

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

28th March 2013

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 FAMILY FOCUS 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 December meeting of your Board on the Family Focus programme for Tonbridge and Malling, part of the wider Government's Troubled Families initiative. The purpose of this report is to provide a further update on the programme in order that Members are kept fully briefed and aware of the progress being made.

1.2 Programme Update

1.2.1 Most recently, a District Programme Manager for Tonbridge and Malling has been appointed by the County Council to take forward the local management of the programme within the Borough. The successful candidate was Glen Page who has previously worked locally within KCC as an extended schools officer.

1.2.2 Prior to his appointment, considerable progress has now been made with the Year 1 families list which totals some 75 families. Local partners have met to discuss each family on that list in some detail, to assign a priority rating for each and to identify a first point of contact for that family who would be most able to engage with them and seek their consent to take part. If that is forthcoming, a 'Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is then undertaken with the family and relevant partners to discuss their issues and needs. An action plan is drawn up which might include a range of interventions. Very few of the 75 Year 1 families have had CAFs undertaken previously so there is a major task to progress these starting with the most needy families. However, those families already having formal social services involvement can proceed without the need for a CAF.

1.2.3 The key stage in the process is to ensure that the best interventions are delivered to the right families in need as quickly as possible. In addition to existing services, a range of new support services has been commissioned by the County Council to

assist. These include general family intervention services, services to support vulnerable adolescents, Tier 2 mental health services for young people, domestic abuse support services and a positive relationships programme for girls aged 11-16.

- 1.2.4 My previous report to this Board mentioned that two intensive family intervention workers would be provided by the County Council to address the needs of the higher priority cases in Tonbridge and Malling. Commissioning of that service has now been completed and the successful bidder was KCA, a group traditionally focused on treating those with alcohol and drugs issues. The KCA has decided that, to provide better resilience, groups of three districts will share a team of 6 'FIP' workers and Tonbridge and Malling is to be grouped with Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone. Subject to ensuring that each district receives its fair share of this joint resource, the availability of dedicated workers will provide a major boost to our local programme. Appointments to these posts should be made by April.
- 1.2.5 One final update to report relates to the Year 2 families list. The Year 1 list was generated from a statistical analysis of families across the county taking into account the DCLG criteria of worklessness, criminality/ASB and school exclusions. The Year 1 check had to be initially verified by local partners. For Year 2 of the programme, local partners are being invited to make nominations to the list provided they meet at least two of the above criteria. The Family Focus Project Board has agreed that this work will begin in earnest from April of this year as, clearly, a lot of work remains outstanding on the Year 1 list.

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

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby

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.