

19 January 2017

Agenda Item: 3

Children's Trust Executive Sponsor: Dr Kate Allen

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP:
PROGRESS REPORT**

Purpose of the Report

1. To brief the Children's Trust Executive on progress to date on the delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme within Nottinghamshire County.
2. To update Executive members on performance in relation to the core model elements and fidelity goals of the FNP programme in accordance to the Department of Health sub-licence requirements.

Information and Advice

Background summary

3. FNP is a licenced, evidenced-based, intensive nurse led prevention and early intervention programme for vulnerable first time young parents and their children, delivered by specially trained Family Nurses. It is the first part of the preventive pathway for the 2-5% of most disadvantaged children.
4. The licence is held by the Department of Health who have authorised Local Authorities to commission the FNP programme to be provided to a cohort of first time young mothers from early pregnancy until their child is 2 years old. The requirements of the licence ensure that the original research conditions are replicated and fidelity to the original research is maintained through robust monitoring.
5. FNP aims to:
 - Reduce the impact of deprivation;
 - Improve the short and long term health and wellbeing outcomes for young parents and the children born to vulnerable, young, first time mothers;
 - Reduce the short and long term cost of ongoing care, and enhance economic self-sufficiency by improving the life chances of FNP clients and children.
6. FNP is now commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council (Public Health) following a transfer of commissioning responsibility from NHS England in October 2015.

7. Locally, the FNP programme commenced in February 2013 and is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Local Partnerships Division). The current contract is in place until March 2017. From April 2017 to March 2020, FNP will form part of an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child and Public Health Nursing Programme. The contract for this service, named 'the Healthy Families Programme' was awarded by the Public Health Committee to Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Local Partnerships Division) in September 2016. The programme brings together FNP, Health Visiting, Public Health Nursing, the National Childhood Measurement Programme and feeding support into a single contract, with a single outcomes framework.
8. There are currently two FNP teams in Nottinghamshire. Team one is the original team commissioned in 2013 and comprises of 8 whole time equivalent (wte) Family Nurses, each holding a caseload of up to 25 clients, 1 wte FNP supervisor and 1 wte Quality Support Officer. The team can offer the FNP programme to up to 200 clients. Team two is an expansion of the original team comprising of 7 wte Family Nurses, 1 wte FNP supervisor and 1 wte Quality Support Officer. Team two can offer the FNP programme to up to 175 clients thus making the current capacity across both team 375 clients. Team one is based at Ashfield Health Village and team two is based at Beeston Clinic.
9. Funding for the expanded element of FNP is currently provided by the Supporting Families Programme. NHS England also provided funding for training to enable the expansion to occur. The cost of team two is £467,113 for a 3 year programme commencing in October 2015. Given that funding was from a non-recurrent source, the service provided by team two will end in September 2018. This will reduce the number of clients who can receive the programme in Nottinghamshire to 200.
10. From September 2018, as part of the Healthy Families Programme, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have made a commitment to manage the FNP client recruitment process to ensure that 175 clients will be transitioned from the FNP programme to the appropriate level of care within the integrated pathway. Commissioners are working in partnership with the provider as part of the contract mobilisation process to develop a more intensive teenage parent support package within the new Healthy Families Programme model.

Current progress

11. As a result of the expansion of FNP the service is currently in a position where it has capacity to offer the programme to all young women referred to the service who meet the eligibility criteria as determined by the Department of Health.
12. Team one of the Nottinghamshire FNP programme has been recruiting clients since February 2013, and team two since October 2015. The programme as a whole is currently supporting 236 clients, with the majority of clients in the pregnancy or infancy phase of the programme. 69.6% of clients have been enrolled before 16 weeks of pregnancy which exceeds the fidelity goal of 60%, with all other clients being enrolled before 28 weeks gestation. This is significantly greater than the national programme average of 47% for the same period (October 2015 to September 2016).
13. The Nottinghamshire programme consistently exceeds the fidelity goals relating to both the number of visits made to clients and the content offered within the visits. In

addition, client attrition from the service is significantly lower than the national average (8% of clients leave in the toddler phase in Nottinghamshire compared with 15.4% nationally).

14. The adherence to the fidelity of the programme is a predictor of short and long term positive outcomes for babies born to mothers enrolled on the FNP programme. This was reinforced in the annual review carried out by the FNP National Unit in May 2016, who were assured that the programme was being delivered in accordance to core model elements and to fidelity.
15. There have been a number of workforce challenges during the last 12 months including long term sickness, two periods of maternity leave and staff attrition requiring recruitment to vacant posts. The FNP National Unit set a client recruitment cap of 2-3 clients per month for newly trained Family Nurses which has caused a reduction in the number of clients currently supported. This has highlighted the challenges in maintaining continuity of the Family Nurse Partnership programme and reflects challenges experienced nationally due to the scale of the service. Service risks have been partially mitigated by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's proactive approach to training and seconding additional staff into the service to minimise the risk to frontline delivery.

Priorities for coming year

16. The findings of a large-scale, independent, randomised control trial (RCT) that rigorously evaluated the programme's effectiveness in the English context were published in October 2015. A wider programme of research is establishing how best to implement the FNP programme in England with studies on the family nurse workforce, use of interpreters in delivering the FNP programme, eligibility and local costs is also underway. Early results from sites trialling adaptations to the original model are due to be reported in Spring 2017. Commissioners of FNP in Nottinghamshire will examine the evidence and consider implementation of any adaptations where locally relevant.
17. Nottinghamshire FNP has been accepted as a pilot site to explore the benefits of 'knowledge transfer' between FNP and other children's services such as the family service and universal public health services. The FNP team, in partnership with commissioners and the FNP National Unit, will monitor this throughout 2017.
18. In the short term, the programme will continue to be delivered in accordance with the core model elements and fidelity requirements. Delivery will continue to be overseen by the multi-agency FNP Advisory Board, and commissioners within Public Health will monitor adherence to the fidelity goals and core model elements of FNP as part of ongoing contract monitoring processes.
19. Commissioner and provider will work together to prepare for the reduction in service provision in 2018 in order to ensure appropriate levels of care are provided to vulnerable young parents and their children across Nottinghamshire.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That members of the Children's Trust Executive:

- 1) Note the contents of this report and acknowledge progress made in relation to the implementation of FNP.

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Background Papers

None