptance criteria for FNP are as follows:
 - all first time mothers aged 19 years and under at Last Menstrual Period (up to 18 yrs 11 months)
 - resident within Nottinghamshire
 - clients are preferably notified by 16 weeks to the FNP team but no later than 24 weeks gestation and recruited to FNP no later than 28 weeks.
5. A report was presented to the Children's Trust Board at the meeting on 8 December 2014, detailing the positive progress that had been achieved since the programme's inception. The report also highlighted the gap between the service capacity and the eligible population. At the time of the report, 287 eligible clients had been turned down or not considered for the programme. The original programme commissioned locally provided coverage to just 14% of the eligible population compared to 25% nationally.
6. A recent review of parenting programmes by Nottinghamshire County Council's Children, Families and Cultural Services department recognised the strong evidence-base for FNP and in recognition of this and the limited capacity, FNP has been identified as a priority area for additional investment.

Additional investment

7. Funding from the Supporting Families programme totalling £1.5m has been identified to enable the expansion of the current programme in Nottinghamshire, subject to approval of the Committee. This proposal will enable Supporting Families reserves generated by payment by results income (following the successful delivery of the programme during phase 1) to be reinvested in evidenced-based interventions for vulnerable young people.
8. Further NHS funding of £142,000 has also been secured by NHS England North Midlands (previously NHS England Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team) to support the expansion, including training and programme deliver costs. Further NHS support has been secured from Public Health England and the Department of Health, to provide training and support for the expanded service.
9. The funding is expected to provide 175 extra places over the next 3½ years and increase coverage to approximately 25%, in line with the national coverage.

Expansion options

10. Discussions between the Local Authority and provider managers have taken place to consider options for the proposed expansion. It is recognised that despite the additional investment, the service will still only be available to 25% of the eligible population and targeting options have been explored.
11. Consideration was given to revising the referral and acceptance criteria (see paragraph 4) to further target the most vulnerable young parents. Options included reducing the age to under 18s, prioritising priority groups such as looked after children, and targeting those mothers with fewer than 5 A-C GCSEs. Colleagues, however, concluded that such factors did not necessarily increase vulnerability as these cohorts would also be in receipt of other targeted or specialist services.
12. The national FNP Unit has also shared their concerns regarding further targeting. They reiterate that the evidence base for FNP is based on the referral and acceptance criteria and deviation from this may impact on the efficacy of the evidence. The programme must also be delivered in accordance with the licence which is strictly monitored.
13. Equity of current programme resources and staffing has been considered and this has highlighted potential inequity. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) originally provided funding for the programme i.e. two Family Nurses in each CCG area, however, this was not based on need / teenage pregnancy rates. This means, for example, rates of teenage pregnancy are highest in Mansfield and Ashfield though the coverage is the lowest. Colleagues proposed that additional investment should enable equity of provision across all localities.
14. It is therefore recommended that:
 - a. current referral and acceptance criteria remain the same in line with the evidence-base
 - b. additional investment is distributed in an equitable way to enable 25% coverage across all localities

15. Subject to approval of the Committee, recruitment and training to new Family Nurses will take place between April and September 2015, with clients being on enrolled into the programme from October 2015. Family Nurses will grow caseloads to a maximum of 25 clients over a 12-month period, in line with the programme licence requirements.

Other Options Considered

16. Other programmes were considered as part of the review of parenting programmes, however the evidence base for FNP was considered the strongest.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. As noted, there is widespread acknowledgement that the FNP has a strong evidence base and is a highly effective programme for vulnerable teenage parents and their children. The opportunity to build on an established and successful programme also enables the programme to be implemented easily and in-year.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. Nottinghamshire County Council's Children, Families and Cultural Services department has committed £1.5m to support the expansion of the programme. NHS England North Midlands has committed £142,000. In total, there is a budget of £1.642m over 3½ years and this will support recruitment to 1 FTE FNP Supervisor, 7 FTE Family Nurses and 1 FTE Administrator.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the progress to date on the delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership
- 2) approves the proposed Nottinghamshire County Council investment of £1.5m over 3½ years to support the expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership, as set out in paragraph 19
- 3) approves the proposed targeting of resources to ensure equity of programme coverage across districts.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 08/04/15)

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

Financial Comments (SS 08/03/15)

21. The financial implications of this report are set out in paragraph 19 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.

Family Nurse Partnership Progress Report – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 8 December 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0613