

REDUCING PARENTAL CONFLICT PROGRAMME

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP SUPPORT & PRACTITIONER TRAINING GRANT APPLICATION & SCOPING TOOL v2

BACKGROUND

DWP is offering two grants to help local authorities firstly strengthen strategic leadership around parental conflict and secondly fund training for frontline staff to identify and appropriately respond to parental conflict.

- Strategic Leadership Support (SLS) grant aims to provide support for strategic oversight and planning. Supporting local authorities and their partners to build local capacity to reduce parental conflict is a key element of the RPC Programme.
- Practitioner Training (PT) grant aims to support frontline identification of parental conflict to help local family support professionals spot parents in relationship distress and refer to available services.

COMPLETING THIS FORM

Please complete this form if you would like to apply for either just the SLS grant or the SLS and PT grants together. A completed, signed and scanned form needs to be emailed to your [Regional Integration Lead](#) by the **grant application closing date, 1st March 2019**.

If you are applying for SLS grant only, please complete sections 1 and 2. SLS activities funded by this grant will be specific to each local area and determined by the need as identified in section 2, up to the value of £15,000. The commissioning of SLS activities by the local authorities using this funding, must adhere to local authority procurement policy irrespective of the size of the spend, and confirmation must be available to DWP upon request.

If you are applying for SLS and PT grants, please complete sections 1, 2 and 3. PT grant funding is based on a formula which considers child population and level of deprivation in the local authority. To spend the PT grant, local authorities must purchase training (using a call-off contract), which is being designed and delivered by a Crown Commercial Services framework agreement operated by Knowledgepool.

Knowledgepool is designing a suite of training modules (to be delivered as classroom based and Digital e-Learning) from which local authorities, together with their key partners will produce a Training Schedule.

The content of this application will form the basis of separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with local authorities: one for SLS and one for PT. The MOU will set out the activities that the funding will enable, the anticipated outputs, monitoring arrangements and the relationships with both DWP and Knowledgepool for PT.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to comply with Managing Public Money and ensure Value for Money. Both SLS and PT grants will be issued under the powers contained in Section 14 of the Education Act meaning that funds will be granted for the purposes specified in this application and transposed into the subsequent MOU, and any unused or inappropriately used funds can be recovered by DWP. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring appropriate steps are taken to carry forward funding received but not spent in 2018/2019, to be spent on activities set out in this application in 2019/2020.

As well as informing us of how you will spend the funding, should your grant application be successful, this form is designed to help you reflect on how your local area is currently addressing parental conflict using a red/ amber/ green rating (defined below), against the SLS and PT grant objectives. When completing sections 2 and 3 it will be useful to consider:

- what is currently offered in your local area to address the reduction of parental conflict?
- what are the key demographics of potential service users in your local area?
- what are the gaps in provision in your local area?

RED	Significant gap - no clear evidence of embedded skills/ awareness of parental conflict in this space
AMBER	Partial gap – some evidence of embedded skills/ awareness of parental conflict in this space
GREEN	No gap – clear evidence of embedded skills/ awareness of parental conflict in this space

The Reducing Parental Conflict Programme is a test and learn project and as such your application may be used as part of the evaluation of the project. This may include sharing the information with an external evaluator.

We advise all local authorities to discuss their applications with the respective [Regional Integration Lead](#) prior to submission.



Section 1 – Overview of Grant Application and Applicant Signatures			
Local authority Name and Address		Sefton Council, Bootle Town Hall, Oriel Road, Liverpool L20 7AE	
Total Funding being applied for from Grant(s)		SLS Grant: £15,000	
		PT Grant: £ 25,100	
Names of neighbouring local authorities you plan to pool your SLS grant funding with		Not applicable	
Names of any neighbouring local authorities you plan to pool your PT grant funding with		Not applicable	
Local authority Single Point of Contact for SLS and PT Grants (Person with day to day contact with RPCP Regional Integration Leads)			
Name:	Stephanie Critchley	Role in the local authority:	Principal Early Help Worker
Signature:		Date:	09/01/2019
Email:	Stephanie.critchley@sefton.gov.uk	Contact Number:	0151 282 1405
Local authority Senior Responsible Officer e.g. Head of Service (Delegated Responsibility)			
Name:	Jacqueline Finlay	Role in the local authority:	Localities Service Manager
Signature:		Date:	01/01/2019
Email:	Jacqueline.finlay@sefton.gov.uk	Contact Number:	07967139109



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Date Scoping Tool is Submitted to DWP:

