
Report to: Cabinet **Date of Meeting:** 13 September 2012

Subject: Troubled Families Programme

Report of: Strategic Director, People **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose / Summary

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has made revenue funding of £585,600 available to work with troubled families in Sefton. A further sum, up to £146,666 may become available as a result of successful outcomes being achieved against a payment by results schedule.

Permission from Members is required to allocate this funding to specific interventions to tackle problems experienced by troubled families across the Borough and assign relevant income / expenditure codes.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to approve:

1. the inclusion of the £585,600 Troubled Families Programme funding in the Council's revenue budget for 2012/13; and
2. that the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools Families & Leisure receives updates on the delivery of the programme and successful outcomes of interventions

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	x		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	x		
3	Environmental Sustainability	x		
4	Health and Well-Being	x		
5	Children and Young People	x		
6	Creating Safe Communities	x		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	x		

Reasons for the Recommendation: to tackle the root causes of problems experienced by troubled families and reduce the long-term cost burden to public services in responding to their unmet needs

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs – £585,600 is being made available by DCLG. An additional sum, up to £146,666 may also be payable as a result of successful outcomes being achieved against a payment by results schedule.

Sefton Council may incur redundancy costs at the end of the programme. There is currently no indication of succession funding.

(B) Capital Costs – None

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal	
The legal advice is included in the contents of the report.	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

The proposed programme will enhance the Council offer to families experiencing problems driven by unemployment, poor educational attainment and offending behaviour.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

Since October 2011, regular (monthly) consultation regarding the development and delivery of the Troubled Families programme has taken place between Local Authority leads (including Sefton) and the national Troubled Families Team.

Partners from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Probation Trust, Safer Stronger Communities, One Vision Housing, Job Centre Plus, Health and Sefton CVS met on 27 April 2012 to discuss local approaches to delivering the Troubled Families agenda. The Head of Corporate Finance and Head of Corporate Legal Services have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD1686/12) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 1024/12) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not at this time

Implementation Date for the Decision

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Background Papers:

The Troubled Families programme – Financial framework for the Troubled Families programme's payment-by-results scheme for local authorities (DCLG, March 2012)

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of the national Troubled Families Programme, the DCLG has estimated that Sefton has 650 families that would benefit from inclusion in the initiative. The programme is currently funded for three years. In year one, Sefton has committed to work with up to 220 families. This attracts an “attachment fee” of £3200 per family. However, to avoid “double payments” for families that will be turned around via other initiatives, for example European Social Fund programme to tackle worklessness, DCLG will only pay 5/6s of the attachment fees resulting in an initial investment of £585,600 for 2012/13.
- 1.2 In the event of successful outcomes being achieved with Sefton’s troubled families, a further payment of up to £146,666 is available according to a payment by results schedule. A portion of the all the monies received may be distributed amongst partner agencies for specific contributions to achieving positive outcomes.
- 1.3 Significant progress is being made in identifying families that meet the criteria to be included in the programme and local partners are keen to engage and deliver the work.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In December 2011, Government announced a programme to radically transform the lives of the country’s most troubled families. Almost £450 million has been made available in a cross-government drive to turn around the lives of 120,000 of some of the country’s most troubled families by the end of this Parliament.

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 In December 2011, Sefton Council was provided with an indicative figure of 650 troubled families in the Borough. The figure represents the number of families that local services will be required to work with and turn around.
- 3.2 This report will advise Members of:
 - The process for identifying the families that will be targeted by this programme
 - The criteria used to identify troubled families in Sefton

4.0 Identifying Families

- 4.1 Troubled families are defined as households that:
 - Are involved in crime and disorder
 - Have children not in school
 - Have an adult in receipt of out-of-work benefits
 - Result in high costs to public finances
- 4.2 Many, if not all, of these families will be already known to Sefton Council and its partners. These families will have been receiving services, benefits and interventions for long periods, and in some cases, over generations. This programme represents an opportunity to take a systemic and strategic approach to the most challenging families that have concerned public agencies for years.
- 4.3 The first stage is to compile a list of those families that will be part of the programme. This consists of several steps, checking familial behaviour against criteria that include crime and antisocial behaviour, education and work. Any families that meet all three of these criteria will be automatically included in the programme.

- 4.4 These families will also experience many other problems, and a fourth set of *locally derived* filters will provide Sefton Council and partners the ability to target families with known local risk factors.

5 Criteria

The nationally determined criteria being used are outlined below.

1. Crime / Antisocial Behaviour

Identify young people involved in **crime** and families involved in **anti-social behaviour**, defined as:

Households with 1 or more under 18-year-old with a proven offence in the last 12 months

AND / OR

Households where 1 or more member has an anti-social behaviour order, anti-social behaviour injunction, anti-social behaviour contract, or where the family has been subject to a housing-related anti-social behaviour intervention in the last 12 months (such as a notice of seeking possession on anti-social behaviour grounds, a housing-related injunction, a demotion order, eviction from social housing on anti-social behaviour grounds).

2. Education

Identify households affected by **truancy** or **exclusion from school**, where a child:

Has been subject to permanent exclusion; three or more fixed school exclusions across the last 3 consecutive terms;

OR

Is in a Pupil Referral Unit or alternative provision because they have previously been excluded; OR is not on a school roll;

AND / OR

A child has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from school across the last 3 consecutive terms.

3. Work

Once families have been identified using one or both of the criteria above, a third filter can be used to identify families which also have an adult on Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) out-of-work benefits (Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Income Support and/or Jobseekers Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance).

4. Local Discretion

Partners in Sefton are in active discussion regarding the selection of a number of local filters that will identify families in Sefton that will benefit from being included in the programme. Suggestions include mental health, domestic violence, substance misuse and predictors of future dysfunctional behaviour such as parents or older siblings involved in crime and disorder.

5.1 In summary:

- Any household matching criteria 1 (crime / antisocial behaviour) **and** criteria 2 (truancy / exclusion) **and** criteria 3 (receiving out-of work benefits) will be automatically included on the programme.
- Any household identified as having a family member meeting criteria 1 **or** criteria 2 will be checked to discover whether an adult of working age is receiving out-of-work benefits. If a claimant is identified within the household, then the family will be included on the programme.
- Any household identified as meeting **two of the three** criteria outlined above **and** criteria 4 (local risk factor) will be included on the programme.