

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 7 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR FAMILIES WITH COMPLEX NEEDS  
PROGRAMME**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update the Commission on the Community Budget for Families with Complex Needs Programme.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. A report on the Programme was submitted to the Commission at its meeting on 20 April 2011. It was agreed at this meeting that the Commission would receive a further update setting out some of the findings thus far from the Programme.

**Background**

3. The Programme proposal:
  - Was developed between December and February by public and voluntary sector partners;
  - Was submitted to Government in February and endorsed by the Secretary of State in April;
  - Sets out the ambition to address the needs of all Families with Complex Needs and those at risk of developing Complex Needs by 2015;
  - Has three stages:
    - April - June information collection and analysis;
    - July - December high level service redesign;
    - 2012 - agree redesign and begin implementation.
4. The current position is that:
  - The programme has slipped by about 2 months - mainly because of additional information collection and the scope of the programme has substantially increased;

- Considerable support has been provided by public and voluntary sector organisations so far;
  - There is considerable support in principle for the ambitions of the programme but some services will need to agree high level redesign proposals before they can consider providing support in practice.
5. Some recent developments are that:
- Government has announced the extension of the programme to 50 more places;
  - Government has also announced four pilot social impact bonds to support the national programme including one in Leicestershire;
  - The Department of Work and Pensions are procuring services for 'families with complex problems' through a European Social Fund programme. This could provide about £3m of additional services in Leicestershire but they could be competing with redesigned local services rather than complementing them.

### **Outline of Key Findings**

6. A presentation of the key interim findings of the evidence/analysis phase will be made at the meeting.
7. In summary the key findings are:
- There are estimated to be about 1000 Families with Complex Needs in Leicestershire which is more than the Governance estimate;
  - This is about three times more than the Government estimate taking the Government estimate of average costs of £100,000 per family the costs could be as much as £100m;
  - There are up to 3000 families with some of the characteristics - this is also substantially higher than Government estimates;
  - Families with Complex needs have strong views and negative views about how most public services relate to them;
  - About 40 separate public services are provided to Families with Complex Needs;
  - Most of these services are directed at individuals rather than families as a whole.

- Front line service practitioners consider there are considerable opportunities for change including: a need to move away from silo approaches:
  - A need to work with families as a whole rather than individuals.
  - Better information sharing.
  - Bringing together some services.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Scrutiny Commission – 20 April 2011 – Community Budgets for Families with Complex Needs

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

### **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that the Commission considers and comments upon the content of the presentation.

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