

From: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 8 July 2015

Subject: Progress Implementing the Troubled Families Programme

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Not Applicable

Future Pathway of Paper: Not Applicable

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This report sets out Kent's progress in implementing Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme and our plans for delivering the Expanded Programme in Phase 2. The next phase has wider criteria for identifying families and will provide a larger number of families with support.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note the success of the Troubled Families Programme in Phase 1 and the approach to delivering the Expanded Programme in Phase 2.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In April 2012 the Government launched the Troubled Families Programme, a £448 million scheme to incentivise Local Authorities and their partners to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families by May 2015.
- 1.2 Phase 1 of the Programme supported families where children were not attending school, young people were committing crime, families were involved in anti-social behaviour and adults were out of work.
- 1.3 Following the success of Phase 1, the Government decided to expand the Troubled Families Programme for a further five years from 2015, in order to reach an additional 400,000 families across England. The criteria for families entering the programme have been broadened and there will be a legal duty on the Government to report annually to Parliament on the progress on the programme.
- 1.4 In Kent, KCC is the accountable body for the Troubled Families Programme at a strategic level, working with Chief Executives from District Councils and key partners in delivering the strategy for Kent, through the Multi-Agency Steering Group chaired by the Leader.

2. Financial Implication

- 2.1 The costs of the programme are funded by national grant funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The funding from Phase 1 has been reduced and is explained in 5.3 below.

3. The progress in Phase 1

- 3.1. The Kent Troubled Families Programme has been successful in ‘turning round’ 2560 families, which means that agreed positive outcomes have been achieved and sustained. This was 100% of our target number of troubled families in Phase 1.
- 3.2. Turned around a family means that at least one adult has returned to work and is no longer claiming out-of-work benefits and that the children in these families are showing more positive engagement with improved and sustained attendance at school, and have reduced or stopped offending or committing anti-social behaviour. While the Phase 1 final national rankings have not yet been published, the numbers of families turned around means Kent will rank at least 3rd nationally out of 151 local authorities and most successful of the 17 in the South East Region.
- 3.3. This result demonstrates that the ‘whole family’ approach adopted by the Kent Programme is delivering results, which is testament to the strong level of partnership support to the Programme.
- 3.4. A key element of the success of the Troubled Families Programme in Phase 1 has been the strength of the joint working arrangements that have been developed with key partners. These include District Councils, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Kent Police and Schools.
- 3.5. Services commissioned for the delivery of services to troubled families have included KCA Family Intervention Project Worker Service (FIPs), Project Salus FIPs, Young Lives Foundation and Royal British Legion Industries. District Councils also commissioned services locally, to support troubled families in their area, which have been successful.
- 3.6. Support to troubled families has also been provided by the Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) and some troubled families have also been part of the DWP’s and Kent’s testing of the DWP Pre-Paid Card.
- 3.7. Due to the successful results in Phase 1, Kent was identified as an Early Starter for the phase 2 Expanded Programme by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and began identifying families in January 2015.

4. Integration of the Kent Troubled Families Programme

- 4.1. The Kent Troubled Families Programme is located within the Early Help and Preventative Services Division. This has been in operation from 1st April 2014, and brought together all the KCC services that are focused on early

help and prevention and ensures we deliver a more integrated whole family approach to supporting vulnerable children, young people and families in Kent.

- 4.2. During Phase 1 of the programme KCC Local Project Delivery Managers (LPDM's) successfully coordinated multi-agency support for the troubled families cohort locally in each district and had oversight of district based Projects delivering the Troubled Families agenda.
- 4.3. The LPDM's role from the 1 April 2015 is now renamed District Partnership Managers (DPM's) to take in to account their widened brief that includes partnership working across an Early Help District, while retaining overall responsibility for delivering the Troubled Families Programme locally.

5. Arrangements for the Expanded Programme – Phase 2

- 5.1. Under the Expanded Troubled Families Programme in Phase 2 the target numbers of families to be turned around will grow from 2,560 to 8,960.
- 5.2. For identifying this larger number of troubled families and the key issues faced by families, the criteria have been expanded to include the following:
 - Parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
 - Children who have not been attending school regularly
 - Children who need help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as children in need or who are subject to a Child Protection Plan
 - Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion or young people at risk of worklessness
 - Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
 - Parents and children with a range of health problems.
- 5.3. The DCLG have reduced maximum potential funding per family for the Expanded Programme from £4000 to £1800. This is made up of two elements. £1000 per family is paid as a fee when they are identified for the Programme and £800 paid on Payment by Results basis for each family 'turned around'. Maximum potential funding for the Kent Programme is £18,128,000.
- 5.4. Engagement with most families will be delivered through Early Help and Preventative Services, commissioned services and other public sector partners may also lead the work with families.
- 5.5. Early Help and Preventatives Services will work with a high proportion of the identified Troubled Families. This will be either through engagement with Open Access Early Help, such as Youth Hubs or Children's Centres, or

through more intensive family support as part of an Early Help plan, with a key worker.

- 5.6. Commissioned Services to families such as Family Intervention Project workers (FIP and FIP Light) will make a key contribution and these contracts are included in an Early Help review of commissioning with new arrangements operational from April 2016. Due to the success of the FIP model it is likely to be continued and integrated with Early Help front line family support services. This will give the Kent Programme a more effective and flexible pool of multi-skilled commissioned family workers.
- 5.7. The planned response to the needs of family members will be set out in a single Family Plan, co-ordinated by the Key Worker. The Programme will continue to take a whole family approach and encourage all partners to support this approach.
- 5.8. In the Extended Programme, the mandated information and data requirements are much greater than Phase 1, and includes more detailed information for each family tuned around, Family Monitoring Data, participation in a National Impact Study and a very detailed Cost Saving Calculator. The funding to the Programme is conditional on the collection and submission to the DCLG (and its agents) of accurate information and data.
- 5.9. A major challenge of Phase 2 is the larger number of families that need to be engaged and turned around by achieving more positive outcomes for them. Key elements will be the effectiveness of the delivery of whole family services by Commissioned Family Intervention workers and Early Help Units and Open Access services. It is also important that other services take a whole family approach.

6. Recommendation:

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note the success of the Troubled Families Programme in Phase 1 and the approach to delivering the Expanded Programme in Phase 2.

7. Contact details

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