

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURE CABINET MEMBER**

#### **ONE FAMILY APPROACH – TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

##### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet Member approval to adopt the 'One Family Approach' to our work with children and families.
- 1.2 The One Family Approach captures our intent to keep children in their families, their schools and their communities working in an innovative and integrated approach to build upon the strengths, find solutions and maintain independence.
- 1.3 The One Family Approach is strengths-based and founded upon our North Lincolnshire values and beliefs, offering a model for multi-agency help that finds solutions in the family and community, based upon consultation and formulation of need. One Family Approach provides a framework for whole-system redesign within the context of the Council Plan and integration plan endorsed by the Health & Well Being Board.
- 1.4 Being developed under the auspices of the Integrated Children's Trust, One Family Approach calls for a new partnership impetus to commissioning, resource allocation, and practice – one which enables families to stay together, build resilience and maximise opportunities within their schools and communities so they experience positive outcomes.
- 1.5 The One Family Approach will enable the council to adapt different ways of working and come together in internal integration, it will bring together this approach across the multi-agency partners and maximise the collective resource.
- 1.6 The approach will for children and families mean:
  - Information , advice and guidance to self help
  - Streamlined assessment and support, based upon consultation and formulation
  - Intervention that builds upon strengths and solution focussed approach
  - Outcome focussed practice

## **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The One Family Approach seeks to build upon the established and successful partnerships in North Lincolnshire, that for a number of years have delivered good and outstanding services for children, young people and their families.
- 2.2 As reflected in the Ofsted 2017 report and further endorsed in their visit in 2019, there is long-standing political and strategic commitment to children and families in North Lincolnshire, delivered by a highly skilled and stable workforce, united by a core set of values and beliefs that place children at the centre of decision-making.
- 2.3 A key feature of the organisational and leadership culture that has underpinned such consistently high performance is innovation. The One Family Approach continues this tradition, as a vision for system redesign that takes North Lincolnshire closer to an integrated and streamlined multiagency offer of help for families.
- 2.4 The approach is founded on a belief in, and commitment to, enabling children and families to stay together, to be able to help themselves, to actively participate in and be supported by their schools, their communities, and be able to access the information, advice and local support they need to remain resilient and independent.
- 2.5 One Family Approach reorients the role of professionals providing help, placing families more strongly at the centre. Applying the organisational model, the first and primary role for helping vulnerable families is enabling self-help via information and advice, and promoting equal access to the local community offer. The trusted professionals around children and families help provide this informal help – for example a childcare professional, teacher, health visitor or school nurse.
- 2.6 If more focused help is needed, locality-based targeted services work to enable the family to self-help, and adopt a flexible and responsive approach to strengthening the support around children. This could include for example, enabling a family to access appropriate advice and guidance, their entitlements to free childcare or a parent to understand and find their own solution.
- 2.7 If a specialist response or set of professional skills is required for a child or family, this will adopt the same One Family Approach, risk assessment remains inherent in practice shaped by a strengthen based model. The help must be early, swift, and build resilience in the network around the whole family so that it can withdraw when no longer needed, enabling the family to remain together and independent in their community.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option A is to maintain the status quo and choose not to endorse the One Family Approach.
- 3.2 Option B is to endorse the One Family Approach as a framework to develop practice as summarised in this report.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The current systems and practice in North Lincolnshire have helped deliver a range of good and outstanding services for children and families. Not pursuing the One Family Approach would mean these services would continue to be developed and strengthened in the North Lincolnshire culture of high performance and best outcomes for people and place.
- 4.2 The One Family Approach has been underpinned via the Integrated Children's Trust and plan for integration endorsed by the Health & Well Being Board. There has been consultation with partners and stakeholders, including the views of children and families and responding to the learning from audit, line of sight activity, and external evaluation. This will help secure even better outcomes and integrated service delivery into the future.
- 4.3 Importantly, the One Family Approach is right to capture our ambitions, those within the council plan and endorsed by the HWBB. It builds upon these and in particular the enabling of flourishing communities where vulnerable people are enabled and have equality of opportunity.
- 4.4 The anticipated benefits of the One Family Approach are numerous, and include:
  - Children maintaining independence within their family
  - Increase in child and families resilience
  - Improved outcomes where children are safe , well, connected and maximise potential for the future – prosperous-
  - Fewer children entering care, and for those that need it, more family-based care closer to home
  - Increased take-up and access to community and cultural offer
  - A shift towards integration and simplified "offer".
- 4.5 On this basis, this report is recommending the approval of the One Family Approach for the further development and implementation of the model to proceed under the auspices of the Integrated Children's Trust.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 There are no specific costs at present associated with the request to endorse the One Family Approach, the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed capacity to develop the approach.
- 5.2 As the approach is implemented future shape of services and commissioning decisions will be overseen by the Integrated Children Trust and in line with the developing 2020 -24 children's commissioning plan.
- 5.3 In general the approach relates to the re-alignment of existing budget and resource as part of the broader integration agenda, therefore One Family Approach is founded on sustainability and best-value rather than new investment.

## **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 The One Family Approach when implemented will likely have a positive impact in terms of anti-social behaviour, crime, and the considerations set out in the Crime and Disorder Act s17, for reasons already set out in this report.
- 6.2 There are no specific implications in relation to equalities.
- 6.3 The key anticipated benefits of adopting the One Family Approach can be summarised as below, set out against the council plan priorities:

### **Growing the Economy**

- Whole-family working supports employment and skills
- Integration is cost-effective
- Keeping families together prioritising the most vulnerable

### **Keeping People Safe and Well**

- Short and longer-term outcomes are the key indicators of success for One Family Approach
- Enabling families to stay together in their communities promotes resilience and a sense of belonging which supports safety and wellbeing
- Prioritising the most vulnerable aims to reduce inequalities in outcomes and progress for those most in need

### **Enabling Communities to Flourish**

- The approach calls for closer involvement and support of PVI and community groups

- Building community resilience and social capital
- Self-help – leads to confidence, independence, and aspiration

6.4 There are no environmental or other considerations.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been completed in relation to the One Family Approach, however consultation has been undertaken with key partner stakeholders in the development of the approach to date.

7.2 It is anticipated that under the auspices of the ICT further consultation with children, families and communities will be undertaken as part of the needs assessment and commissioning cycles.

## **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 There are no specific outcomes from consultation to share, as stated above the One Family Approach has been developed in partnership and close consultation with partners.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 This report recommends Cabinet Member endorsement of the One Family Approach, in terms of the principles and key points as set out in summary in this document.

DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Church Square House  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL

Author: Tom Hewis, Head of Early Help and Protection  
Date: 1 May 2020

### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

None