

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2013
PROVISION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

To consider the provision of family support services across the City, with a particular focus on the Priority Families Programme, and how effective this is in improving outcomes for families.

2. Action required

That the Committee use the information received at the meeting to inform questioning and discussion to scrutinise the provision of family support services

3. Background information

3.1 At its meeting in September 2012 the Committee considered the Nottingham Plan to 2020 Year 2 Annual Report. During the discussion questions were raised regarding the development of policy and funding for family support work in the City. Subsequently the Committee decided to include a fuller consideration of the provision and outcomes of family support across the City in its work programme.

3.2 The Children's Partnership has an agreed Family Support Strategy 2010-14. The Strategy sets out the vision and key priorities for family support in Nottingham and is also an aid to the planning and commissioning of family support services. It states that the vision for family support in Nottingham is earlier support and stronger families, resulting in a family-focused Nottingham where:

- Every child and young person can grow up in a warm and supportive environment, free from poverty and safe from harm;
- Every mother, father and carer receives the support they need to look after their own family, at the earliest opportunity; and
- Public services, businesses and voluntary groups all work closely together, accepting that the whole family approach is our focus.

The Partnership's family support priorities are:

- Intervening early and preventing problems
- Integrating services
- Family focused: personalised and seamless
- Accessible and inclusive
- Empowering families to take responsibility

3.3 The Nottingham Plan to 2020 Year 2 Annual Report reported that the Family Support Strategy "makes early intervention the usual way of working... It ensures that when

families need support, they get it at the earliest opportunity, and that the right help at the right time improves the outcomes for families and prevents more serious issues emerging”.

- 3.4 The Director of Family Community Teams and the Head of Family Community Teams Central will be attending the meeting to present an overview of current family support provision across the City, including the role of the voluntary sector; outcomes for families of the work taking place under the Family Support Strategy; and discuss intentions around future direction and resourcing of this work.
- 3.5 Building on the 2010/11 Total Place pilot, through the Priority Families Programme the Council is working with partners including the police, probation service, Nottingham CityCare Partnership and Futures Nottingham to take a family-based approach to identifying those that need support and ‘joining up’ services provided. The government’s Troubled Families initiative, which is payment-by-results, is a sub-set of this work. The Programme reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Priority Families Programme Manager will be attending the meeting to provide more information about this programme.

4. List of attached information

None

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5 September 2012

Family Support Strategy 2010-14

Nottingham Plan to 2020 Year 2 Annual Report

7. Wards affected

Citywide

8. Contact information

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