

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

12 January 2016

Think Family Expansion Programme

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **The committee is invited to consider and note the work of the Think Family Expansion Project to date and to comment on the changes to the project going into phase 2.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Since January 2013 CDC have agreed to support the WSCC Think Family Project which sets out to improve outcomes for vulnerable families. The aim in phase 1 was to target interventions around unemployment, truancy and crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Due to the success of Phase 1 WSCC became early adopters of Phase 2 (Think Family Expansion Project) at the end of 2014. This expanded the criteria for supporting families to also include children who need help, families affected by domestic abuse and parents and children with a range of health problems. It is expected that Phase 2 will continue until 2020.
- 3.2. The approach in Phase 2 is distinctly different from the somewhat prescriptive format of the Phase 1 criteria and there is an emphasis on inclusion and a preventative approach.
- 3.3. CDC has hosted a Think Family Keyworker since June 2013 to casework with families. WSCC gave CDC Community Safety £58,500 to deliver the Think Family Expansion neighbourhoods work. A summary of work over the last year for both elements of the project are set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 and appendices 1 and 2.
- 3.4. A paper was brought to Overview and Scrutiny 6 March 2014 that summarised the work to that date, this paper describes the ongoing work since that date.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. The Think Family Expansion keyworker project seeks to increase the readiness of parents to get into work, increase school attendance and reduce the incidents of crime and ASB being perpetrated by families. The early help preventative approach aims to provide the right support to families at the right time to increase resilience and get families doing more for themselves, which in turn reduces demand on services. It is expected that 10 families will be worked with during a year.

- 4.2. The Think Family Expansion Neighbourhoods project aims to support the key-working project by improving the visual environment in which our most vulnerable families live, reducing crime and disorder in those areas, increasing the health and well-being of those communities and increasing community resilience.
- 4.3. These projects support CDC's priority for supporting communities by reducing issues perpetrated by a few families that impact on their communities who need support and listening to what communities are saying they need and responding positively and supporting communities to do more for themselves.

5. Think Family Expansion Keyworker Project

- 5.1. Under Phase 1 of the project CDC had a target of working with 60 families by the end of March 2015. The number of families worked with was 21, the low number was due to the unexpected complexity of the referrals which took longer to work with to achieve the successes set under the DCLG criteria. This number compares favourably to other areas, where individual keyworkers achieved similar numbers. Despite not meeting our target WSCC did meet their overall target for number of families worked with and were then invited to be early adopters of Phase 2.
- 5.2. Under Phase 2 of the project CDC have a target of working with 10 families and our Keyworker is currently working with 6 families. The families are spread across the district and have a variety of issues a common theme is current or a history of domestic abuse. One family was being subjected to on-going physical abuse from the father and the keyworker succeeded in supporting mum to press charges and obtain a non-molestation order against him. The father was removed from the family home and the family now feel safer, the children have re-engaged with education and mum feels empowered. Another family have been supported to manage debt issues and the mum is now in work. Relationships are often difficult to maintain in these families and 2 referrals have been made for functional family therapy to encourage communication and build bridges between estranged family members. The feedback from these referrals has been positive. There continues to be good inter-agency working and information sharing.

6. Think Family Neighbourhood Expansion Project

- 6.1. The neighbourhood areas were chosen according to the level of child poverty in each area, the likelihood of those families living in the area meeting Think Family criteria and those neighbourhoods most in need of support. The areas are Chichester East and South, Tangmere and Selsey North.
- 6.2. Work is continuing in each area particularly the Swanfield area of Chichester East see appendix 3. The local community group SPRING have moved the project on apace and we have supported the building works for the youth wing financially. The Charles Avenues Hub plans have stalled but discussions are being had with Affinity Sutton to move them on and a resident engagement day in December will be used to identify community champions in the area who can support the work going forward. Primary schools in each area have been

engaged in a project (see para 8.1) that has resulted in a number of positive outcomes including tree planting in Florence Park and a new fun litter bin for Tangmere recreation ground. A more detailed summary of work to date can be found in Appendices 1 and 2. The neighbourhoods work is set to continue and there is no time limit on spending the budget which allows for good foundation setting to ensure a sustained impact and improvement in each area.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. The keyworker post is paid for in arrears by WSCC but there is a management time implication for CDC. The neighbourhoods work is incorporated into the CSP business plan and is very much a partnership project. Communities Team staff engage in the project as it meets a number of criteria around Community Safety, Community Engagement and Wellbeing and is incorporated into work plans. It is not envisaged that any extra resource is needed to deliver the project. The neighbourhood's project was allocated £58,500 from WSCC and to date has spent £15,750 and allocated £5,000 see appendix 2.
- 7.2. The Joint Action Group manages the spend for the Neighbourhoods work and applications are submitted and considered by all partners around the table.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. Partners are regularly consulted on the development and progress of work and their support is continuing. School children from Primary schools in all the areas have been involved in the Ideas into Action project, where their views on their local area are sought and solutions to issues are developed and promoted through a democratic process. This work has fed into the work plan in each area and produced results as discussed in paragraph 6.2. Members are updated by way of the Members Bulletin Board.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1. These projects should have a complimentary effect to the range of service activities that CDC undertakes and in some cases reduce demand on those services. They should have a positive impact on the lives of the families and wider communities targeted by the project.
- 9.2. The risk remains that the project fails to have an impact and deliver the benefits through a lack of engagement by partners, residents or families.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder: The keyworker project has targets around reducing crime and ASB and the neighbourhood project encourages more positive behaviour and reduces community tensions/ increases feelings of safety by providing a more pleasant environment to live.	Yes	
Climate Change:		No
Human Rights and Equality Impact: Positive impact in supporting vulnerable families and communities.	Yes	
Safeguarding: the project has the potential to identify vulnerabilities	Yes	

within families and communities and a number of safeguarding referrals have been made before the situation has reached crisis point.		
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11. Appendices

11.1. TFN evaluation report July 2015

11.2. TFN 2015 quarterly 1 and 2 report.

11.3. TFN case study

12. Background Papers

12.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 March 2014 Targeted Support and Think Family Projects.