

18th November 2019

Agenda Item: 7

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 the Committee of the continuation of the Troubled Families Programme and the potential impact on the Family Service budget.

Information

3. Phase Two of the Extended Troubled Families Programmes 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 now exceeded the incremental attachment milestones set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) with 6,850 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 the service engages with, and a further £800 where a claim for successful outcome can be made.
4. By the end of September 2019 Nottinghamshire had made 2,670 successful claims for 'turning around' attached families, which is 51% of the end of programme target and over 1,000 more than the number reported to Committee in February. 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. It continues to be the case that the bar for evidencing claims 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 the last year of the programme there has been an increased focus on partnerships, and on service transformation beyond the Council delivered Family Service. The Troubled Families Team has been supporting a variety of organisations to adopt a whole family way of working, and to improve their focus on outcomes. In Quarter 2 this led to 61 families being put forward by universal and third sector services for successful payment by results claims,

compared with 3 the previous quarter. This has included families supported by schools, domestic violence charities and district and borough councils.

Other Options Considered

6. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To keep Committee informed of the current performance of the Troubled Families Programme.
8. To inform the Committee of the recent announcement from the Treasury and MHCLG regarding the future of the Troubled Families Programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. Through a combination of the Transformation Grant, Attachment Fees, Payment by Results and Troubled Families reserve, Troubled Families funding provides £2.1m of the Family Service's £5.2m budget. Given the programme was due to end in March 2020, the service had begun planning for the loss of this income. In the September 2019 Spending Round the Treasury announced that Troubled Families would be funded for 2020/21. The future of Troubled Families beyond that still remains unclear.
11. MHCLG has yet to confirm whether the funding breakdown will be the same as that set-out above. It therefore remains unclear whether efficiencies will be required in the service. The Family Service has developed options for change and will bring these to Committee once the funding from next year has been announced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the Committee agrees to receive a follow up report in the next six months and that this be included in the work programme.
- 2) a report be brought to this Committee after an announcement from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the funding breakdown for Troubled Families and which provides an update on the impact on the Family Service.

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Constitutional Comments (LW 16/10/19)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 23/10/19)

13. Through a combination of the Transformation Grant, Attachment Fees, Payment by Results and Troubled Families reserve, Troubled Families funding provides £2.1m of the Family Service's £5.2m budget. There is also a forecast balance of £0.4m in the Troubled Families reserve. Given the programme was due to end in March 2020, the service had begun planning for the loss of this income. In the September 2019 Spending Round the Treasury announced that Troubled Families would continue to be funded for 2020/21. The future of Troubled Families beyond that still remains unclear.
14. MHCLG has yet to confirm whether the funding breakdown will be the same as that set-out above. The working assumption is that the grant funding will be at the same level as 2019-20. It therefore remains unclear whether efficiencies will be required in the service. The Family Service has developed options for change and will bring these to Committee once the funding from next year has been announced.

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.

[Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire update – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019.](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1312