

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 19 JULY 2010**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Invest to Save; Targeted Support Team	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Ian Curryer, Satinder Gautam	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Paulette Thompson-Omenka, Head of Service, Children In Care, Sandfield Centre, Ext 50850	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>	Sharon Clarke, Service Manager, Residential Services, Targeted Support Team Ext 59173	

<b>Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:</b>	
World Class Nottingham	
Work in Nottingham	
Safer Nottingham	<b>x</b>
Neighbourhood Nottingham	<b>x</b>
Family Nottingham	<b>x</b>
Healthy Nottingham	<b>x</b>
Serving Nottingham Better	<b>x</b>

**Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):**

The Strategic Choices programme has proposed the establishment of an Intensive Support Team to enable the transition of young people from Residential Care to a return home and/or into independent living or alternatively a return in to Internal provision rather than expensive external placements. Currently the Targeted Support Team work with this same criteria successfully therefore it is proposed that the £165,000 agreed is utilised to recruit a further 4 Targeted Support workers, Assistant Manager and part time Administrative Assistant who will initially specifically target an identified cohort of 40 young people in order to assess and progress their Care Plans. This involves a clear target saving of an average placement of £900 per week for 40 young people. This is in conjunction with the Value for Money Report agreed in November 2009 that has recruited 4 Targeted Support workers to work with families to continue and expand on the work to prevent the inappropriate accommodation of children into care.

**Recommendations:**

1	The Invest to Save Money is utilised to recruit 4 Targeted Support Workers, Assistant Manager, Part time Administrative Assistant;
2	A cohort of 40 young people are identified to be worked with intensively to progress Assessed Care Plans to reduce the need for External placements where appropriate.

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Building on the success of the Targeted Support Team since its launch in April 2008 and the collation of statistical and financial data through ongoing monitoring, the completion of the Value For money report and supporting documentation (2008/9 Performance Report) was approved.
- 1.2 Currently the Targeted Support Team supports the reduction of Children in Care (CiC) through:
- a prompt return home for children in care where identified as appropriate;
  - additional support to foster placements identified as at risk of disruption;
  - support for transition and stability when a change of placement is identified;
  - an early intervention care divert service.
- 1.3 Referrals are received from case holders within the social care service. Now an embedded team within Specialist Services, we have forged strong partnerships with referrers and supporting agencies and maintain a strong business ethos whilst operating to achieve the Every Child Matter five outcomes.
- 1.4 The Targeted Support Team already records and monitors, through a variety of analytical systems, care placements (including NI62 Early Warning system), admissions to social care utilising the Going Home Tool (GHT) and early intervention care divert outcomes and tracking during each financial period.
- 1.5 In order to build a sustainable financial future, Children's Social Care Services are required to reduce budget spend by £6 million.
- 1.6 It has been identified that there are a significant number of young people currently residing in external placements costing between £219 and £3,500 per week that could be transitioned into independence with additional support. A target of achieving a £1 million financial saving by March 2011 has been identified.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

The project will focus on ensuring that at least 40 children who are currently in high cost IFA placements and who are drifting in care are helped to exit the care system and in some cases return home without delay. This work will be dealt with by a task and finish group led by the Children in Care Service with support from colleagues across the partnership.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

No other options considered

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

Within the Value For Money £149,000 allocation, £18,000 was provided to support the provision of additional premises. To date this has not been used. As part of the Workplace Strategy it is proposed that when premises become available within Nottingham City Council asset portfolio, the team will be moved. To achieve the Strategic Choice programme target, it is proposed the option detailed below will be implemented to manage the £165,000 invest to save allocation:

Complete costings:

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Staffing	123,000
Building/premises	26,000
Additional Set-up costs (including mileage)	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,000</b>

**5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 There is an element of risk associated around demand levels and whether there will be enough cases on a sustainable level for the level of resources being requested. This can be mitigated through the use of temporary contract reviewed at regular intervals and a co-ordinated, supported approach to the project with both Children and Families and the 15+ Service as the main case holders.
- 5.2 There must also be a robust monitoring and reporting system put into place to ensure targets are being met and cost savings are being achieved.

**6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

**7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

None