

Email received 14 June 2016

Dear Keith -

Surrey Family Support Programme

Thank you for your letter of 6 June, addressed to Linda Kemeny, following up on the Social Care Services Board scrutiny of the Surrey Family Support Programme at its meeting in January.

Regarding the national evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme. The government's evaluation of the first phase of the programme, i.e. progress up until May 2015, is due to be published later in the Summer or in the early Autumn, depending on when the report has been through its Whitehall clearances. We expect that the DCLG's findings and evaluations of the second phase of the programme, i.e. from May 2015, will be published on a regular basis through to 2020. The timescales for the accumulation and collection of the families and finance data in the second phase will likely mean that useful feedback may not be published until next year by which time a significant number of families have been through the programme. If the Social Care Services Board wishes to review the estimated savings made through the Surrey programme in light of the Government's evaluation of the first phase, then late Autumn or Winter will be the best time to schedule this.

We will have to wait for the publication of the evaluation report before being certain of the government's position over the funding of the first phase of the Troubled Families Programme. However, the expectation is that it is very likely that the DCLG will be looking to demonstrate that the savings created by this model of working are greater than its costs and therefore the business case to locally sustain programmes is made.

The government's intentions for the second phase of the Programme are that the Programme will be a catalyst to transform local working arrangements to significantly increase systematic, multi-agency and integrated working around the most complex families. We should assume therefore that the government is convinced of its business case.

The DCLG's Director of the Troubled Families Unit, Joe Tuke, is due to pay a visit to Surrey in the near future. Arrangements are being made now. This will provide an

opportunity to discuss current and future funding directly with the DCLG. I will consider, with my Cabinet colleagues, any further action on lobbying the government over funds after this meeting.

One of the keys to the long-term sustainability of the Family Support Programme will be how the Council integrates the whole family working and multi-agency approach developed in this programme within the wider Early Help Strategy. The Social Care Services Board will have opportunities to consider this as part of the scrutiny of the Council's Confident in Our Future programme to improve services to children.

I have passed on your thanks to those officers who have secured the positive progress to children and families through the Family Support Programme.

Kind regards

Clare Curran
Cabinet Member for Children and Families Wellbeing
Councillor - Bookham and Fetcham W
Surrey County Council