

Family Support Programme 2019/2020

Summary

To consider the future of the Family Support Programme within Surrey Heath and to agree funding of £89,000 per year in 2020/21. Thereafter, to support the programme to be delivered in partnership with Surrey County Council and Runnymede Borough Council.

Portfolio Support and Safeguarding

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report – 12 September 2019

Wards Affected

All

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) this Council continues to host the Family Support Programme for Runnymede and Surrey Heath Councils;
- (ii) a Service Level Agreement for the service beyond 2020 be entered into with Surrey County Council, and authority to sign this Agreement be delegated to the Executive Head of Regulatory in consultation with the Support & Safeguarding Portfolio Holder; and
- (iii) funding of £89,000 per year for the programme be agreed for inclusion in the revenue budget for 2020/21 and thereafter.

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 The programme is currently funded by the Government through a mixture of up front funding for each family worked with and payment by results once the family has completed the twelve months and improved in the areas identified i.e. school attendance. Surrey Heath employs all the staff and manages the budgets associated with the programme.
- 1.2 Current actual spend in 2018/19 on the service was as follows. Grant income received from Surrey County Council (SCC) was £210,000. Total spend was £388,000 giving an overspend of £178,00 This was in part paid for by use of grant funding in reserves or absorbed into underspend in other parts of Regulatory budget at year end.
- 1.3 In the year 2018/19, reserves were used to cover costs of the programme; the remaining reserves now total £19,963.
- 1.4 Government funding for the programme ceases in 2020/21.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 From the end of March 2020 the Government funding for the Troubled Families programme, known as Family Support in Surrey, will cease. However, within Surrey, SCC has agreed to take over current levels of funding of £221,512 to ensure continuation of the programme. In addition, a further £95,666 of funding will be provided to support the employment of two qualified social workers, one for each of the teams. Each Borough and District will need to make up any gap in funding for the total service delivery and for Surrey Heath and Runnymede this is estimated to be £178,000 in 2020/21.
- 2.2 For 2020/21 and thereafter, Runnymede Borough Council has agreed to contribute an additional £89,000 per financial year. This leaves a shortfall of £89,000 in the revenue budget to be made up by Surrey Heath.
- 2.3 Previously, the Family Support programme budget has covered salary costs for the team only. Other overhead costs have been paid using reserves from the family support programme accumulated from the early years of the programme. Overheads and other overspend costs have also been covered by other underspend within the Regulatory service at the end of year outturn.

3. Options

- 3.1 The options for the Executive are to agree the recommendation or to not agree the recommendation.

