

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 20 MARCH 2012

WIRRAL FAMILY INTENSIVE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report describes progress made in relation to the implementation of the Wirral Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) following a report to the Children's Trust Board on 24th January.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Trust Board Members will remember that I reported at the last meeting that additional financial support to assist with the implementation of IFIP was to be provided by the government through the Department Of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The financial support has now been confirmed as £20,000 to assist with preparation workshops and also £100,000 per annum for three years to pay for a programme leader, admin support and other support costs. In addition to help with programme delivery, the DCLG has confirmed there will be approximately £3,500 per family attachment fee available on a payment by results basis. This report provides more detailed information regarding pre-programme implementation.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 15 March seeking approval to implement the IFIP. The report outlined that the Acting Deputy Director will be the Programme Champion and that a Programme Leader would be recruited to be the operational Manager. There is also a requirement that over the three years of the programme 900 families who meet the referral criteria will be engaged. It is recognised that this work cannot be done by one organisation alone and in line with this, referral criteria has to be agreed and robust partnerships in place to ensure there are effective responses to challenges presented by this policy. There has been a significant degree of progress and this view has been confirmed by our link officer in Interface Associates, the organisation commissioned by DCLG to support local authorities.

4.0 Progress

- 4.1 Since the last Trust Board meeting the following has occurred:
- February 2nd Visit to Wirral by the Director General of the Troubled Families Unit (Louise Casey)
 - February 3rd Wirral commissioner attends DCLG Troubled Families briefing in Leeds
 - February 6th Meeting with link officer Interface Associates
 - February initiate data gathering regarding non school attendance
 - February 27 briefing meeting with partners
 - March 8th Readiness Workshop planning meeting with Interface Associates
 - Meeting with Wirral Information Officer re data sharing and secure emails
 - March 15 Intensive Family Intervention Programme Report to Cabinet

- March 21 Commissioner attends Feedback session DCLG re Troubled Families Framework
- March 22 Report to Employment and Appointments regarding Programme Leader Post
- April 4th Readiness Workshop - partners only
- April Readiness Workshop – Elected Members (date to be confirmed)

4.2 Work is also progressing with the identification of families. We are working with Interface Associates to secure assistance to help identify families. The job description for the programme Leader has been finalised and awaiting confirmation from employment and Appointments that we can fill the post through an internal secondment arrangement. Other issues on which we are awaiting guidance is in respect of information sharing and Payment by Results.

5.0 Finance

5.1 Additional support funding has been made available by DCLG to cover the salaries of the programme leader, admin, other support cost and the Readiness Workshops. Although additional funding of approximately £3,500 is available through individual family attachment fees, this will be available on a payment by results basis. Indications are that some of this will be available on a front loaded basis but the actual figure has not been specified. The remainder of the funding is to come from existing funding which will be available through pooling staff resources through integrated working which is a key element of this programme.

6.0 Recommendations:

6.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

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