



Together for Families Update

2 July 2014

Agenda item: 8

Alison Smith, Together for Families Lead Officer

1. Purpose / recommendation

This report provides a brief summary around progress in delivering phase 1 of the national troubled families initiative in Cambridgeshire, outlines the details currently known about the second phase of the national initiative and discusses potential implications.

2. Background

The aims of the Together for Families Project are to:

- Identify and turn around 805 families who meet the government criteria (education issues [attendance, exclusions, alternative provision], crime and anti-social behaviour issues and worklessness)
- Ensure those identified have a lead professional as well as a Family/Support plan to respond to their full range of needs
- Develop the 'think family' approach to working with all families beyond the TFF cohort and across all services. Think Family means securing better outcomes for children, young people and families with additional needs by co-ordinating the support they receive from children's, young people's, adults' and family services. The most important building block for achieving this is the Lead Professional role who co-ordinates support for the whole family rather than one individual within the family

3. Progress in delivering Phase 1 of the troubled families initiative (as at 18.06.14)

3.1 721 families have been identified to date

3.2 Once a family is included in the TFF cohort, the TFF project offers the following:

- Identification of an appropriate Lead Professional following research with involved agencies about current concerns and current interventions (this is undertaken by the project Family Researcher at the Multi Agency Referral Unit). Approximately 93% of families have a Lead Professional identified. Some cases are historic and no longer have issues.
 - Training for the Lead Professional in the think family approach.
 - A budget for the Lead Professional to purchase goods and services to support their whole family plan (up to £3,000)
 - Clinical Supervision for the Lead Professional to support them to provide the best possible interventions for the families – 2 of the 5 Clinicians have been appointed
 - Access to a dedicated employment advisor to support any member of the family on out of work benefits with a personalised approach – 3 advisors have been in post since December 2013.
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- 3.3 Once families have made improvements in relation to the identifying criteria, a claim can be submitted for a payment by results. To date the project has submitted a claim for 271 families.
- 3.4 A four strand evaluative analysis of the programme is now underway and results will begin to be published in the summer:
- a full cost benefit analysis of all Family Intervention Partnership cases since March 2013 is currently underway
 - a data analysis of families where a claim has been submitted relating to the primary troubled families criteria (published March 2014)
 - a qualitative analysis of the work of Lead Professionals
 - a data analysis of all families in the cohort relating to a wider set of data
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4. Phase 2 of the national troubled families initiative

- 4.1 As part of the 2013 spending review, the Government announced:
- 5 year extension of the Troubled Families Programme from 2015
 - £200m in 2015/16 (1st of 5 years' intended investment)
 - 400,000 families will benefit from the new payment by results scheme
- 4.2 In designing the expanded programme, the problems targeted by the current programme - youth crime, anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance and unemployment – will remain relevant. However, the expanded programme looks to work with a much larger group of families with a broader range of problems and therefore the criteria will be expanded to include:
- Families affected by domestic abuse
 - Families with vulnerable younger children
 - Families with a range of mental and physical health problems
 - Those who have a high risk of worklessness
 - Those involved in crime from generation to generation
- 4.3 Phase 2 will operate as a Payment By Results initiative as with Phase 1 but with a likely average of £1,800 per family (as opposed to £4,000 in Phase 1). There is also likely to be a higher degree of investment in the co-ordination, service transformation and data management/co-ordination elements of the project.
- 4.4 At this stage there is no indication of how targets would be set by local authority area. As Phase 2 at national level is three times the size of Phase 1, it is possible the Cambridgeshire target would be 2,680 families, with possible funding of around £5million over 5 years.
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5. Implications for partners

- 5.1 Given there is still a great deal of detail to be released in relation to the operation of Phase 2, it seems too early to make specific recommendations about the implications and opportunities for the partnership in Cambridgeshire. However it may be possible to outline some broad ideas and principles to guide current thinking.
- 5.2 There have been indications that the expectations around the style of front line delivery will remain the same, in particular the idea of whole family intervention. In Cambridgeshire, an early decision was made to use the current Phase as a vehicle to introduce and embed Think Family working and positive progress is being made towards this. Phase 2 therefore provides the opportunity to further embed this.
- 5.3 Further to this, the role of the Lead Professional, and identifying individual professionals to take on this for families in the cohort, has been a cornerstone of the current Phase, building on the work of the CAF project. Phase 2 will require a similar focus on, identification of, and training and development of Lead Professionals.
- 5.4 Some of the learning from Phase 1 relates to the importance of co-ordination of work for individual families by researching at the beginning of the intervention who is involved to ensure there is one plan for the family. The work of the project to engage those services often more peripheral to Support Plans, CIN Plans, CP Plans etc, such as housing providers, substance misuse workers, and JCP Advisors has identified the possible need for a single co-ordination point for access to services, building on the MARU/MASH model.
- 5.5 The current phase has required a high level of data support to identify, track and provide evidence for claims. The central TF team have indicated that they intend to place a greater requirement on local authority areas around the production of family monitoring and cost benefit data about the work. There is an opportunity to use the project therefore as a vehicle to share cohort level information about families to more effectively target our interventions.

6. Questions / decisions required

- 6.1 In light of the direction of travel for Phase 2, does the Children's Trust Board agree with the continued direction of travel in relation to Think Family?
 - 6.2 In light of the likely requirements around greater monitoring and cost benefit data required for Phase 2 is there an appetite to see cohort level information used more effectively to target our interventions?
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