

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

4th December 2012

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME – UPDATE

To provide an update on the troubled families programme and its resource implications for the Borough Council.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 I reported to the July meeting of your Board on programmes aiming to address the needs of 'Troubled Families' in the Borough. As a reminder, there are two Government programmes currently in operation: the 'Progress' initiative operated by the DWP and the 'Troubled Families' programme, operated by the DCLG. Members will recall that whilst the Progress initiative had resources in place to deliver family engagement and mentoring to those in need, there were significant concerns that front-line resources for the delivery of the Troubled Families Programme within Kent districts was inadequate and that Government funding available to the County Council to deliver the programme had not been devolved to the local level.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the above issues and to describe what progress has been achieved, with a particular focus on the DCLG Troubled Families programme.

1.2 Programme Update

- 1.2.1 Following extensive discussions at the Kent Forum, I am pleased to report that front-line resources are now to be made available to each district to assist with the delivery of the programme. There will be two family intervention workers provided for each district to work alongside the existing early intervention teams who are part of the recently combined new Families and Social Care Directorate within Kent County Council. These family workers will be commissioned by the County Council via a single third-party provider and it is anticipated that they will be in place by early 2013. In addition, the County Council are employing a Programme Manager for each district to oversee the programme and its wider governance. The manager for Tonbridge and Malling has recently been appointed and is due to

take up her duties shortly. It is therefore fair to say that, with these extra resources in place, there is greater confidence at the district level in Kent that the Troubled Families programme can be delivered.

- 1.2.2 Despite the initial lack of resources, work to arrange the local governance of the programme in Tonbridge and Malling has progressed. It has been agreed that the Local Children's Trust for Tonbridge and Malling will act as the local responsible body for the programme and its chairman, Jonathan Shaw, has agreed to act as the programme's 'Project Sponsor'. A task and finish group has been established by the Trust to oversee the establishment of the project and when complete, this task will be undertaken by the wider Trust Board itself. In addition, a local Operational Group is in place involving representatives from key front-line agencies. It is currently chaired and administered by the Borough Council but this is likely to be a role taken over by the new District Manager. The Operational Group has met on several occasions and its initial work has focused on the development and refinement of the troubled families list to ensure this fully reflects the views of local partners.
- 1.2.3 Members will be aware that, prior to the introduction of these formal Government programmes, the Borough Council instigated work on problem families in East Malling and Trench wards. These two 'family focus' initiatives have proved beneficial, particularly with regard to the need to co-ordinate the engagement by different local agencies with families. Given the need to focus on the new district-wide programmes, both family focus initiatives have now been stood down for the time being.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 As dealt with above.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 The availability of new front-line resources as described above considerably reduces any risk that the programme will fail to deliver its intended objectives.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 That positive progress towards the development of a troubled families programme in Tonbridge and Malling **BE NOTED** and that a further update report **BE MADE** to a future meeting of this Board.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The programme aims to address the needs of local families in most need of support
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	As above
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.