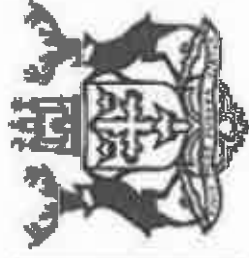


# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham  
City Council

**Reference Number:**

**Author:**

**Department:**

**Contact:**

2389

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Children and Families

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**Subject:**

Extension of Edge of Care Hub Service

**Total Value:**

£720,000 cost

Budget relief estimate £3.08m (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 figure is based on actual annual costs to date and funds 4 workers, 1 CAMHS worker, 1 team manager, 1 administrator + operational costs for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20

**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 was evidenced as exceeding targets and desired outcomes so was then extended for a further year for 2015/16. Again the project has exceeded targets and created significant avoided costs savings. Therefore it is proposed that the project be extended to the term of the grant funding that is for a further four years from April 2016 to March 2020.

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) and the new Multi-Systemic Therapy Child Abuse and Neglect MST CAN. 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. Finance forecast £3.08 million savings will be created through the extension of this service for a further four years.

An option was included in the previous delegated decision to extend beyond March 2016 that was to be agreed by the Portfolio Holders and Director as required. That option has been taken up and a further extension for the full term of the programme from April 2016 to March 2020 was agreed by the Portfolio Holders and Director at a Priority Families Leadership Group meeting 10 February 2016.

Option to extend beyond March 2020 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 "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:**

DD number 1521 and DD number 1877 are relevant to this service.

**Affected Wards:**

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Exempt information:

Description of what is exempt:

Legal advice is exempt in this decision.

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the information contains legal advice in relation to management of legal risk.

Documents exempt from publication:

2016-03-15 Legal Advice.pdf

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder implications:

One of the 6 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 adult and young offenders and spans risk of offending behaviour through to Serious and Organised Crime. The criteria also 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 and a range of other local plans and strategies 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 No

Call In Expiry date:

31/03/2016 N/A

Amended 22/03/16 JG

**Advice Sought:**

**Legal, Finance, Human Resources**

**Legal Advice:**

This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by John Bernard-Carlin (Team Leader) on 15/03/2016.

**Finance Advice:**

It is proposed to extend the temporary contracts of the Edge of Care Hub team for a further 4 years, until 31st March 2020. The estimated total cost of this proposal is £0.720m. Funding has been identified from within the Priority Families Grant to cover the cost of these posts. The Priority Families Grant has been confirmed by Central Government until this date. It is estimated that as a result of working with the Edge of Care Hub, 60 children have been prevented from entering care in 2015/16, which equates to £0.770m in budget relief. If the same level of activity is replicated over the 4 years of the proposed extension, total budget relief of £3.080m will be achieved. Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 22/02/2016.

**HR Advice:**

Management propose to extend the contracts of individuals working in the Edge of Care Hub Team until 31 March 2020 in line with grant funding. An appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to give notice to end a secondment arrangement or terminate contracts in line with Nottingham City Council guidance in the result that the posts cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. In giving notice to end a fixed term contract, management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employees and give appropriate notice and referral to Project People (redeployment). Where an employee has accrued more than 2 years' service, management should be aware of the right to a redundancy payment if the reason for dismissal is redundancy and budget accordingly.

Management will need to contact the Employee Service Centre (ESC) to ensure that employees are advised of the decision to extend in writing. Advice provided by Joanne Hill (Service Redesign Consultant) on 22/02/2016.

**Signatures**

David Mellen (PH Early Intervention and Early Years)  
SIGNED and Dated: 21/03/2016  
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)  
SIGNED and Dated: 21/03/2016