Date Scoping Tool is Approved by DWP: PLEASE LEAVE BLANK



Section 2: Strategic Leadership Support		RAG Rating	Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.
a) Do all relevant commissioners and key decision makers across your partnership understand/consider:			
(i)	the most up to date evidence about what works to address reducing parental conflict	Amber	Previously, in Sefton, policy and strategy have mostly focused on Domestic abuse. Following publication of documents from government which highlighted the importance of focusing of interparental relationships, there has been initial work undertaken, piloting the provision of relationship counselling in some areas. Outcomes from the pilot have proven successful and the service provision is to be rolled out across Sefton this year.
(ii)	why addressing parental conflict is important and the associated costs/benefits	Amber	Information about cost benefit analysis has been provided by the commissioned provider of the relationship counselling, which highlighted the benefit of investing in a counselling service. Most services and partners across localities in Sefton, for example, Early Help, Social Care, health, education and police have a high level of awareness in relation to the impact of domestic abuse but less so of the impact of parental conflict below the DV threshold. The main focus of work undertaken has been around domestic abuse and key areas of safeguarding such as child exploitation and sexual abuse.
(iii)	the difference between domestic abuse and parental conflict	Red	Some key leaders have an understanding of the distinction between Domestic Abuse and Parental conflict, and although key documents such as “Improving Lives” have been shared across the Local Authority, this knowledge and understanding is not evident across the whole authority.
(iv)	how to respond in their particular area to ensure the workforce is competent in identifying and addressing parental conflict, to positively impact on children	Red	A limited amount of training and literature around the impact of parental conflict has been made available to staff teams in localities. The focus to date has been around domestic abuse which is understood by partners and incorporated within training delivered. The next step will be to expand this



Section 2: Strategic Leadership Support a) Do all relevant commissioners and key decision makers across your partnership understand/consider:	RAG Rating	Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.
		<p>training offer to include Parental Conflict. Training will be offered to staff and partners within localities who are working with families in order to enhance their understanding so that they are confident to identify, assess and intervene and early as possible.</p>
<p>(v) how to develop a collaborative culture between the local authority and partners</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>Sefton has good partnership arrangements in place across localities with health, social care, family wellbeing, leisure, libraries, education, schools, police, probation, Community Rehabilitation Group, CVS. These partners feed into the Troubled Families Steering Group and Early Help Steering Group. Existing partnerships could be capitalised on to disseminate information and explore the issues around Parental Conflict. Partners would be invited to multi agency briefings and would be invited onto training alongside locality staff teams, gaining a shared understanding of the impact of parental conflict and further enhancing the collaboration.</p>
<p>(vi) how to include parental conflict evidence in existing local area strategic plans</p>	<p>Red</p>	<p>All localities have local area plans and these are constantly reviewed so could be changed to incorporate Parental Conflict, it is also possible to amend the Troubled Families Outcomes plan and the existing domestic abuse strategy for families and for employees.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to include parental conflict within the refresh of Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy which is due this year. The work included in this proposal would form part of an early intervention and prevention offer and would link to developing the multi agency response to parental conflict where domestic abuse, and particularly coercive control, is identified.</p>



Section 2: Strategic Leadership Support		RAG Rating	Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.
a) Do all relevant commissioners and key decision makers across your partnership understand/consider:			
(vii)	how your services can address parental conflict, as part of local area mainstream provision for families and children	Red	Commissioning arrangements are in place for domestic abuse support for victims and children and lately relationship counselling has been commissioned across localities. However, knowledge and awareness around the impact of parental conflict is not embedded yet and the strategic grant will be used to raise awareness. Once managers, partners and staff are trained, we anticipate that the provision will be mainstreamed.
(viii)	opportunities to design services and pathways which address domestic abuse <i>and</i> parental conflict	Red	Pathways around Domestic Abuse are robust, however these will need to be developed further to include Parental Conflict. This will require a multi-agency approach encompassing key services within localities such as family wellbeing centres, health, education, schools and police and the community and voluntary sector. Sefton recently co-hosted a domestic abuse conference focusing on coercive control which included a key note speaker who specialises in research on domestic abuse and the impact on families, including the impact of parenting by perpetrators where coercive control is a factor. We would like to explore this further within Sefton as a multi agency approach within the context of parental conflict.
(ix)	There is parental conflict when commissioning services	Red	Apart from the relationship counselling service, there is no evidence to suggest that Parental Conflict is considered within current commissioning arrangements.
(x)	how to establish a multi-agency response to Parental Conflict	Amber	The partnerships are in place in Sefton to establish the project as we currently work across a range issues including DA, CSE, CE, Educational Attainment. These arrangements, to date, have not included Parental Conflict but are well set up to incorporate a focus on this area. The recent



<p>Section 2: Strategic Leadership Support</p> <p>a) Do all relevant commissioners and key decision makers across your partnership understand/consider:</p>	<p>RAG Rating</p>	<p>Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.</p>
		<p>move to a localities model and the introduction of Family Wellbeing Centres 0-19 is an ideal place to plan a multi agency response to Parental Conflict.</p>

