

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CABINET MEMBER**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TROUBLED
FAMILIES INITIATIVE**

1 OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to establish a Strategic Co-ordinator post to lead the work locally for Troubled Families Initiative

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched on 15 December 2011 a new initiative to work more effectively with and address the needs of families with multiple problems and in so doing reduce the long term financial impact of these families on both local and national government services.
- 2.2 The Department has pledged additional funding of up to 40% to be made available to Local Authorities (LAs) who are able to demonstrate an impact on these families as measured through levels of:
- anti social behaviour
 - truancy rates and attendance at school
 - drug and alcohol addiction
 - worklessness
- 2.3 The work undertaken by the Department of CLG has estimated there are 365 families in North Lincolnshire. North Lincolnshire has applied for the £20k, which was made available to all LAs to undertake the local needs analysis to validate and identify these families locally. This work is required to be done by March 2012.
- 2.4 The DCLG is offering every LA an additional £75k per year for three years to appoint a senior officer 'to grip the programme locally'. These senior officers are required to 'champion, co-ordinate and trouble shoot the effort of the LA and its partners to ensure success locally'.
- 2.5 The DCLG expects all programmes to go live on 1 April 2012 and has advised LAs to commence recruitment to these senior officer posts.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To agree to establish a new senior officer post.
- 3.2 To ask for an alternative proposal to lead and co-ordinate activities locally.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1

- 4.1 The DCLG has made the resources available to establish the post. To proceed with the appointment would enable the LA to meet the required timescales set by the department. The availability of the additional resource would enable a partnership appointment to be made that would be designed to enhance a whole system response to these families.
- 4.2 The post would be in addition to existing senior roles within the service. There could be a delay in initiating our response as services were reviewed to take account of the outward and partnership nature of this post. Any redeployment of existing CYPS managers could have a detrimental impact on embedding the new localities Children and Family Support Service

Option 2

- 4.3 An alternative proposal could result in a more integrated and creative solution to leading this initiative locally by building in an exit strategy for sustainability and mainstreaming from the beginning.
- 4.4 To develop such a response would take time working across the partnerships and thus delay taking a 'grip of the situation'. Any delay could impact on achievements and thus on opportunities to successfully claim for the additional resources the DCLG has made available to reward results. The innovative solution might not deliver what is required because there has been no opportunity to test and identify what works locally.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial - The DCLG grant will fund the full costs of the newly established post
- 5.2 Staffing - Staff from across North Lincolnshire will be given the opportunity to apply for the post
- 5.3 Property - None at this time
- 5.4 IT - The costs of any supporting IT infrastructure for the post will be funded from the grant

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 The purpose of the initiative is to address the symptoms that lead to crime and disorder and to fundamentally address the underlying causes by strengthening engagement with local families who demonstrate the characteristics research has associated with a higher risk of their children becoming engaged in anti social behaviour and crime and disorder

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The programme will report to local statutory bodies including the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Youth Offending Management Board and the Children's Trust Board.

7.2 The programme will adopt the Children's Trust Board Celebrate and Engage Strategy to ensure effective consultation and participation of children and young people through the lifetime of the project and to inform our local plans for sustaining and mainstreaming the learning.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 To establish a Strategic Co-ordinator post to lead the work locally for Troubled Families Initiative.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Letter from Director Troubled Families Team to Local Authority Chief Executive 22 December 2011