

**What  
Really  
Matters?**

**Budget Option**

# **Children's Services Commissioning**

## Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
200	-	-	200

## Option summary

This option would see a saving of £200,000 being made by targeting parenting, family and youth support services to those with the highest level of need. These services are mainly purchased from private and voluntary organisations. The option would lead to a reduction in the provision of parenting and family support and youth services. This would include a reduction in the Out of Care Contract if the outputs and outcomes of the current provider are achieved.

## Potential impact

The proposals still seek to ensure that services are accessible and target the more vulnerable and at risk children, young people and families such as young carers, Black and Minority Ethnic Families, Children who have experienced domestic violence and those at the edge of care. Referrals to services will be managed centrally to ensure that appropriate families who are in need of support access appropriate interventions. Access to any service will be based on need.

The main risks are around changing the assumptions of service users and stakeholders about what has been available under the current funding arrangements and the partnership working to achieve changes in the current contracts.

As the services move to target families with higher levels of need existing Services users may not meet the required threshold to access support. This may result in a reduction in the number of children, young people and their families receiving a service which in-turn could mean that there is an increase in referrals to Social Care, and an increase in the number of young people becoming first time entrants into the Youth Justice System.

The impact of reduced capacity would be across the borough. The proposed reduction would reduce investment within the voluntary sector and this could potentially affect our current providers of services.

## Reducing the impact

Delivering targeted support contracts will refocus and shape services to ensure that they are only delivered to the areas with highest needs, deprivation and child poverty.

Rolling over commissioned services for 12 months will give time to develop partnerships with both Adult Social Services and Public Health across the borough as well as with Cheshire West and Chester. This will create help to develop services, avoid duplication and maximise natural synergies in areas such as family support, young carers and youth services.