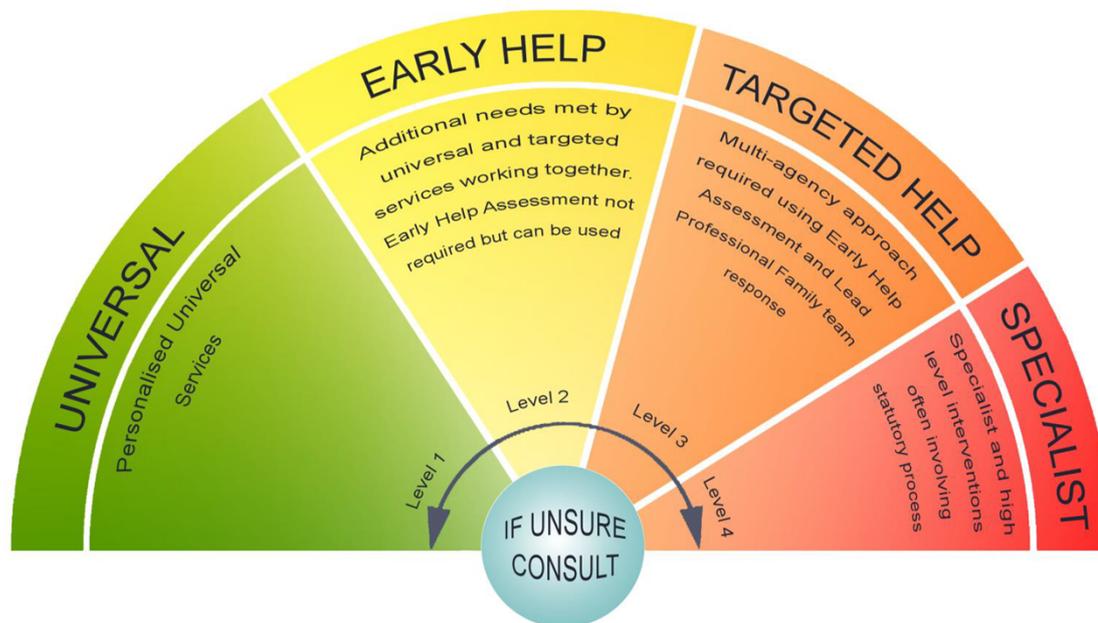
4. Proposals

- 4.1 The Executive is asked agree that this Council continues to host the Surrey Heath Family Support Programme working in partnership with Runnymede Borough Council. Furthermore, it is asked to support the expansion of the programme to include two new posts for social workers, funded by SCC, and to fund the programme at a cost of £89,000 per annum with a consequent increase in the revenue budget for 2020/21 and beyond.
- 4.2 A Draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Districts and Boroughs and Surrey County Council has been prepared.
- 4.3 The draft SLA proposes the continuation of the current funding by SCC, additional posts for Social Workers, funded by Surrey County Council. The Surrey Heath and Runnymede team will receive two social worker posts, one covering each borough. These posts will be responsible for ensuring a smoother transition of cases being escalated into children's services and being stepped down from children's services to Family Support Programme. This post will also hold the most complex cases at a Level 3 Targeted Early Help response. SCC remains the statutory body for holding families that require a statutory response. The Family Support Programme will not be taking a lead on families who require statutory intervention.

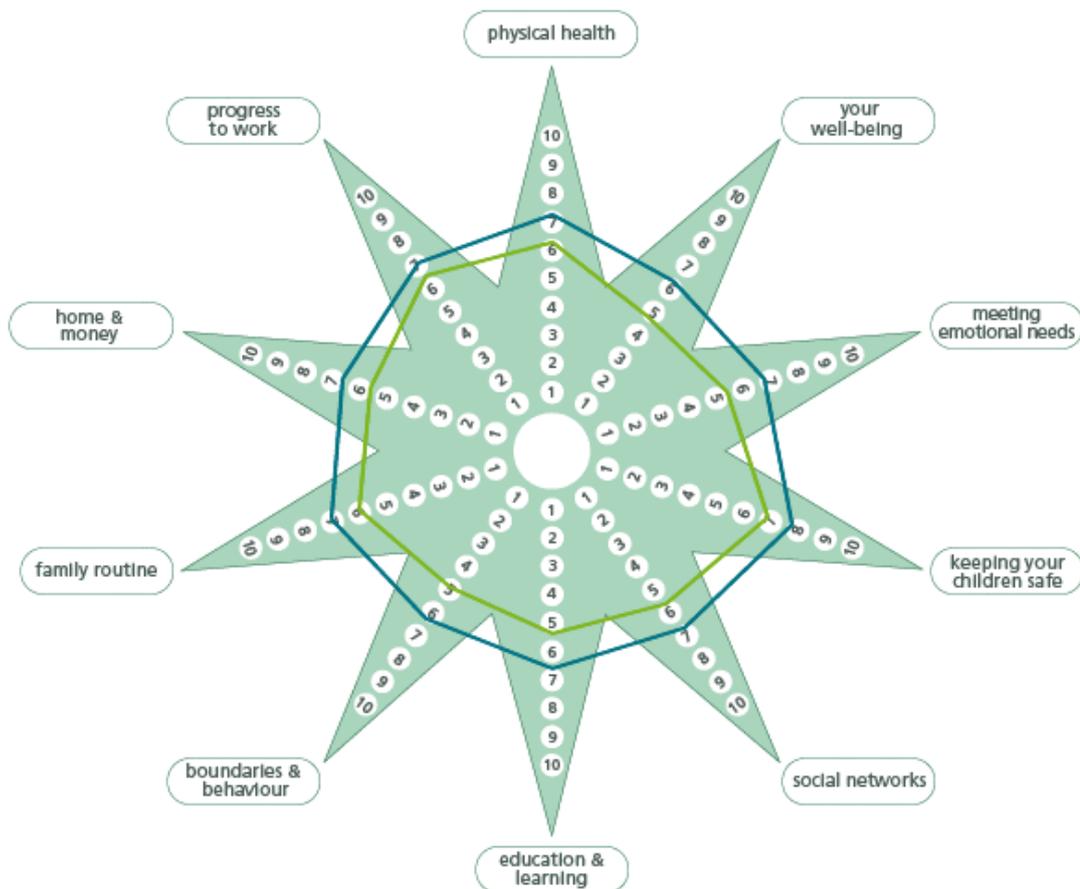
5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Troubled Families' initiative was introduced to change the repeating generational patterns of poor parenting, abuse, violence, drug use, anti-social behaviour and crime in the most troubled families in the UK.
- 5.2 The overarching criteria for inclusion in the programme are:
- Children not in School
 - Unemployment
 - Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Domestic Violence
 - Children in Need
 - Health Problems
- 5.3 In Surrey this initiative has been rolled out through partnership working with the districts and boroughs. Since its inception in 2013, the joint Runnymede/Surrey Heath project has worked with 548 families providing intensive support and has been awarded £1,301,355 in total funding for set up and payment by results. This represents an average cost of £2,374 per family worked with. The scheme delivers savings to other public bodies for example reducing numbers of children having to go into care and foster placements, where the cost of an individual placement is over £100,000. This saving to the overall public purse is one of the reasons why SCC is continuing to fund the project.
- 5.4 The programme works in two parts with families receiving intensive support for a minimum of 12 weeks with a co-ordinator and team around the family (TAF). The family are then supported for the next 9 months by a lead organisation and other agencies.
- 5.5 Within Runnymede there are three co-ordinators, one of which has a senior role and supervises the other two staff. This is replicated in Surrey Heath with a Manager and administrator working across both Boroughs.
- 5.6 Family Support Co-ordinators currently each hold a caseload of 7 families at any given time. The Senior Coordinator holds a caseload of 3 families plus line management responsibilities for the other staff. Under the new SLA staff would have an increased caseload of 8-12 families but each team would also have additional staff with social work qualifications to be fully funded by SCC.
- 5.7 The details of the proposal have been put into a new Draft Specification/Service Level Agreement (SLA) being drawn up by SCC. The focus will be on working primarily with families whose children are aged between 5 and 18 although this does not mean that families with younger children might not be worked with, especially if the issues relate to older siblings.
- 5.8 The draft SLA also proposes an additional post of Social Worker, funded by Surrey County Council. The Surrey Heath and Runnymede team are proposed two social worker posts, one covering each borough. These posts will hold responsibility of ensuring smoother transition of cases being escalated into children's services and being stepped down from children's services to Family Support Programme. These posts will also hold the most complex cases at a Level 3 Targeted Early Help response. SCC remains the statutory body for holding families that require a

