

10th November 2014

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN LICHFIELD DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

This report seeks to update District Board members on the progress being made across Lichfield District working with families with multiple issues as part of the County Council's Building Resilient Families & Communities project.

The report will update partners on the amount of reward grant that has been received through the Payment by Results mechanism where positive progress has been made with families.

The report seeks approval to invest 50% of the Payment by Results reward grant back into "early intervention tackling root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) before they become a problem". Furthermore, it is recommended that the detailed commissioning is delegated to the Locality Commissioning Board.

BACKGROUND

In June 2012 the District Board were made aware of the Government's national Troubled Families programme and how Staffordshire's partners were preparing to respond to the challenge set to make positive progress with families who had multiple issues with unemployment, poor school attendance and/or behaviour and who were involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

The project is strategically led locally by Staffordshire County Council through the District Commissioning Lead and has functioned through a working group of local partners since October 2012 when the first cohort of 31 families was identified. A further cohort of 44 families was identified in October 2013 and a further cohort of 20 was identified in July 2014.

A Payment by Results mechanism is in place to reward positive progress in a number of identified areas. These relate to moving into paid employment, or onto a structured work programme, for a continuous period of three months, improved school attendance, above 85% attendance over the previous three school terms or a reduction in crime or anti-social behaviour, 66% reduction over a six month period. Different combinations of success release payment by results awards ranging between £100 and £800. A further "phase 2" of the national project has been confirmed, with Payment by Results still available but at approximately half of the phase 1 level. More details of Phase 2 can be found at Appendix 1.

PROGRESS UPDATE

The table overleaf highlights the positive progress that has been made with families and the payment by results which have been achieved.

Date of claim	Number of families achieving required progress	Payment by results reward grant
July 2013	10	£5,840
October 2013	17	£8,600
February 2014	35	£20,100
May 2014	10	£7,900
July 2014	6	£4,260

It should be noted that the declining level of claims is predominantly due to the delay in releasing the third cohort of families to the Lichfield partnership. Lichfield District remains ahead of many other districts across Staffordshire in terms of positive progress (improved school attendance, reduced crime and reduce unemployment) made with identified families in cohorts 1 and 2. Across cohort 1 and 2 positive progress has been made with 86% of the families identified.

Members of the District Board will remember that at their meeting in March 2014 they supported a recommendation to invest 50% of payment by results reward monies into further strengthening the local offer by the voluntary sector to support residents into employment where gaps in provision existed. A further recommendation delegated the detailed commissioning arrangements to the District Commissioning Lead (Lichfield). An investment of £7,500 for the next three financial years has now been committed from those monies through the Locality Commissioning Board and is incorporated into the currently live prospectus, covered elsewhere within the agenda.

PROPOSAL TO ALLOCATE PAYMENT BY RESULT REWARD GRANT

Further discussion has taken place at the Supporting Families steering group at its last two quarterly meetings about how the remaining 50% of the reward grant could be best allocated to make most impact. In reaching their conclusion account has been taken of the three overarching ambitions of the Building Resilient Communities & Families project; to improve school attendance, reduce crime and reduce unemployment.

Investment of £15,000 was made into a project at Nether Stowe and Friary High schools in 2013 through an alternative funding stream to improve school attendance and the schools are now actively considering continuing that project through the use of Pupil Premium monies.

Therefore, the group consider the area which still requires additional effort across agencies is work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. An opportunity currently exists to co-commission with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner “early intervention tackling root causes of crime and ASB before they become a problem”. The local Supporting Families steering group has agreed that the remaining 50% of the Payment by Results monies should be utilised in this way.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the District Board;

- note the amount of reward grant that has been received through the Payment by Results mechanism where positive progress has been made with families.
- approve the investment of 50% of the Payment by Results reward grant back into “early intervention tackling root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) before they become a problem”
- delegate the detailed commissioning of the 50% reward grant to the District Commissioning Lead

Wayne Mortiboys

District Commissioning Lead (Lichfield)

Appendix 1

Expanding the Troubled Families Programme (Building Resilient Families and Communities)

In June 2013 the Government announced that the Troubled Families programme would be expanded, reaching out to a further 400,000 families over a five year period commencing April 2015 and funded to the tune of £200 million in that first year.

In the budget the Government announced two important next steps:

- Firstly, the Government has set out information about the types of families we want to reach in the expanded programme.
- To work within a 'whole family' approach.
- To continue to reach families affected by poor school attendance, crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment.
- To reach families with vulnerable children to try and get help to them when they are younger, targeting families "before they reach crisis points" (early help).
- To focus on big concerns such as domestic violence and mental and physical health problems.
- To Produce a plan setting out how we will join up and reform services in order to save taxpayers' money.
- To have approximately £1,800 available per family on a payment by results basis.
- It is estimated that Staffordshire will be required to work with 5000 families over the five years approximately; 1000 families per year.
- Secondly, the Government has agreed that if councils would like to, and where progress on the current programme is very strong, they will have the opportunity to start working with up to 40,000 of the 400,000 families during 2014/15 – and access the upfront funding available to do this.

Barbara Hine
Building Resilient Families & Communities Coordinator