

25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

## LATE REPORT - LET'S WORK TOGETHER

### INTRODUCTION

In March 2013, the Board received a report on the current 'state of play' of the Let's Work Together (LWT) project. Members will recall that LWT is a model for training home visitors to spot home based risk which could threaten the safety and / or independence of vulnerable households or individuals. The aims of the project are consistent with the need to focus public resources on those most at risk and prevent crises from occurring (as advocated by the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan 'Safer, Fairer, United Communities'). The project has been managed by Support Staffordshire (Lichfield and District) since spring 2012 and funded through the LSP budget (£21k allocated for 13/14).

### PROGRESS DURING 13/14

The Board has received regular progress reports during meetings in 2013 /14. Further training opportunities have been provided to home visitors and significant investment has been made in developing an elearning tool with financial support from Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands; this will be launched during the spring and will provide a more sustainable approach to delivering consistent training without requiring significant input from partners. Work has also continued to broaden the engagement of other Districts / LSPs; the model has recently been launched in South Staffordshire and Stafford and continues to be embedded in Tamworth, east Staffordshire and Newcastle.

### SUSTAINABILITY

The Locality Public Health Partnership Lead for South East Staffordshire (Jon Topham) has been leading some work on a developing a central offer from the County Council so that the administration required at local level for LWT is kept to a minimum. The central offer would include:

1. Administering all aspects of the training for home visitors including arranging Delegates to attend all training sessions, inputting evaluation forms, making referrals from the training sessions, updating the courses online, uploading course information online and updating Events Calendar where needed
2. Website maintenance

Further work is needed with individual partners (LSPs) before the Central Offer can be confirmed and this may take several months to conclude (especially as there is likely to be a small financial cost which will need to be accommodated within budgets at local level). Within Lichfield District, the current funding arrangement with Support Staffordshire expires at the end of April 2014 and therefore there could be a significant gap before any new system would be up and running. This gap could undermine the future of the model locally if co-ordination, promotion and delivery of training were to cease and therefore it is proposed that funding arrangements with Support Staffordshire (Lichfield and District) are extended until the District Board meeting in November at which point the position can be reviewed. In the event that the Central Offer goes live in advance of this, the need to continue to provide funding to Support Staffordshire will be reviewed.

The LSP currently pays Support Staffordshire £1750 per month to run the project; following discussions, Support Staffordshire have agreed that they could sustain the project with a reduced allocation of £950 per month (£6,650 to end November). The Board is advised that the LSP budget currently stands at £133k.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The District Board is asked to:

1. Agree that the current Agreement for Support Staffordshire (Lichfield and District) be extended on a rolling basis with a maximum review date of November 2014
2. Agree that £950 per month is provided to Support Staffordshire (Lichfield and District) on a rolling monthly basis. This arrangement will be funded from the LSP budget (held by the District Council) and will be reviewed at the Board meeting in November 2014.
3. To note that if the Central Offer comes on line in advance of November 2014, a review of the ongoing role of Support Staffordshire (Lichfield and District) will be undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Group

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