

**KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY PANEL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Tuesday 30 October 2012**

Present: Councillor Burke (in the Chair)  
Councillors Akhtar, Bellamy, Mather, Mayet, P Scott  
Richard Burge  
Arif Ahmad

In attendance:

Phil Holmes - LADO and Safeguarding Improvement Officer  
Clare Mulgan - Head of Stronger Families Programme  
Councillor Peter O'Neill - Cabinet Member for Children and Young  
People's Service  
Richard Smith - Head of Integrated Youth Support Service  
Jenny Bryce-Chan - Scrutiny Officer

**Apologies:** Margaret Dobson and Sajid Mirza

**1. Minutes**

**AGREED** - The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**2. Interests**

Cllr Scott declared an interest in the Stronger Families Programme as he is the Chair of the ward forum tackling poverty.

**3. Admission of the Public**

**AGREED** - That all agenda items be considered in public.

**4. Stronger Families Programme**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Peter O'Neill and Clare Mulgan to the meeting and invited them to brief the Panel on the Stronger Families Programme (formerly the Trouble Families Programme) in Kirklees.

The Panel was informed that the Government had invited bids for funding for the Troubled Families Programme which is a 3 year Programme administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The aim of the programme is to turn around the lives of families with multiple problems, specifically crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) poor school attendance and unemployment by collaborative working with partners to reducing public spending.

Ms Mulgan explained that in April 2012 Cabinet confirmed its commitment to the programme and agreed to delegate the budget to the Director of Children

Services. Ms Mulgan stated that when she took up post on the 1 October 2012 one of her tasks was to set the initial priorities for the first year of the programme.

The Panel was informed that in Kirklees, 1115 families had been identified as meeting the criteria for the programme and the intention was to target 929 families over 3 years with 310 families targeted during the first year. Local data suggests that 35% (92) families are already known to social care for example, are Children in Need, subject of Child Protection Plans (CPP) or Looked after Children.

The Panel enquired whether the families identified would stay on the programme for 3 years. In response the Panel was informed that for some families it would be up to one year, while others just a few months.

The Panel was informed that during year one of the programme the Council can access 80% of its funding as an up front attachment fee with the remaining 20% of the grant being Payment by Results (PbR). This would require the Council to demonstrate real impact for example, adult coming of benefits, significant reduction in anti social behaviour and improvement in school attendance. Each year the PbR element would increase to 40% and 60% in years 2 and 3 respectively and the attachment fee would reduce accordingly to 60% and 40% by year 3.

The Panel was informed that there would be a number of challenges facing the authority with the families having to meet the strict criteria. To date approximately 260 families meet 2 out of the 3 criteria. A forth criteria had been introduced which included factors such as domestic violence, mental health, substance misuse and crime. Therefore in Kirklees the approach would be that families can meet 2 out of the 3 government criteria and then a mix of some of the other issues.

The Panel questioned what would happen to such families when the programme ended. In response the Panel was informed that there was a recognition that funding was time limited and therefore it was important to change the way services are delivered and to develop new ways of working. The intention was not to set up any new services that would have to shut down because they are unsustainable it was about choosing a cost effective model which complements services that already exist.

The aim was to try and invest this money in services that work and that already had infrastructures in place. There had already been an early commitment of 65% of the funding into child protection and family integration projects. The approach would be solution orientated rather than prescribed methods.

The first round of commitments approximately 40% of the funding would be going through the private sector i.e Northorpe Hall and Barnados which are accessing some of this funding though the commissioning process.

This programme should reduce cost and there should be a reduction in the overspend for example by spending £10,000 on a family will save £75,000. This figure has come from academic research.

The Panel questioned whether the impact of the welfare and housing reforms had been considered. In response the Panel was informed that the welfare reform

would have an impact on the families and the reduction in benefits had been anticipated it in the Council's anti-poverty strategy.

**AGREED-** That Clare Mulgan and Cllr O'Neill be thanked for briefing the Panel on the Stronger Families Programme and would welcome regular updates on the programmes development.

## 5. **Review of Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)**

The Chair welcomed Mr Smith to the meeting and invited him to brief the Panel on the Review of Integrated Youth Support Services. Mr Smith informed the Panel that the last Government and the current Coalition Government had a view that services to young people should be targeted.

In setting the context and background to the review Mr Smith explained that several years ago a number of service merged into Young People Services (YPS) and the Youth Offending Team merged with YPS to become Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS).

The review of IYSS was launched at a partnership conference in March 2012. In addition an event was also held with young people to discuss the issues most important to them. The Panel questioned what issues were considered important by young people and in response the Panel was informed of the following:

- 1) Transport – some young people marooned and too costly
- 2) Town centres does not hold much for young people
- 3) Health, opportunities and finance issues

Mr Smith explained that it was important to step outside and take a wider look as the review needed to consider more than just a council wide view and therefore a Commission was set up chaired by Huddersfield University. The Commission will look at the background to the review, current provision in Kirklees and other models operating regionally and nationally.

The Panel was informed that there are a number of models that might be up for consideration these would include carrying on with the current provision or passing the whole of the open access or targeted support to the Voluntary Sector however, the Council might be best placed to deliver target services.

Mrs Smith explained that whatever model was chosen it would be necessary to have an eye on the budget and the workforce would have to change to working with parents. The challenge would also be to get to hard to reach communities.

Mr Smith outlined the proposed timeline for the review explaining that the Commission aimed to finalise its report in January 2013 with the Panel being provided with an update in February 2013.

**AGREED** - That Mr Smith be thanked for briefing the Panel on the Review of Integrated Youth Support Service and welcome a further update in the new year once the model has been agreed.

**6. Work Programme 2012/13**

The Panel discussed its work programme and agreed the agenda for future Panel meetings. The Panel raised a number of issues with regard to the Adoption Recruitment Strategy and asked that these be fed back to the service.

**AGREED** - Issues with regard to the Adoption Recruitment Strategy be fed back to the service.