



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

SURREY FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

21st January 2013

KEY ISSUE

To consider the introduction of the Spelthorne Family Support Team as part of the countywide implementation of the Surrey Family Support Programme.

SUMMARY

Agencies across the county have agreed to participate in the Surrey Family Support Programme, a new approach to supporting families who have multiple needs, based on a new model of multiagency working.

It is following a period of consultation, and the evaluation of a pilot service hosted by Waverley Borough Council, that this approach and model have been agreed.

Spelthorne Borough Council have developed a local plan in line with the countywide approach, and will participate in the first phase of implementation in January 2013.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to note: the implementation of the Surrey Family Support Programme in Spelthorne.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Surrey Family Support Programme is the name we have given to the local implementation of the Government's Troubled Families Programme. Calling the local approach the Family Support Programme gives a clearer description of our objectives and avoids stigmatising those families that take part.

- 1.2 This report provides an overview of the Surrey Family Support Programme, including consideration of Spelthorne Borough Council implementation of the programme locally (see APPENDIX 1 and APPENDIX 2).

2 DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

2.1 The Government's Troubled Families Programme

The national Troubled Families Programme targets those families who have multiple needs and cause the most disruption within their communities. The government estimates that £9 billion is currently spent on these families each year. The national programme will reduce these costs and seek to ensure children of these families do not themselves have troubled families.

The Government plans to turn around the lives of 120,000 families by May 2015. The co-ordination of the National Programme is through the Government's Troubled Families Unit based in the Department for Communities and Local Government with the local management of the programme given to upper tier authorities. The government funding for the programme is through a payment by results arrangement whereby local authorities are paid £4,000 for each family who is turned around by the 2015 deadline. Some of this money is available in advance as an attachment fee, to pump prime local services.

2.2 The Objectives of the Surrey Family Support Programme

Through the Family Support Programme Surrey agencies plan to achieve the following outcomes:

- Make a step change in the quality and volume of multi-agency working with vulnerable families and children
- Develop effective family support practice and a sustainable model of multi-agency working for vulnerable families
- Improved outcomes for all the vulnerable families who take part

2.3 Families with multiple needs in Surrey

The government has defined the families eligible for the programme as those who meet **each** of the following criteria:

- Have children not attending school- +15% unauthorised absence, excluded pupils, etc, and;
- Are involved in anti-social behaviour, e.g. young offenders, adults with ASBOs, families with an anti-social behaviour related housing order, and;

- Have an adult claiming an unemployment benefit

Surrey has been set the target of turning around the lives of 1050 families by May 2015. We are required to include in the local programme those families who meet all three of the criteria cited above. Where the number of these families falls short of the 1050 target we can then include those families who meet two of the criteria and make up the number by adding in a local discretionary criteria. We estimate that as few as 100 Surrey families will meet all three of the government criteria and so most the families that join the Surrey programme will meet two criteria and the local discretionary criteria of being a family of concern.

A family of concern is defined as a family where one or more of the following issues are present: children in need, mental ill-health issues, drugs and alcohol problems, NEET and/or RONI young people, ex-prisoners and families with incidences of domestic abuse. Further criteria may be added as the programme develops.

Our early analysis shows most of the families who will be eligible for the programme live in the urban centres of the five boroughs and districts with the largest populations including Spelthorne.

2.4 The local coordination of support to these families

The local coordination of support o these families will be led by Borough and District councils, supported by all other agencies. Borough and District Councils are the local place leaders for Surrey and are much closer to their communities than countywide agencies.

Spelthorne Borough Council have drafted a local plan (see APPENDIX 1 and APPENDIX 2), which will build upon the following areas outlined in the countywide implementation plan.

Spelthorne Borough Council will manage a Family Support Team, to provide intensive support to families with multiple needs, and co-ordinate a Team Around the Family (TAF).

Family Support Teams will identify local resources and contacts. Raising awareness amongst local practitioners who will participate in the Team Around the Family is crucial to the success of the programme.

2.5 Team Around the Family (TAF)

Effective multi-agency working is symbolised by the use of a Team around the Family (TAF) which works in partnership with the family to identify concerns and issues, and plan together, to deliver resources and interventions for up to one year. Families attend all meetings and all information and thinking is shared with them.

It is likely that TAF membership will be characterised by a core group of members who retain an ongoing relationship with the family and an additional group comprised of those who will provide short-term advice and/or support. TAF members have an obligation to attend these meetings or supply a report of their work and resourcing of the family during this period.

2.6 Working in partnership to support families with multiple needs

Families with multiple needs are the responsibility of all agencies and a multi-agency approach is required to successfully support these families. The Surrey Family Support Programme is based on agencies agreeing to the following arrangements:

- The local coordination of support to these families will be led by Borough and District councils, supported by all other agencies.
- All relevant agencies will work as part of a Team Around the Family for each of the families in the programme.
- All the families in the programme will undergo a single multi-agency assessment of their needs and have a single multi-agency support plan.
- All the families in the programme will be given a period of intensive support.
- We will create a virtual team of family support professionals in each borough and district.
- All arrangements will be clinically governed through the partnership approach.

In addition to improving outcomes for families with multiple needs the Family Support Programme will innovatively transform multi-agency working in Surrey.

2.7 Outcomes for families

The Programme will seek to achieve the outcomes sought through the government's Troubled Families Programme of:

- Improving school attendance for those pupils missing more than 15% schooling and or those with three or more fixed term exclusions
- Supporting unemployed adults into work
- Reducing family involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour

In addition to these national measures, local measures will include:

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- Reducing children in need
- Supporting NEET young people to be PEET
- Supporting family members complete engage with and complete support programmes, e.g. substance misuse treatment, family therapies
- Improving family functioning and neighbour relations
- Better value for money

A performance management framework will be used across the county to record and report on the progress and outcomes of families and agency participation in the Team Around the Family (TAF).

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 As part of their development of a local area plan Spelthorne will consult staff from across public and voluntary agencies regarding the implementation of the Surrey Family Support Programme.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The agreed programme of work has been costed on the basis of those families entering the programme receiving an average of 12 weeks intensive support. Working with 1050 families by May 2015 has an estimated cost of £3.8m.

We are able to draw down from the government an attachment fee for each of the families we aim to include in the programme. Subject to achieving the optimum level of attachment fees we will receive £2.3m, which will be used to fund the local Family Support Teams, based in each borough and district.

Through the government's payment by results arrangement there is potential to earn up to a further £0.9m where families meet the success measures of increasing school attendance, getting employment and reducing anti-social behaviour.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Spelthorne Family Support Programme will target a group of families with multiple needs.

Eligibility for the programme is based on the government and local discretionary criteria, not age, sex, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. All families will be treated equally.

Vulnerable families will include those with disabilities and poor health.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour form part of the government's troubled families criteria. Therefore, the Spelthorne Family Support Programme will work with families who are, or have been, involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Spelthorne Borough Council will develop a local area plan, and will be responsible for implementing the Surrey Family Support Programme locally.

They will provide intensive support to families with multiple needs, and co-ordinate local agencies forming the Team Around the Family, and in so doing improve outcomes for families in the area.

They will contribute to the success of the programme countywide, including the development of effective family support practice, and a sustainable model of multi-agency working.

This will be part of the countywide programme.

8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 The Surrey Family Support Programme will be implemented from January 2013. Spelthorne will be among the first five borough and district councils to implement the programme.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: The Troubled Families Programme:
Financial Framework (Department for
Communities and Local Government)