

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

17 JULY 2012

INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME UPDATE

1.0 Background

The national Troubled Families Programme was launched in November 2011 and Wirral signed up to be part of the programme in February 2012. On Wirral, the programme is titled The Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP). This programme will run until March 2015 and it is expected to improve the lives of 120,000 families nationally and 900 on Wirral. The report provides an update of progress since the last report to the Children's Trust Board in March 2012.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Troubled Families Team has set improvement targets to demonstrate that, by March 2015, the lives of 900 families locally will have been improved. Building on experience gained from the, Early Intervention Grant commissioned, Family Intervention Programme, the IFIP will use a dedicated key worker to work with each family to identify agreed interventions which will contribute to an overall improvement in the family's outcomes. There are set criteria to be met before a family can be referred into the programme, these are:

- Families with children with more than 15% unauthorised school absence
- Families with involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- Families with inter-generational unemployment

2.2 In addition, authorities can identify fourth criteria to include those families which are a drain on the public purse requiring additional support and challenge. This can include families with children on the Edge of Care, families experiencing domestic abuse or families experiencing substance or alcohol misuse. There is additional time limited funding to support the programme including:- an annual grant of £100K to fund a Programme Co-ordinator and other support posts; an attachment fee of £3,200 for each family engaged; and an additional £800 per family to be allocated on a payment by results basis. The reward element of the funding will be applied as follows:

Result	Attachment Fee	Results payment	Total
<p>They achieve all 3 of the education and crime/ anti-social behaviour measures set out below where relevant:</p> <p>1. Each child in the family has had fewer than 3 fixed exclusions and less than 15% of unauthorised absences in the last 3 school terms; and</p> <p>2. A 60% reduction in anti-social behaviour across the family in the last 6 months; and</p> <p>3. Offending rate by all minors in the family reduced by at least a 33% in the last 6 months.</p>	£3,200 per family	£700 per family	£4,000 per family
<p>If they do not enter work, but achieve the 'progress to work' (one adult in the family has either volunteered for the Work Programme or attached to the European Social Fund provision in the last 6 months).</p>		£100 per family	
OR			
<p>At least one adult in the family has moved off out-of-work benefits into continuous employment in the last 6 months (and is not on the European Social Fund Provision or Work Programme to avoid double-payment).</p>	£3,200 per family	£800 per family	£4,000 per family

2.3 The successful implementation of IFIP relies heavily on the support of partner organisations and other departments within Wirral Council. The aim of the programme is that after 2015 this approach with families meeting referral criteria should be sustainable. Feedback from the recent peer review indicates that we have the resources to meet the challenges of this programme. We now need to carry out a critical review of how we currently work with families and with other agencies. This may involve reducing the number of referral pathways and assessment panels, and may require a willingness to change working practices to include staff working flexibly, with new partners and at times in unfamiliar surroundings, all within an outcomes performance management framework.

2.4 To help with the implementation of the Programme a Stakeholder Group has been established which will oversee and advise on its operational delivery. The Stakeholder Group has representation from the following:

- Children and Young People's Department
- Wirral Partnership Homes
- Merseyside Probation Service
- Voluntary Community and Faith Sector
- Commissioned services.
- Community Safety
- Public Health

2.5 Terms of Reference for the Board, the Stakeholder Group, parents and young people's groups have been developed. Following the Readiness Workshop in April a report has been prepared which has identified areas for inclusion in the project plan. Work to identify the families is well underway and once the names are finalised, discussions will be held with the families and other agencies to clarify the current situation and agree next steps.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 As already stated, funding is available to fund a co-ordinator for three years until March 2015. Following an internal recruitment process, the co-ordinator has been appointed and hopefully will take up post in August. The Programme Board membership has been agreed and the first meeting will take place on 19 July. Membership includes:

- The Chief Executive Wirral Council
- Director of Children's Services
- Area Commander Merseyside Police
- Group Manager Merseyside Fire and Rescue
- Representative from Voluntary Community and Faith Sector
- Representative from Merseyside Probation Service
- Director of Public Health

3.2 The programme will be subject to national evaluation and colleagues have met with staff from the Troubled Families Team to consider what information will be required and what systems will be necessary to support the efficient gathering of data. In support of this, a colleague from CYPD has drafted a Family Common Assessment Framework (Family CAF) which has included the data that will be required to support any payment by results claim. Wirral CYPD has given the Troubled Families Team permission to try the Family CAF on the understanding that it is still in draft and that Wirral will receive feedback from other authorities piloting the form.

3.3 At a recent Stakeholder meeting a number of options for the delivery of the programme were discussed (see appendix A). Option 4 from the appendix was agreed as the best option which includes secondments and commissioning as a means of delivering the programme and at the same time filling any service/ expertise gaps in the early stages. This model will be used in the initial stages of the IFIP but will be amended as necessary. It is intended that the programme will, over time, increasingly use in house staff, supported by additional training to address skill

shortages. However, in the early stages of the programme it will be necessary to fill gaps using secondments from within the council or partner agencies with commissioning being used to address wider service needs. This is an area that will be further developed by the programme co-ordinator when in post.

4.0 Finance

4.1 There is funding available to support programme implementation. There is a grant of £100K to support staffing and support costs. In addition there is a total of £4,000 available per family as follows:

Total funding available per family = £4000		
Year	% of payment offered as upfront attachment fee	% of payment offered as a results- based payment in arrears
2012/13	80%	20%
2013/14	60%	40%
2014/15	40%	60%

4.2 In 2012-13, Wirral has indicated that it will work with 300 families. Nationally, the government has assumed that of this 300, one sixth will be supported by complementary government funded programmes such as the ESF Work Programme. Therefore, £800,000 will be available in 2012-13 to be used, as required, to ensure that the necessary outcome focused interventions are provided. If the required payment by results outcomes are met there will be an additional £192,000 available, paid in arrears.

5.0 Recommendations:

5.1 The Board note the report and request a further progress report in six months.

Appendices:

Appendix A Delivery Models: Intensive family Intervention Programme

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