



SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 5 JUNE 2013

SUPPORTING LEICESTERSHIRE FAMILIES - UPDATE REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny with an update on the progress of the 'Supporting Leicestershire Families' Programme and service. A more detailed update will be provided via a presentation delivered on the day by Janet Gower-Johnson, Service Manager for the service and Mags Walsh, Programme Director for Community Budgets.

Background

2. Leicestershire's Programme was established in 2011 as one of the Coalition government's 16 Community Budgets under the name "Families with Complex Needs", with the dual aims of:
 - i) Improving outcomes for England's most complex families; and
 - ii) Reducing the public service/state costs in addressing the needs of these families.
3. Intensive Insight and Design phases were undertaken with a wide range of partners, resulting in the development of a new Family Model that would better meet the needs of these families, through a more cohesive and joined-up approach. The Family Model was approved by the Leicestershire Together Board, which confirmed its ambition to support as many of Leicestershire's identified 3300 families as resources enabled.
4. In December 2011, the Prime Minister outlined his ambition to 'turn around' the lives of 120,000 Troubled Families by the end of the Parliament, following a study highlighting their national cost to the public sector of an estimated £9 billion a year.
5. The Prime Minister created a new Troubled Families Unit (TFU), headed by Louise Casey CB in the Department for Communities and Local Government, to deliver this ambition, with a pooled budget from four government departments. Funding was made available in April 2012 to support local authorities to deliver this ambition using a combination of a grant and payment by results.
6. Leicestershire's new "Supporting Leicestershire Families" (SLF) Service, with a locality model operating in all seven district localities, commenced in April 2013, with a team of over 50 staff, led by its new Head of Service

Jane Moore. The Service is funded for a three year period from a pooled budget of £8.7m made up by contributions from the County Council, the TFU, the CCGs, all seven Districts, Probation, the Police and Job Centre Plus.

Schools Engagement

7. Work is taking place jointly with the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) around engaging schools in the SLF work. An event took place in Blaby on 8 May with representatives from Children's Centres, Police, Primary and Secondary Schools. Over 40 staff attended to hear presentations from SLF, Blaby District Council and CYPS. Participants were then asked to look at some scenarios and to consider how work can take place across the locality to support families. A report will be produced from the event and locality events will be held in the other 6 districts and Boroughs in the coming months.

National Update

8. As a result of the work undertaken to date in Leicestershire under the Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme, and their view of Leicestershire as 'leading' on this agenda, the Secretary of State and Director General for the Troubled Families Programme (Louise Casey CB) visited Leicestershire on Monday 13 May.
9. They were particularly interested in the Community Budget whole system approach taken to this cross-cutting theme, as well as the achievement of a significant partnership pooled budget, the family model and the partnership governance arrangements. They were also very keen to meet with some Leicestershire families who had received support under this family model and their family support workers.
10. Whilst the Minister and Louise Casey were very positive overall about Leicestershire's approach, ambition and scope, some 'challenge' was put to partners around the identification of:
 - Services that can reduce/cease as a result;
 - Opportunities to better integrate with wider partners – e.g. GPs;
 - Early savings indications.
11. As a result of the visit, there was a request for the SLF Programme to provide additional support to the Troubled Families Unit, in showing indicators of early benefits that could lead to savings.
12. The visit overall generated very positive local PR for Leicestershire.

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