

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

11 July 2012

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Cllr Cook

'TROUBLED FAMILIES' PROGRAMME – DELIVERY PROPOSALS

1. Summary
This report seeks approval to a proposed agreement with the Children & Young People's Consortium facilitated by Catalyst in relation to the funding and delivery of the Government's 'Troubled Families' programme in Stockton-on-Tees.
2. Recommendations
It is recommended that
 1. Cabinet approve the principle of entering into a funding agreement with the Children & Young People's Consortium to assist with the delivery of the 'Troubled Families' programme in Stockton-on-Tees, up to a value of £300,000 during the period up to the end of March 2015.
 2. the Head of Community Protection, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the details of the agreement.
3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)
 1. To make use of third sector expertise, to support the Consortium's approach and to achieve greater efficiency and speed in the process.
 2. To move to full programme delivery as quickly as possible, in order to maximise the benefits of the programme within the Government's time limits

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

11 JULY 2012

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

'TROUBLED FAMILIES' PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to a proposed agreement with the Children & Young People's Consortium facilitated by Catalyst in relation to the funding and delivery of the Government's 'Troubled Families' programme in Stockton-on-Tees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

1. Cabinet approve the principle of entering into a funding agreement with the Children & Young People's Consortium to assist with the delivery of the 'Troubled Families' programme in Stockton-on-Tees, up to a value of £300,000 during the period up to the end of March 2015.
2. the Head of Community Protection, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the details of the agreement.

DETAIL

1. At its meeting of 17 May 2012 Cabinet approved the overall approach to delivering the 'Troubled Families' programme in Stockton. Since that meeting appropriate contract arrangements have been made with Tees Valley Housing Association (TVHA) to extend and expand the Family Intervention Project which they deliver on behalf of the Council.
2. Further discussions have also taken place with third sector organisations, including Catalyst, about their potential roles in programme delivery, and agreement has been reached to recommend working with the third sector via the Children & Young People's Consortium which is facilitated by Catalyst and has 22 local community and voluntary organisations in membership, with an established governance structure through the Consortium Board.
3. The merits of such an approach are seen as being
 - (a) It would make effective use of expertise across the third sector in working with children, young people and families experiencing the sort of problems (ASB/offending, truancy/exclusions from school, and worklessness/benefits dependency) targeted by the programme, and the fact that in many cases third sector organisations will already be working with members of the families concerned;

- (b) It would help to consolidate the Consortium's approach of co-operative work across the third sector, which is supported by the Council, and provide the first opportunity for the Consortium to get involved in delivery in a relatively risk free environment, thus helping to secure the success of the Consortium in the longer term and to develop and build third sector capacity in our Borough, as well as maximising the benefits of the programme to the local economy; and
 - (c) It is much more efficient, in terms of Council officer time, to deal with a single point of contact, i.e. the Consortium, than to try to manage commissioning processes with multiple organisations involved, and the arrangements can therefore also be put in place far more quickly, which is important in the context of the time limited nature of the Government programme (April 2012 to March 2015).
4. In particular, it is proposed to invest up to £300,000 in the Consortium approach over the initial programme period (i.e. up to March 2015), and to make 5% of this funding subject to satisfactory delivery of the overall programme, at the level of at least 50% success (as defined by the CLG criteria), in line with the financial model at Appendix A of the May Cabinet report. However, it will be an explicit principle of any agreement with the Consortium that both the Consortium itself and the appropriate Consortium member organisations are all fully signed up to maximising the impact and benefits of the programme for the families and for the wider communities across our Borough, and to recording and providing all the data needed to support the Payment by Results claims process and to support the Council's position in relation to audit of the programme. Furthermore, it is proposed to set up the arrangement as an initial 12 month agreement, with options to extend subject to satisfactory performance (in line with the existing arrangement with TVHA).
 5. In relation to allocation of cases between TVHA and the Consortium, it is intended that the more complex and demanding cases are allocated to TVHA, in view of their particular expertise and track record in family intervention, and that other cases are allocated via the Consortium. It is recognised that in some cases organisations in membership of the Consortium have an established presence in particular communities and that this is likely to have a bearing on case allocation to and within the Consortium.
 6. If Cabinet agrees the overall principle of the approach, detailed discussions will be pursued with the Consortium with a view to reaching agreement by exchange of letters, with the intention of starting to allocate cases to the Consortium from early October 2012.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed expenditure of £300,000 over the three year period is within the agreed budget for the 'Troubled Families' programme.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to whether the arrangement with the Consortium is required to be formally procured. The legal arrangement proposed would see monies transferring to the Consortium to fund agreed activities which already fall within the range of activities which the Consortium would undertake for itself. These activities are in broad alignment with the Council's objectives but are innovative in nature and the outcomes cannot yet be fully assessed although clearly the agreed objectives will be to maximise the impact and benefits of the programme. Because of this it would be difficult to use a traditional procurement and contract approach which requires more certainty around the outcomes. Consequently the best option at this stage would be to provide grant funding for the programme.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

The proposed agreement is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

10. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Regeneration and Transport

The programme has the potential, particularly in year 3, to contribute to reducing reliance on worklessness benefits.

Safer Communities

The programme is likely to contribute to reductions in crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Children and Young People

The programme is likely to contribute to improved engagement in education and an increase in pro-social behaviour, therefore improving the life chances of children and young people in the families engaged in the programme.

Healthier Communities and Adults

The programme will link with health initiatives, including the Family Nurse Partnership but also a range of public health interventions more generally.

Environment and Housing

A reduction in anti-social behaviour, including graffiti, littering etc, should help to improve local environmental conditions, and improvements in behaviour will be of benefit to neighbours of the families engaged in the programme

Supporting Themes:-

Stronger Communities

Reductions in crime and anti social behaviour should result in improved levels of satisfaction on the part of residents in those parts of the Borough where families engaged by the programme live. Furthermore, the contribution made by this proposal to strengthening the third sector in the Borough should produce long-term benefits.

Older Adults

It is anticipated that in some of the families engaged in the programme, grandparents may play a significant role in helping to improve family life.

Arts Leisure and Culture

No direct benefits.

11. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report is not subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment because it is not seeking approval to a new policy or strategy or to change the delivery of an existing service.

12. CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Consultation has taken place with Catalyst in the preparation of this report.

Name of Contact Officer: Mike Batty

Post Title: Head of Community Protection

Telephone No. 01642 527074

Email Address: mike.batty@stockton.gov.uk

Education related? Yes

Background Papers Report to Cabinet 17 May 2012 'Troubled Families' programme.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Potentially all Wards

Property No property implications