statutory response at level 4 as shown below. The Family Support Programme will not be taking a lead on families that require statutory intervention.



- 5.9 Of the 111 families worked with in 2018/19, 55 were Runnymede families and 56 were Surrey Heath families.
- 5.10 Of the 56 families worked with in Surrey Heath in 2018/19, 7 were found to have circumstances that warranted more serious intervention and were referred into Children Services
- 5.11 The outcome star below shows the average progress of all families worked with. Families moving into the process are shown in light green and moving out of the process in blue.



6. Corporate Objectives and Key Priorities

- 6.1 The Family Support Programme helps to deliver Corporate Objective 4 to build and encourage communities where people can live happily and healthily and supports Key Priority 4 working with partners to support the community.

7. Policy Framework

- 7.1 No matters arising.

8. Legal Issues

- 8.1 The service will be underwritten by a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Surrey County Council, Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey Heath. This will set out the performance requirements for the service moving forward and the funding agreement.
- 8.2 In addition, the existing SLA with Runnymede Borough Council will need to be reviewed.

9. Officer Comments

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the following outcomes for the work undertaken in 2018/19.

9.2 Of the 111 families worked with in 2018/19, 55 were Runnymede families and 56 were Surrey Heath families.

9.3 Of the 56 families worked with in Surrey Heath, 7 were found to have circumstances that warranted more serious intervention and were referred into Children Services.

Annexes	None
Background Papers	None
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Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	✓	<u>06/08/2019</u>
Capital		
Human Resources	✓	<u>06/08/2019</u>
Asset Management		
IT		
Other Issues	Required	Consulted
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities		
Policy Framework		
Legal	✓	<u>06/08/2019</u>
Governance		
Sustainability		
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation		
P R & Marketing		