

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

15 MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	<i>WIRRAL INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>ACTING DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>COUNCILLOR SHEILA CLARKE</i>
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report describes Wirral's contribution to the implementation of the Government's Troubled Families Policy. The report includes a project proposal (Appendix A) for approval which will be titled Wirral Intensive Family Intervention Programme. Cabinet, are asked to approve the recommendations as outlined in Section 12. The Wirral Intensive Family Intervention (IFIP) will promote the Council's Corporate Goals.

The programme will support families hoping to move from high levels of need - whereby they require high cost interventions and support- to a position where they are self organising and accessing universal services. Savings will be made (but not immediately) and may well be evidenced in reducing pressures on intensive resources. The programme is a government priority and it supports the intentions of the Council Corporate Plan.

- 1.2 The report is not exempt.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Troubled Families policy (Community Budgets) was introduced by the government as an initiative to deal with the challenges presented by families with complex needs. Building on the Total Place model, it involves a number of agencies working together to identify needs and appropriate interventions. Central to this approach is the need for families to have one worker who will work with the agencies involved with the family and ensure that the interventions are appropriate and the family is involved in the planning process. In the summer of 2011 Wirral indicated that it was willing to be involved in phase two of the Community Budgets initiative.
- 2.2 Following the riots in the summer of 2011, the Government indicated that there were too many families with complex and multiple needs, with children at risk of, or actually involved in, anti social behaviour, not engaged with the system. The Government has set a target to move 120,000 families from high levels of need to a

point where parents are work ready, the children are in education employment or training and there is a reduction in anti social behaviour. To drive this policy the Troubled Families Unit was set up in the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Louise Casey was appointed as Director General of the Troubled Families Unit. The estimated number of “Troubled Families” on Wirral is 900. The government has established that the following are key indicators for involvement in the programme:

- Family member/s involved in anti social behaviour
- Intergenerational unemployment
- Poor school attendance/ school exclusions

- 2.3 The Troubled Families Unit have identified more families than originally envisaged with the community Budgets programme. Whilst councils are able to carry on with a Community Budgets approach they are being encouraged to prioritise the programme to provide intensive and targeted support to families with complex and multiple needs. Following a visit from the Director General of the Troubled Families Unit, Wirral has indicated that it will be part of the national programme to work with families identified as having complex and multiple needs. It is intended that the approach will be to upscale the work from one locality, with agencies sharing resources, to one which will be Wirral wide.
- 2.4 This will be a challenging programme and will rely heavily on support from across the Council and partners to meet the requirements of the programme. The family intervention will focus on the whole family, supported by a key worker. This is a change in service provision (see Appendix A) moving from the current situation whereby family members receive specific responses to individual issues to one with the family and key worker devising a family centred plan with appropriate interventions being considered against family needs.
- 2.5 Families will receive intensive support negotiated by a key worker. This approach is already employed in the current Family Intervention programmes commissioned for Wirral by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). There is additional intervention programmes commissioned via the EIG and it is envisaged that these will become part of the IFIP programme. The actual amount spent on complementary services is identified in Appendix A as £3,717,783
- 2.6 The families engaged in this programme will have significant needs that will impact on a number of service providers. Multi agency secondments or partnership agreements will be needed to ensure a coordinated approach to dealing with the cross agency issues presented by the families. One council department cannot meet all the requirements of the programme and the involvement of other departments, external partners (including the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector) at strategic and operational level is essential if the expected outcomes are to be met. A key area for agreement will be the secondment of staff from council departments, external partners and the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.
- 2.7 There will be £100,000 available from the Troubled Families Unit to fund a post of Intensive Family Intervention Programme Co-ordinator. This is a senior post and will work across the Wirral Partnership to ensure there is multi-agency involvement resulting in performance measures being met. The post will report to the Troubled

Families Unit and to the Programme Champion, the Acting Deputy Director CYPD (Children's Social Care).

2.8 The rationale behind this programme is not new; it is rooted in the Family Intervention Programmes developed over a number of years. Meeting the expected outcomes and timescales will depend on organisations working differently and working together. Key workers and other programme staff will have to be flexible in their approach and be prepared to work across professional boundaries. Additional funding is being made available to assist with the initiation of the programme. It is expected that partners will align resources such as staff to implement the programme. The government announced in December 2011 that there would be £480m over three years to help finance the programme. Guidance on the amount and the regulations affecting the funding has yet to be released. It is anticipated that between £3,500 and £4,000 will be made available as attachment funding for each family (approximately 50% will be made available at the start of the programme). It is expected that 300 families will be included in the scheme each year and that the remaining 50% funding will be paid on a Payment by results basis.

2.9 It is intended to start the programme in April 2012. There are a number of tasks to be completed by then, including:

- Identification of families
- Agree the Vision for Intensive Family Intervention Programme
- Finalise Project Plan
- Agree Governance arrangements
- Identify and secure the support of partner agencies
- Secure cross council support
- Appointment a Co-ordinator
- Hold Readiness assessment workshop

2.10 Interface Associates have been commissioned by the Government to provide support to councils. Part of this support includes a Readiness Assessment Workshop; this will help identify strengths and also areas for additional work. Two workshops will be held, one for elected members and chief officers and one for the staff and partners who will be involved in the delivery of the programme.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 If no work is undertaken with families who meet the criteria for involvement in the programme, high cost interventions will continue to be required. The negative impact on outcomes for children and young people in these challenging circumstances will be significant and may lead to further high cost interventions in the future.

3.2 This programme seeks to engage with families known to a number of agencies; the success of this programme will rely on the tangible support of Council departments and partner agencies including the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There is no other option to engaging with this number of families as part of a planned intervention Wirral wide.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Partner agencies have been briefed through the Children's Trust Board. It is intended to consult with providers at the next Early Intervention Grant Commissioned Providers Forum.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 The delivery of this programme will require the involvement of a number of agencies including the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.

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

7.1 The programme will utilise existing staff and existing resources. There is additional funding of £100,000 to appoint a coordinator for three years. In addition there is a government grant of between £3,500 and £4,000 per family (ie £1m to £1.2 m per year over 3 years).

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Data sharing which will be covered by the Children's Trust data sharing protocol.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(a) Yes and impact review will be published on the web site, hyperlink below.

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

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 No.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That Cabinet approves the business case as outlined in Appendix A.

Cabinet approves the appointment of a programme Co-ordinator and refers this to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

Cabinet requests a further report outlining the cross departmental implications in implementing this programme.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To enable the necessary discussion to take place with partners to secure support to implement the programme.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Project Proposal _Intensive Family Intervention Programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date