

TROUBLED FAMILIES PROJECT IN DERBY

Report of the Director of Housing and Customer Service

1. SUMMARY

This report provides City Board members with information on work currently being undertaken to establish effective multi-agency working, to help turn around the lives of troubled families within the City.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The City Board is asked to note the content of this report.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Prime Minister has set out his ambition to change the lives of 120,000 problem families by the end of this Parliament in 2015. Government identifies these families as those that experience multiple social, health and economic problems, with around 40% also experiencing ‘problem’ child behaviours closely linked to youth crime, anti-social behaviour and school exclusion. These families make demands on a range of services, costing as much as £250,000-£330,000 per family per year.
- 3.2 Louise Casey has been appointed as head of a new Troubled Family’s Unit (TFU) in the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to deliver tangible and rapid progress. This programme builds on a number of national pilots that were based on the ‘Community Budgets’ initiative.
- 3.3 The TFU has assessed Derby as having approximately 660 troubled families. A family with multiple problems is defined as those who have 5 or more of the following disadvantages:
- No parent in the family is in work
 - Family lives in poor quality or overcrowded housing
 - No parent has any qualifications
 - Mother has mental health problems
 - At least one parent has a longstanding limiting illness, disability or infirmity
 - Family has low income (below 60% of the median)
 - Family cannot afford a number of food and clothing items
 - At least one child with SEN or behaviour problems (excluded from school, involvement with the police, or ran away from home).

- 3.4 Derby Homes has run the Family Intervention Project (FIP) for a number of years now, working with between 20-40 troubled families at any one time. For us the FIP has already demonstrated the benefits and efficiencies of working through the key worker principle with the 'whole' family. The TFU takes this model further and seeks to ensure the effective engagement of all agencies at a strategic and delivery level.
- 3.5 From April 2012 the FIP will be operating within the Council's Children's and Young People's locality teams. This is integration of our resources at the first level and provides a good sounding board for the development of work under the Troubled Families Programme in Derby.
- 3.6 To deliver the set up requirements, local authorities have been given £20,000 by the DCLG to deliver:
- Robust analysis to convert national indicative numbers (660) into verified local figures
 - An estimate of the number of families that would have already achieved the success criteria within existing or planned provision by 2015
 - Service redesign plans needed to expand provision and meet the needs of the remaining group of families
 - The business base needed to underpin resource commitments from partners
 - The outcome tracking arrangements necessary to both focus services on the criteria and demonstrate success.
- 3.7 Derby has also been allocated £100,000 a year from 2012/13 for a Co-ordinator and support resources, who will lead on the project and form part of a national network of Co-ordinators within the TFU.
- 3.8 The Director of Housing and Customer Service is a member of the Task and Finish Group which has been established to deliver the requirements of this project.

4. FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PLAN

- 4.1 For 2012/13 the FIP is funded by approximately £100,000 Estates Pride Funding and £10,000 funding from a Registered Social Landlord (RSL).
- 4.2 The funding for the local Troubled Families programme (£448m nationally) will be payable when local authorities and their partners achieve success, otherwise known as payment by results. Investment of 60% will be required from the local authority and their partners to match the 40% offered by Government. The TFU will set the criteria and payment will be based on success of these measures, they are likely to include:
- Getting parents into work
 - Children attending school
 - Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Cutting costs for the 'state'.
- 4.3 Successful achievement against the criteria will support the investment and reduce demands on service areas.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Consultation
Legal & Confidential
Council
Personnel
Environmental
Equalities Impact Assessment
Health & Safety
Risk
Policy Review

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or Phil Davies, Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org – Phone: 01332 888528

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Background Information	None
Supporting Information	None