

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

1877

Author:

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Department:

Children and Families

Contact:

Nicky Dawson

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Subject:

Priority Families Edge of Care Hub

Total Value:

£200,000

(Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To extend the Edge of Care (EoC) Hub model that reduces admissions to care and placement costs and meets Priority Families criteria and improved outcomes for families at the edge of care, to include extension of existing staff contracts for the Hub team.
This funds 4 workers, 1 CAMHS worker, 1 team manager, 1 administrator + operational costs

Reasons for the Decision(s)

A 6 month pilot commenced 5th September 2013. This was evaluated as successfully delivering planned targets and outcomes. The project was extended for a further year from April 2014 to March 2015 and is currently evidenced as exceeding targets and desired outcomes.

72 children have been supported, of which 63 presenting children have been kept out of care and there are significant avoided costs to the placement budget (in excess of £700,000). No families have disengaged with the service prior to planned exits. The service is embedded and has shown that success can be maintained.

This service is complementary to the Multi-Systemic Therapy Service (MST). It is working with families with widespread issues that comprise a number of younger children at risk of being taken into care. MST works with presenting teenagers with specific needs around school and anti-social behaviour. Therefore the services support different cohorts, and working together they increase the number of children kept from care. There are also savings benefits in reducing placement costs.

An option was included in the previous delegated decision to extend beyond March 2015 that was to be agreed by the Portfolio Holders and Director as required. That option has been taken up and a further extension of a year from April 2015 to March 2016 was agreed by the Portfolio Holders and Director at a Priority Families Leadership Group meeting 2nd December 2014.

Option to extend beyond March 2016 to be agreed by Portfolio Holders and Corporate Director as required.

Other Options Considered:	As part of the big ticket programme there is an MST project and a developing "menu of services" approach for children who do not fall within this criteria. However the increasing numbers of children entering care, presenting at edge of care, and the delay in MST set up led to the development of the Hub as an interim model that is now proving to be a valuable embedded service in its own right that does not duplicate other provision and has been key in stabilising care numbers. Therefore no other options were considered.
Background Papers:	None
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	<p>Date: 02/12/2014</p> <p>Other City Council Bodies:Priority Families Leadership Group</p> <p>This group includes Portfolio Holders, the Corporate Director and other divisional directors. Extension of a further year for this service and the designated budget was agreed at this meeting by Members and Officers designated in the previous delegated decision as the appropriate authorities and under delegated authority of the Health and Well Being Board. The decision was supported by other Directors and Senior Officers at the meeting.</p>
Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.	
Crime and Disorder Implications:	One of the 3 key qualifying criteria for a family to be eligible for support is that there is offending and anti-social behaviour in the family. This includes Domestic Abuse and poor behaviour in school as well as the community. This project directly works to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour as part of holistic support to the family, meeting the council plan as well as government targets.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new or changing policy, service or function.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	16/03/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Human Resources

Legal Advice:

It is recommended that secondment, recruitment and employment steps are taken in line with HR advice as provided.

John Bernard-Carlin,
Team Leader,
Housing, Employment & Education Team,
Legal Services Advice provided by John Bernard-Carlin (Team Leader) on 10/12/2014.

Finance Advice:

It is estimated that the cost of extending the project will be £0.200m, for which funding has been identified from within the Priority Families grant to cover these costs. This project meets the criteria set out in the grant guidelines.

Since its inception the Edge of Care Hub has prevented 63 children entering care, which will have reduced the pressure on the placements budget by an estimated annual cost of £0.700m. Assuming a further 40 children will be prevented from entering care, extending the contract by a further year will reduce the pressure on the placements budget by an estimated annual cost of £0.450m .

Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst
0115 8763726
steve.lynk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

10th December 2014
Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 10/12/2014.

HR Advice:

The proposal seeks to extend these Fixed-Term contracts for a further 12 months. It is understood that most of the individuals are seconded into this team and have substantive posts to return to. Management should ensure these arrangements can be agreed and supported.

For any individual on a fixed-term contract, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contract/s in line with NCC guidance and national legislation, in the result that the posts cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. This extension may take individuals over the two year period which would see them gain employment rights and potentially be entitled to a redundancy payment if dismissed.

Advice provided by Gareth Sayers (Service Redesign Consultant) on 08/12/2014.

Signatures

David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

SIGNED and Dated: 03/03/2015

Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)

SIGNED and Dated: 09/03/2015