<p>b) How do you anticipate spending the SLS grant to further develop your strategic response to address parental conflict?</p>
<p>We would like to apply for £15,000.</p> <p>Fund dedicated time for a member of staff or partner to lead on the RPC agenda over the next twelve months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake a needs analysis (including consultation with parents and partnership organisations), • complete the Planning Tool (with input from a range of services and partners with the potential to support individuals and families in relation to RPC) • organise 3 briefings/seminars with partners, involving an expert presenter. <p>Anticipated cost of staff/partner support for the period of one year £10000 including on costs Briefing/seminar costs (venue & speaker) = £5,000</p>
<p>c) What outcomes would you expect to achieve? Please consider sustainability of outcomes once the grant funding has ended.</p>
<p>- Completed Planning Tool, with sign-off from key strategic leaders</p>



- Reducing Parental Conflict addressed in a number of key strategies and commissioning specifications that will be reviewed through Local Government Reorganisation.
- Reflect parental conflict in new assessment tools (including Early Help Assessment) and enquiry about quality of parental relationship and communication becomes standard enquiry
- Needs analysis completed.
- Partner agencies inspired to sign up to practitioner training, and reducing parental conflict is reflected in their workforce development plans.
- Parents discuss family relationships and are willing to access support to reduce conflict.
- Senior leaders have a good understanding of the significance of distinguishing between domestic abuse and parental conflict; of how conflict between parents impacts on children and of how intervening robustly at the earliest opportunity can achieve significant cost benefits.
- Parental conflict to be mainstreamed and be included in the Early Intervention and Prevention agenda with the localities service offer.

Section 3: Practitioner Training	RAG Rating	Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.
a) How confident are you that		



Section 3: Practitioner Training		RAG Rating	Please give a brief summary of current position in this area.
a) How confident are you that			
(i)	the workforce across your partnerships is able to identify parental conflict and has the required knowledge and expertise to support parents in this area	Red	It is likely that only a minority of staff across partnerships enquire about quality of parental relationship as matter of routine enquiry. Some experienced staff within children social care and early help services are completing work in this area however, it is unclear if they would be able to identify and acknowledge that this is specifically work around Parental Conflict. Wider workforce across partnership will be dealing with children who displaying behaviour that is a consequence of parental conflict, however may lack the skills and knowledge to address the impact of behaviours with parents/ carers. This may be particularly relevant to the Early Help, Social Care, health, mental health, education and school workforce.
(ii)	the workforce across your partnerships have access to appropriate training in the context of Reducing Parental Conflict	Red	Some locally delivered training has been available to a small number of practitioners as well as some literature about reducing parental conflict, however, this is not planned at a strategic or consistent level.
(iii)	a range of front line practitioners from different agencies will attend and engage in training on Reducing Parental Conflict	Amber	Training will be offered to all partners across localities including family wellbeing centres, young carers, leisure, libraries, early help services, social care, health, police, education and school settings as well as the community and voluntary sector. Discussions with leaders in these organisations will take place to ensure maximise attendance.



b) How do you anticipate spending your training grant?

We would like to apply for the full £20,100 available

Across the authority we expect to train 20 professionals to be trainers, from organisations including the local authority Early Help, Children's Social Care, Housing, ASB, as well as health, police, schools, Early Years Settings, CAF/CASS, JCP (TFEAs), YOS, Probation, drug & alcohol services, domestic abuse services, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and adult mental health services.

X40 people trained in all 4 modules face to face over 2 days = £6,594.92

x20 train the trainer sessions = £3,297.46

x60 people with ½ day delivery =£3,388.23

x100 people with 1 day delivery of 2 modules = £8243.65

x 99 e-learning licences (all 4 modules) = £3564

Total spend = £25,088.26

c) What outcomes would you expect to achieve? Provide an indication of how many staff you anticipate will access each element of the Practitioner training? Please also consider sustainability of outcomes once the grant funding has ended.

The indicative training as listed above would mean a more confident and resourced workforce with sustainability achievable through train the trainer element. Staff will understand the evidence base and feel more confident into addressing relationship distress in their work. They will have the ability to identify RPC and this will be embedded in their day to day work, through tools and practices.

We would expect to see evidence of this impact reflected on a number of ways this would include

- Parental Conflict and relationship quality included in C&F and Early Help assessments, action plans, interventions, case notes, closure records.



- Discussion of Parental Conflict recorded in supervision notes
- Work around Parental Conflict evidence in case audits
- Parental Conflict identified within referrals
- Discussions around Parental conflict incorporated across services and referrals to appropriate support being made by these services
- Parental Conflict will be embedded into the Locality model and the 0-19 service offer.

Please ensure the appropriate persons sign this form before scanning and emailing it to your [Regional Integration Lead](#) by the grant application closing date, 1st March 2019; the sooner we receive your forms the sooner funding can be transferred for you.