



Title: Future Funding for Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF)

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1 Introduction

This report provides Members the future planning for the Supporting Leicestershire Families following a summit held across the Leicestershire partnership where there was an overall commitment to sustain the SLF programme and the significant impact of the work with families was clearly acknowledged

Recommendations

That Members:

- 1) Note the performance of the SLF programme in the Oadby Wigston locality
- 2) Approve a further 3 years of funding to be maintained at the same level as previously at £23,000 per year.

2 Information

SLF programme is funded via a pooled budget made up of both partner contributions and money from the National Troubled Families Unit (TFU). The programme was initially funded for three years (2012/13 – 2015/16) and funds have been held in reserves to manage the budget over the three year period. The national Troubled Families programme was launched in December 2011 by the Prime Minister. Leicestershire's response to the programme was the creation of a pooled budget to deliver a programme of intensive support to families identified with complex and multiple issues who place some burden on the resources of public sector services.

As part of the payment by results system Leicestershire fully delivered the phase one target, therefore drawing down additional funding into the programme. This means, based on an average length of involvement with families of 42 weeks, there are sufficient funds held in reserves to complete our interventions with those families who are open to us currently and those referred to the programme up to the end of March 2016.

Leicestershire County Council (LCC) who is holding the funds made clear their commitment to completing the work with those families now engaged with the programme. However, to take on any new work with families

beyond this date will require additional and ongoing funding from the partnership.

The Government has committed to funding the programme for a further five year period (until March 2020). In light of this a request has been made to consider a further financial commitment which can be aligned with that now provided by the Troubled Families Unit for 2017/18 – 2019/20.

Partnership Arrangements

During the year the SLF Operational Leadership/steering group was established, building on the previous arrangements for regular meetings with the Districts/Borough Council partners. The expanded Group has involved Public Health, Clinical Care Commissioning Groups, and Probation. The role of the group has been to explore operational and strategic issues together in recognition that the success of the service is dependent on effective multi-agency working.

Local Arrangements.

The Council's SLF working group and lead officers have held discussions and met with the Head of SLF services and considered the current commitment, the SLF annual report of 2014 and the details of locality arrangements and practices.

At Oadby and Wigston Borough Council the allocation of support workers include 3 full time support workers and 1 full time team leader. The family support worker teams are locality based and hosted by each District/Borough.

A total of 552 families have been worked with by the service, with 35 of these families being Oadby and Wigston locality.

The locally based support workers alongside the officers with council have worked closely in providing support and solutions to a number of challenges faced by families which are well documented in the 2014-15 annual report. This which is a combination of facts and figures, quotes and reflections from families, workers and other agencies, and brief case studies

The Cost Benefit analysis calculated the current total estimated annual cost of delivering the SLF service for 2013/14 was an average of £3,697 per family. This translates in to £129, 395 worth of services for the 35 families assisted through the service in this Borough, based on the Council's contribution of £23,000 a year the SLF working Group recognises the value of the programme in terms of support to our communities , and the benefits of partnership working.

The working group concluded that in light of the budget pressures on the Council resources, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will not be in a

position to offer any increase upon the current commitment of £23,000 a year which ceases this year.

The proposal is to maintain the Borough Council's commitment to the programme for the next 3 years (from 2016/17) at our current contribution of £23,000. In addition, the Council also remain committed to the ongoing "in-kind" contribution to the programme of officer support, office accommodation and car parking over the next 3 years.

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Background Papers: SLF Annual Report 2014-2015

Implications	
Financial (CR)	Incorporated within the body of the report
Risk (APM)	CR4 Reputational damage CR9 Economy
Equalities (AC)	No significant implications
Legal (AC)	No significant implications