

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME (IFIP)
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the progress achieved in establishing and implementing IFIP, a targeted, multi-agency service for families with multiple and complex needs.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) is Wirral's local response to the national Troubled Families agenda. Nationally all 152 upper-tier local authority areas have signed up to the Troubled Families initiative with £450 million being invested to turn around the lives of 120,000 families. According to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) these families cost the public purse approximately £75,000 each per year.

2.2 The criteria for being identified as a troubled family is as follows:

- (i) A child within the family whose attendance at school is less than 85%
- (ii) A member of the family is involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour
- (iii) A member of the family is in receipt of out-of-work benefits

In addition to the above we are able to apply a fourth local filter which can be changed throughout the duration of the project.

2.3 In Wirral we are expected to work with 900 families between now and 31st March 2015 to improve school attendance, reduce criminal/anti-social behaviour and raise aspirations regarding employment and training.

2.4 IFIP will work persistently and consistently with families who have a history of non-engagement with services, or those, who despite multi-agency support, have failed to maintain positive changes. One key worker will work intensively with the whole family to co-ordinate all interventions. This will make the intervention less chaotic for the family, reduce the amount of resources deployed by agencies and address issues of duplication.

2.5 The programme will be intelligence-led. Using an intelligence hub, staffed by key partners such as police and health, a comprehensive history of the family including

their involvements with agencies will be produced to allow more effective targeting of services and resources. This will give the Key Worker a greater understanding of who the family are, their historical issues as well as their current needs. The intelligence hub will also provide Key Workers with 'real time' updates on key events such as admissions to hospital, police call-outs and non-attendance at school, allowing immediate action to be taken.

- 2.6 A Strategy for Sanctions will be employed to ensure that families are aware from the very outset the risks they face if they are unable to make the necessary changes to their behaviour. We will not be introducing any new sanctions, rather we will be applying a more explicit and consistent approach to utilising and acting upon sanctions.
- 2.7 As described above, the use of sanctions will offer challenge to families to change their behaviour. In addition to this we will be offering families a support packages which builds on the existing offer within the local authority area. Specialist support will include counselling for parents, couples and/or family groups, fast-tracking to mental health services, substance misuse services and debt/housing advice. In addition to this a *Family Role Model* service will be provided through the voluntary sector.
- 2.8 In the first phase of the project we are working with families in the Seacombe area. This will involve enhancing the Area Team, based within the Children's Centre, by bringing in more adult-focused services, implementing the intelligence hub, and using the Family Assessment, Family Contract and Team Around the Family processes. We aim to target 80 families in Seacombe who meet the criteria for selection. In the second phase of the programme we will extend the model to work with approximately 400 families in Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry.
- 2.9 In addition to using the project as a means by which we improve the way we work with families, we aim to support community development. Working with partners such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Community Patrol, Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations and the Youth Service, we will be hosting events and supporting community-based initiatives to enhance family life within the areas that they live.
- 2.10 The project is governed by the IFIP Programme Board. Membership of the Board is at Senior Manager level and includes Children and Young People's Department, Adult Social Services, Department of Regeneration, Merseyside Probation Service, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Health, Voluntary Community and Faith Sector, and Wirral Strategic Housing Partnership.
- 2.11 The current contract for Intensive Family Support provision, delivered by Catch 22, has been extended to allow an additional 25 families to be supported within the pilot area of Seacombe. These families have been identified and will receive support through this new delivery model.
- 2.12 On Tuesday 20th November 2012, Louise Casey CB, Director General-Troubled Families, met with the Director of Children's Services, IFIP Co-ordinator and two local families who have benefitted from Intensive Family Support. As part of a feature for a BBC Radio 4 documentary the above persons were interviewed by Winifred Robinson on the positive outcomes that this approach can help families to achieve.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The Troubled Families initiative is a payment by results scheme in which part of the income available for each family worked with is dependent on achieving the desired outcomes. The outcomes of the programme and the budget will be monitored on a bi-monthly basis by the IFIP Programme Board.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no proposals for consideration in this report; therefore there are no other options to consider.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Throughout the period of designing the programme and within the initial stages of implementation consultation has taken place through a Stakeholder Group. Membership of the Stakeholder Group consists of appropriate representation from multi-agency partners working with both children and adults. This group is further enhanced by having 2 lay persons, both of whom have been previous recipients of Family Intervention.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 This programme is a multi-agency service for which voluntary, community and faith groups have had continual involvement with. In addition to consultation and development activities, the Family Role Model service and Intensive Family Support services will be commissioned as integral parts of IFIP. Bids for these services have been received from VCF groups and are being considered through the CYPD commissioning process.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 Delivery of the IFIP programme has the potential to earn £3.3m. A guaranteed £2.1m will be paid to the council through attachment fees and staffing grant, the additional £1.2m is available through the Payment by Results scheme.
- 7.2 The recruitment process for IFIP Key Workers will allow opportunities for staff currently 'at risk' to apply for fixed-term posts until March 31st 2015.
- 7.3 Two posts have been created to support the delivery of the project. Recruitment for An Information Analyst (1.0 fte) and an Administrator (0.5 fte) will commence in January 2013. Both are fixed-term posts until March 31st 2015 and will be offered to internal candidates only.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no carbon reduction implications related to this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Criminal and anti-social behaviour are both considered in the identification criteria for Troubled Families. One of the main aims of the programme is to make significant reductions in both. Links and communication channels are well established with relevant partners and the programme will take referrals directly from the ASB Governance Group and Wirral's Harm Reduction Team.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Members consider the information in the report and satisfy themselves that this new initiative is being developed and implemented in a manner which is beneficial for the council and its partners, and that it will promote good outcomes for the children and parents in families with multiple and complex problems.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To provide the Committee with information relating a new multi-agency approach to working with children and families.

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APPENDICES

N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	15/03/2012

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details: Elizabeth Hartley

EIA lead Officer: Elizabeth Hartley
Email address: elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk
Head of Section: Simon Garner
Chief Officer: Julia Hassall
Department: Children and Young People's Department
Date: 02 January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP)- Wirral's Troubled Families initiative

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Overview & Scrutiny Committee 21 January 2013

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ **Services**
- ✓ **The workforce**
- ✓ **Communities**
- ✓ **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- ✓ Advances equality of opportunity
- ✓ Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

No (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Minority groups	Positive impact- Support will be provided to those families in greatest need. Intervention will be undertaken to reduce family breakdown and improve community cohesion.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Investment from Central Government through the Troubled Families agenda.
Disability	Positive impact- Targeted families will receive support to reduce family breakdown and the need for specialist services. Those with disabilities will be supported to develop skills which promote resilience and enable families to be more self-sufficient.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Potential savings from reduction in need for specialist services.
Families	Positive Impact- Targeted families will receive support to reduce family breakdown and the need for specialist services. The programme should reduce the number of families facing care proceedings.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Potential savings from reduction in need for specialist services.

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Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

These will be monitored by the IFIP Programme Board, which consists of Senior Managers from partnership organisations and relevant council departments. Meetings of the IFIP Programme Board are bi-monthly and utilise set agenda items to monitor progress/actions.

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The IFIP programme does not rely on a referral process. Families are identified using the prescribed government criteria. This ensures that selection is based on data. Families who meet the criteria will be automatically offered this service.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

National research and data, mostly that provided through the Department of Communities and Local Government and it's Troubled Families Team.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Consultation has already been undertaken in establishing the project. On-going review and consultation will take place through the Stakeholder Group (which contains Lay Members) and through evaluations completed by the families.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**