

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stephen Brown</b>
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>01543 464553</b>
<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Crime and Partnerships</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Cabinet: 30/01/14 Council: 12/02/14</b>

**CABINET  
30 JANUARY 2014  
PROPOSAL TO FUND A FAMILY INTERVENTION WORKER**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The Building Resilient Families programme is the Staffordshire-wide ‘Troubled Families’ initiative which aims to reduce anti social behaviour, increase school attendance and reduce unemployment amongst families which require above average support from a wide range of organisations.

As part of the Building Resilient Families programme, a Family Intervention Project (FIP) has been established in Cannock Chase. This reports details the work of the FIP and requests that Cabinet consider match-funding a FIP post in partnership with Staffordshire County Council.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider allocating £15,000 to match-fund the cost of establishing a FIP post for an initial twelve month period, to be financed from existing resources..
- 2.2 Subject to the outcome of the above the proposal forms part of the deliberation of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015-16 to 2017-18 via the Delivering Change process.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The national Troubled Families initiative has been implemented in Staffordshire as part of the County-wide ‘Building Resilient Families’ programme. Within Cannock Chase, 123 families have been identified (so far) as those who would benefit from the BRF programme; these families met the following three criteria:

- Truancy issues
  - Anti social behaviour reports/ongoing issues
  - At least one person in the family being in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance
- 3.2 Of these 123 families, a steering group of local professionals from a wide range of partner agencies met to consider the levels of support required by each family and categorised them as follows:
- Intensive – 44
- Light – 49
- Super light – 30
- 3.3 Those families in the 'Intensive' category require significant levels of support and, therefore, the Family Intervention Programme was established in September 2013 to meet this need. The FIP allocates a lead worker from one of the partner agencies involved to act as the single point of contact for the family and provide additional levels of support above and beyond those offered to families in the light and super-light categories. The FIP is managed through the County Council's Local Support Team and partners have funded workers within this Team to ensure the need is met (Staffordshire Police have seconded a full-time post into the FIP whilst Staffordshire County Council provide management of the scheme and two FIP workers).
- 3.4 Cannock Chase has a high number of families within the 'Intensive' category when compared to most other Districts across the County and, as such, requires adequate resourcing levels within the FIP to manage the demand.

**4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:
- (i) Place – The FIP supports the work of the Community Safety Partnership and its aims to increase community assurance and reduce offending behaviour.
  - (ii) Transformation – the FIP initiative is based on new ways of providing services to vulnerable people within our communities, working together with our partners to provide a single lead agency/point of contact for each family within the programme.

**5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 Cannock Chase has had an active Family Intervention Programme since September 2013. This Programme works with those families in the Building

Resilient Families' initiative who require the most intensive support from a range of partner organisations.

5.2 FIPs have proven to be incredibly successful in other areas; the Department for Education's Research brief *Monitoring and Evaluation of Family Intervention Services between February 2007 and March 2011* details the following successful reductions across the 12,850 families referred to FIPs during this time:

- domestic violence (65 per cent)
- involvement in crime (65 per cent) and/or ASB (60 per cent)
- lack of exercise or poor diet (52 per cent)
- drug or substance misuse (50 per cent)
- alcohol misuse (55 per cent);

The Cannock Chase FIP has been developed using evidence from other schemes in respect of what does (and doesn't) work with families. As well as the improved outcomes for families (and, in some instances, their neighbours/locality) there are financial successes attributed to FIP schemes. The Department for Education independently conducted research:

*"...found that for every £1 invested nearly £2 was saved. If a number of different professionals each deal with a different family member and a different problem it costs a lot of money and is ineffective."*

5.3 Staffordshire County Council 'host' and manage the FIP; this is crucial given the need for significant experience and knowledge of safeguarding issues required by those managing FIP workers. Across the County, partner organisations have provided resources to their respective FIPs (there is one in each District) either through the secondment of suitably qualified staff or through budget allocation to fund/part-fund a worker (employed by SCC). There have already been some early successes in respect of the Building Resilient Families programme in Cannock in attracting £24,583 in Payment by Results for the successful work with 42 families.

5.4 Three other District Councils have agreed to provide resources within their respective FIPs through match-funding with Staffordshire County Council. Given Cannock Chase's high level of 'intensive' families, Cabinet may wish to consider allocating £15,000 funding to create an additional FIP resource in partnership with Staffordshire County Council which would also allocate £15,000.

This funding allocation could be offered as an initial one year pilot with the outcomes of the project reviewed ahead of the 2015/16 budget setting process. This approach would enable Cabinet to evaluate the effectiveness of this service and to consider whether it wishes to allocate future funding.

5.5 A Commissioning Intention document would need to be drafted to include outcome measures in respect of this service. It would be appropriate to include performance information in respect of:

- Number of families with whom the post is working

- Outcome in respect of ASB related to those families
- Outcome in respect of worklessness related to those families
- Outcome in respect of truancy levels related to those families

This information could be included in the regular Partnership Update report to Cabinet but, crucially, would be performance managed by all Partners at the LSP.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

No provision exists within the General Fund Revenue Budget to commission the LSP to provide a Family Intervention Service within the Building Resilient Families initiative

The estimated Cost of the service is £15,000 per annum and Members will need to consider the option against the financial position as outlined in the General Fund Revenue Budget elsewhere on the Agenda.

The costs of the initial 12 month period can however be contained within existing resources for 2014-15 only.

Any ongoing provision will need additional compensating savings to be identified as part of this or future years budget process.

### **6.2 Legal**

None

### **6.3 Human Resources**

As the post would be employed by Staffordshire County Council there is no employment contract with Cannock Chase Council and therefore no direct HR implications.

The County Council will determine the grade for the post through its own job evaluation scheme and the contribution required from Cannock for funding the post will, therefore, arise from that exercise.

### **6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)**

The FIP works with families within the District which have the most intensive needs in respect of a range of criteria. All families in this programme have current ASB issues related to them/their household and one of the aims of this programme aims to reduce ASB related to the family which directly links to the Council's Section 17 responsibilities regarding crime prevention.

### **6.5 Human Rights Act**

None

**6.6 Data Protection**

All personal data in respect of the families is held in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

**6.7 Risk Management**

None

**6.8 Equality & Diversity**

This has been subject to a robust Equality Impact Assessment and has identified positive impacts on a number of the Protected Characteristics groups. No negative impacts were identified at present and therefore no major changes have been identified at this stage.

**6.9 Best Value**

None

**7 Appendices to the Report**

**Previous Consideration**

**Background Papers**