

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	2085
Author:	KEVIN BANFIELD
Department:	Children and Families
Contact:	KEVIN BANFIELD (Job Title: EI programme manager, Email: kevin.banfield@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01159763437)
Subject:	Implementation of Safe Families For Children (SFFC) approach
Total Value:	£120,000 over 3 years (£0 cost in 15/16) (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<p>As part of the Children's Transformation programme, approval is sought to enter into 3 year public sector partnership (PSP) agreement with the Safe Families For Children charity to implement the SFFC approach in Nottingham (initially in the North locality). As part of a wider East Midlands SFFC hub, Year 1 (15/16) costs to the Council are nil. Year 2 and Year 3 costs are each £60k, with payment being conditional on the SFFC approach delivering the results specified in the PSP agreement (including reduction of flow of children into care).</p> <p>Specific decisions to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To approve spend for Year 2 and Year 3 at £60k per year</li><li>2. To approve dispensation from contract procedure 5.1.2 under financial regulation 3.29 with regard to entering into a PSP agreement with Safe Families For Children and Warren House Group (evaluators)</li><li>3. That the Head of Contracting and Procurement has delegated authority to sign the agreement once it is agreed with Legal</li></ol>
Reasons for the Decision(s)	SFFC is an early help approach which is targeted at supporting some of our most vulnerable children and families. Based on results elsewhere it has the real potential to reduce the flow of children into care - and in doing so: improve outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children; increase the resilience of families; enable children to continue to live safely at home, crucially, reduce the costs of the child care system in Nottingham.

**Other Options Considered:** A range of alternative approaches to reduce the number, and cost, of children in the care system have been considered over the last 3 years as part of our long-term Children's Transformation Programme ("Children's Big Ticket"). Based on results elsewhere, and its potential to reduce the flow of children into care, SFFC is an approach which has been approved for implementation by the Programme Board.

**Background Papers:** Background to SFFC approach contained on: <https://www.safefamiliesforchildren.com/>

**Published Works:**

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

**Dispensation from Financial Regulations:** Yes

**Consultations:**  
Date: 23/10/2014  
Ward Councillors: David Mellen  
Implementation of SFFC approach strongly supported by Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Date: 06/02/2015  
Other: Nottingham SFFC launch event  
Implementation of SFFC approach supported by wide range of local stakeholders at this key launch event. Representatives included: ward councillors, minority group representatives, community and citizen groups and partners.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** SFFC is targeted at supporting some of most vulnerable children and families and reducing the flow of children into care. SFFC will help families to be more resilient, have better support networks and help support parents so that more children can remain children safely at home. As such SFFC, will have a positive (if not direct) impact in terms of crime and disorder.

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Form SFFC 7th July 2015 v1.doc

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** No  
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

**Person Consulted:** Cllr Parbutt  
**Consultation Date:** 21/07/2015  
Exemption from call in approved to allow for the immediate referral of families to SFFC, so that support to these families and their children can be provided as soon as possible

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

**Legal Advice:** The value of the proposed contract with SFFC is below the relevant financial thresholds in The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which require contracts to be advertised in the EU Official Journal. Negotiations have taken place with SFFC to strengthen the terms of the contract for the benefit of the City Council in particular in relation to data protection and safeguarding obligations. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 17/07/2015.

**Finance Advice:** It is proposed to enter into a three year public sector partnership with the Safe Families for Children's Charity (SFFC) to implement the SFFC approach within the North locality of the City.  
Nottingham City Council will contribute £60k per annum towards the running costs of SFFC.  
In year 1, the contribution will be met by the DfE. Year 2 and 3 contributions are only payable if the model delivers the targets set out in the agreement. One of the targets is a 10% reduction in the flow of children into care.  
If this target is achieved, there will be a reduction in the placement costs of children in care. This reduction in costs can then be used to fund the contributions.  
  
Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst  
0115 8763726  
steve.lynk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk  
  
14th July 2015  
Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 14/07/2015.

**Procurement Advice:**

The proposal to enter into 3 year public sector partnership (PSP) agreement with the Safe Families For Children (SFFC) charity to implement the SFFC approach in Nottingham (initially in the North locality) will support some of our most vulnerable children and families by targeted early help, which will in turn reduce the costs of the child care system in Nottingham. Therefore, dispensation from contract procedure 5.1.2 under financial regulation 3.29 (operational issues) with regard to entering into a PSP agreement with SFFC and Warren House Group (evaluators) is supported from a procurement perspective on condition that the PSP agreement is agreed with our Legal team.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 15/07/2015.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

The proposal offers young people at a very vulnerable times in their lives the opportunity for appropriate support from a variety of skilled individuals including volunteers. It is therefore important as per the EIA that a diverse pool of people are recruited that maintain a culturally competent level of support to meet the wide diversity of Nottingham city's young people profile. Monitoring and review will therefore be key to ensure that where necessary remedial action can be taken. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 07/07/2015.

**Signatures**

<b>David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/07/2015</b>
<b>Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/07/2015</b>
<b>Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 21/07/2015</b>
<b>Chief Financial Officer's Comments:</b>