

**8 December 2014****Agenda Item: 09**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **THE INTEGRATED FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the review and transformation of services commissioned or provided by the County Council for vulnerable families. A brief presentation will also be made at the Committee meeting.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. The purpose of the Integrated Family Services Review project is to establish an integrated, co-located Family, Child and Youth Support Service in line with the new Children's Services Operating Model, and to deliver savings of £1m by March 2018 in line with a business case which was placed before Policy Committee on 12 November 2014. This service will combine resources from Early Help and Children's Social Care and will include 'Early Help Case Management (support for vulnerable families and young people who are at risk of entering the formal social care system), and a range of practical, supportive and therapeutic interventions aimed at individuals or family units which can be utilised by Early Help Case Managers, Social Workers in Children's Social Care and the Youth Offending Teams.
3. Services which are incorporated into the new service will have the following in common:
  - a direct line of management of accountability to a Group Manager for the locality area
  - a shared annual service plan, targets and priorities
  - case referral through either the Early Help Unit or through identification data from the Troubled Families programme
  - a common operating model including methodology, allocation, tools, programmes, timescale and quality standards and based on the best evidence
  - a common electronic case recording system also used to gather key pieces of data to support service planning and performance monitoring
  - co-located office and service delivery space.
4. In line with the Children's Services Operating Model, wherever possible services will be delivered as part of a distinct locality service. These localities are defined as South (Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe), North (Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood) and

Central (Mansfield and Ashfield). Work is underway to model demand in these areas so that initial resource allocations are based on need. This will be kept under regular review.

### **Review and Implementation Processes**

5. There has been significant preparatory work for this review since the beginning of the calendar year. We have consulted with staff, partner agencies and service users about what works well within our current service delivery and how we further eradicate gaps and duplication so as to provide a more efficient and effective model. There has also been the establishment of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership, working with Nottingham Trent University, which has reviewed the evidence for numerous methodological and programme based approaches to working with whole families. A Position Statement, detailing the resources, volumes of demand and operational model of teams deemed potentially in scope of the review has also been produced,
6. In August 2014 a Steering Group was formed from the Local Authority to oversee the progression of the project and since November a number of managers have been seconded to form a project team to fully develop the new operating model. The model will embody Nottinghamshire's delivery of phase two of the Troubled Families programme, which will see an expansion of activity over a five year period to families with a wider range of issues such as parental mental health and substance misuse problems, domestic violence and vulnerable pre-school children who are not engaged with appropriate services.
7. During October 2014 we have consulted with managers on two options papers, in order to make a decision on which teams and services will be integrated into the new service and how the new service will be structured. Clear rationales have been identified to drive this decision making and final decisions on a model to go out for wider consultation will be made by the end of November 2014. This consultation will also include the further development of an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure that any potential negative impacts are fully mitigated. The aim will be to have further reports before Committee in February 2015 and a new service implemented by spring 2015.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. This report informs the Committee of the decision making process across a range of options for the scope and structure of the proposed service.

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

9. This report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. 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**

- 1) That the information on the review and transformation of services commissioned or provided by the County Council for vulnerable families be noted.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (KLA 17/11/14)**

12. 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.

Redefining Your Council – Transformation and Spending Proposals 2015/16 – 2017/18: report to Policy Committee on 12 November 2014

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

All.

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