

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – 16th MARCH 2015

Title of paper:	Edge of Care Hub Progress Report	
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	25th February 2015	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		x
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		x
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		x
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		x
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		x
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Priority Families Edge of Care Hub diverts children and families away from care proceedings through intensive, whole family intervention using the Priority Families way of working. • All families present with multiple complex issues with all subject to Child Protection Plans • The Edge of Care Hub benefits citizens and service users by building resilience within families, and where safe and possible, preventing family breakdown. • As a consequence, the Edge of Care Hub plays a significant part in strengthening communities. 		
This financial year:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 families have been supported • 78 children have been at risk of accommodation • 10 have been accommodated • 17 cases closed with no further involvement from social care • All 17 families were subject to Child protection Plans • More than £900,000 budget relief has been achieved this financial year 		

- Big Ticket target of £400,000 budget relief
- Current staffing cost is £200,000 per annum

Recommendation(s):

1	For Board members to note the service being provided by the Edge of Care Hub and to acknowledge the benefits offered to by its existence.
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1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. The Edge of Care Hub supports families with multiple complex issues such as domestic violence (DV), substance misuse, poor parental mental health, poor school attendance and worklessness.
- 1.2. The reason for recommendation 1 is for the Edge of Care Hub to continue to provide intensive intervention to vulnerable families within Nottingham City. At present Priority Families grant funding is guaranteed for a further year to 31st March 2016.
- 1.3. In addition, implementation of the recommendation will allow the Edge of Care Hub to continue to provide significant and cost effective budget relief, diverting children from care proceedings, and building resilience in families and communities.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1. The Edge of Care Panel was established in 2013 as a result of internal consultation between the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and the Corporate Director regarding rising numbers of children in care, with the objective of diverting children and young people from care proceedings, and managing a menu support services.
- 2.2. 57% of the children and young people cases that were heard at panel were accommodated in 2012.
- 2.3. The Edge of Care Hub Team was established under Priority Families to add specialist, intensive, and whole family support to the menu of services available to the Edge of Care Panel.
- 2.4. Initially, The Edge of Care Hub was intended to be a six month pilot; this was extended for a further twelve months due to the success of the first six months.
- 2.5. The Edge of Care Hub is funded from the Priority Families Grant until March 2016; further funding has been provisionally agreed until 2020 pending government confirmation of future grant monies.
- 2.6. The Edge of Care Hub was given the Big Ticket objective of providing £400,000 budget relief which it has far exceeded. This service also supports achievement of Priority Families national targets and therefore claims for Payment by Results income that is used to support more vulnerable families.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The option to discontinue funding the Edge of Care Hub has been considered. This would have negative cost implications for the local authority, and a negative effect on the Children in Care numbers.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 Philip Harrison, Project Manager, Early Intervention Directorate, consulted with finance colleagues in establishing actual budget relief up to 31/12/14 as £883,000.
- 4.2 The figure above offers clear value for money when considering that the full term cost of the team is a quarter of actual budget relief, up to the three quarter period
- 4.3 The actual budget relief is inclusive of the deduction of:
1. team cost (£200,000) per annum
 2. 10% of actual budget relief up to 31/12/14 for cost of placement variation
 3. 20% of actual budget relief up to 31/12/14 for failure rate
- 4.4 So far this financial year, 88% of children and young people directly at risk of accommodation that have been supported by the Edge of Care Hub, have been diverted from care proceedings.
- 4.5 The financial implication of the above is reduced pressure on the local authority in care costs, and additional social work hours.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 The risks attached to a decision to continue funding to the Edge of Care Hub is minimal with a small cost implication that can be offset against the budget relief.
- 5.2 The risk of not funding the Edge of Care Hub is that vulnerable families will not get the intervention they need to be diverted from care proceedings.
- 5.3 The Hub supports families subject to Child Protection plans with the aim of reducing risk through whole family intervention.
- 5.4 Without the Edge of Care Hub more families will be at risk of breakdown.
- 5.5 Edge of Care Hub support operates under the Priority Families (Troubled Families) national criteria and helps to reduce police call outs, anti-social behaviour, missed health appointments, poor school attendance, and worklessness.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions) X

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 7.1 Edge of Care Hub Annual Report

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

N/A