

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 26 MARCH 2013

**REPORT OF: CLARE CURRAN, CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SELECT COMMITTEE AND THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES TASK
GROUP**

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES TASK GROUP



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report contains the findings and final recommendations of the Supporting Families Task Group, which has scrutinised the development of the Surrey Family Support Programme.

The Surrey Family Support Programme is the name given to the local implementation of the Government's Troubled Families Programme, which seeks to target interventions at those families who have the most needs and cause the most problems within their communities. The Supporting Families Task Group is a cross-select committee task group, sponsored by the Children and Families Select Committee. The objectives of the task group were:

- To consider the high-level objectives of the Surrey Family Support Programme;
- To recommend how families should be prioritised for inclusion within the local project;
- To identify what is being done to simplify and rationalise the multi-agency service offer to families within the Programme;
- To assess how sustainability of outcomes is being built into the Programme's design;
- To consider how defined outcomes for families will be monitored;
- To review how the local business case for Surrey agencies is being developed and what systems are being put in place to identify cash savings;
- To consider current governance of the Family Support Programme and recommend governance and scrutiny arrangements going forward for the Surrey Family Support Programme.

The task group has identified five recommendations for Cabinet which are listed below. The task group has also discussed a number of recommendations with the Head of Family Services, which aim to help shape the programme locally. The Head of Family Services is in agreement with these recommendations, which have either been implemented during the course of the task group's work, or will be implemented in due course. The recommendations to the Head of Family Services are included within the full report of the task group, which is attached as Annex 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended:

1. That the Cabinet approves the stated objectives of the Surrey Family Support Programme.
2. That the Cabinet asks that the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families provide clarity over how the objectives of the Surrey Family Support Programme relate to the wider objectives of the Directorate Public Value Programme.
3. That Cabinet reviews the outcomes for a sample of the families a year after completing the Programme.
4. That the Cabinet receives an analysis of the costs of families included within the Surrey Family Support Programme and projected savings to the public purse.
5. That the Cabinet encourages the Borough and District Councils to develop a mechanism for involving and raising the awareness of elected Members through local governance structures, including Local Committees.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations of the task group support the sustainability of improved outcomes for vulnerable families and the sustainability of the Surrey Family Support Programme.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

This is a complex change programme involving the careful coordination of many agencies and professionals using local arrangements. Countywide and local implementation plans are in development.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

The Troubled Families Programme is a key Government priority and funding is linked to its successful implementation. Surrey County Council and its partners can potentially receive up to £3.5 million over three years through a system of payment by results. The Government strongly believes that its new approach will realise further efficiencies and deliver better outcomes for the families involved.

The task group has found that the financial sustainability of the Surrey Family Support Programme partly depends on the ongoing willingness of partners to jointly fund it and so developing an evidence base on the social and/or financial benefits of the Programme should be a priority.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

The Section 151 Officer acknowledges that the programme is complex and is still in its early stages. Therefore only high level costings have been possible to date. More detailed costings will be developed as more families are supported through the programme. The financial and value for money implications will be calculated throughout the programme and will inform the progress.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

The legal implications for the Surrey Family Support Programme are contained in the report of the Strategic Director, which is also being considered at this meeting. There are no implications flowing from the recommendations in this report.

Equalities and Diversity

The Surrey Family Support Programme seeks to target support at those families who have a multiplicity of problems. As the programme and its priorities are developed, consideration will need to be given to the equalities profile of the families targeted through the programme and the success of family participation. Children and Families Select Committee will have the opportunity to scrutinise an equalities impact assessment as part of the review of Phase 1 implementation.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

The programme includes families with children in need. One of the planned outcomes is a reduction in Looked After Children.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

The local discretionary criteria of a family of concern prioritises the needs of vulnerable children and adults, focusing particularly on the following issues: children in need, mental ill-health, drugs and alcohol problems, NEET and or RONI young people, ex-prisoners, families at risk of becoming homeless and families with incidences of domestic abuse.

As part of the Team Around the Family (TAF) model of multi-agency working, partners will take joint responsibility for safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults within families with multiple needs. Working together limits the opportunity for safeguarding issues to go unnoticed.

The offer of up to twelve weeks intensive support for those families with the most complex multiple needs will help these families to safeguard themselves now and for the future.

Public Health implications

Through undertaking a health impact assessment, the following implications have been identified.

Environmental conditions: Positive impact to noise as programme impacts on anti-social behaviour

General socio-economic and cultural conditions: Positive impact on poverty, community safety, housing conditions, crime, education

Social and community network: Positive impact on social inclusion

Health behaviours: Positive impact on substance misuse

The programme will monitor the impact on health providers, in particular 0-19 public health services to ensure this has a positive rather than negative impact in their ability to deliver core public health services commissioned.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

The Children and Families Select Committee will receive update reports in 2013 to monitor the implementation of the Task Group's approved recommendations and to consider the review of Phase 1 implementation. Any significant issues will be referred to the Cabinet.

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Consulted:

Mary Angell, Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Nick Wilson, Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
Sean Rafferty, Head of Family Services

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – Task Group report
Appendix 1 – Case study example

Sources/background papers:

- DCLG (March 2012) The Troubled Families Programme: Financial Framework for the Troubled Families programme's payment-by-results scheme for local authorities (www.gov.uk)
 - DCLG (July 2012) Listening to Troubled Families (www.gov.uk)
 - DCLG (December 2012) Working with Troubled Families (www.gov.uk)
 - DCLG (January 2013) The Cost of Troubled Families (www.gov.uk)
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