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## **Priority Families Programme Update**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Priority Families Programme is a programme administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The programme conducts targeted interventions for families experiencing multiple problems, including crime, anti-social behaviour, truancy, unemployment, mental health problems and domestic abuse
- 1.2 The programme is in its second phase, running from 2015 to 2020. In January 2020 the MHCLG confirmed funding to extend the programme to March 2021
- 1.3 This paper provides an update to the Scrutiny Board of progress and outcomes achieved through the programme to date, outline the current position and priorities and emerging themes.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 To note the performance of the Priority Families programme to date
- 2.2 To note the requirement to deliver sustainable transformation, supported by the transformation grant

### **Reason**

- 3.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Board as part of the 2020/21 work plan.

## Supporting information

- 4.1 The programme encourages solution focused, holistic, whole family change work rather than addressing single presenting issues for individual children and young people
- 4.2 To be eligible for the programme, each family must include dependent children and/or expectant parents, and have been identified as having at least two of the six indicators prescribed by the MHCLG. These relate to crime and antisocial behaviour, education, life chances, living standards, domestic abuse and mental and physical health.
- 4.3 Families are referred onto the programme via the weekly Vulnerable Children's Meetings in each Locality in the city, identification then means they can access the services they require, along with an identified worker who develops a plan based on meeting the family's outcomes and using the Team Around the Family process.
- 4.4 Over the life of the programme (2015-2020) Derby's target was to work with 2,230 families, with 3,471 families worked with (to March 2020). Data indicates that there have been improvements for families in Derby, and for those families for whom outcomes are known, nationally matched data shows improvements for several indicators (this does not take account of possible increases following Covid-19 crisis).
- 4.5 For 2020/21 the target is to work with an additional 223 families with potential successful outcome funding for 374 families. From April 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 158 families were classed as having their needs met (claimed through Payments by Results (PbR)), which is 42% of the annual target. Considering the challenges presented by COVID this is a positive outcome.
- 4.6 Additional funding has been allocated for service transformation to ensure sustained progress in identifying families and improving outcomes beyond 2021.
- 4.7 The programme is externally Quality Assured by the national Troubled Families team. They have recognised the improvements made in joining up information to provide a holistic understanding of family needs and have identified the development of a sustainable, joined up data solution a key aim for Derby.
- 4.8 Next steps are to gain confirmation of funding post 2020/21 and develop a sustainable joined up data solution which is being taken forward by a Task and Finish group. Should funding not continue beyond March 2021 there is a risk to delivery
- 4.9 Our commissioned providers deliver additional services which are part of a Priority Families plan, such as mentoring, counselling and therapy services. They have adapted to the Covid-19 situation in several ways. This includes virtual contact, phone or video contact. Providers are also ready to offer additional support for / if / when required due to self-isolation, alongside the above, as soon as the need arises (e.g. access to food). All of which have been challenging but successful.

- 4.10 Families have been supported throughout the Pandemic via the Council's Early Help Service who have ensured weekly contact with families and with schools supported the issuing of laptops from the Department for Education and ensured access to the community Hubs in the city.
- 4.11 The national team for Troubled Families are keeping the programme's guidance and good practice support under constant review as the Pandemic progresses and services must respond and adapt as required.

### **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 N/A

### **Other options**

- 6.1 N/A

### **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 Local Authorities are funded to deliver the programme through grant funding based on the number of families supported through the programme, and the number of families whose outcomes are successfully met. This payment is received on a Payment by Results system for successful outcomes.
- 7.2 Up to end March 2020, PbR funding of c£1.2m has been received and c£2.2m attachment funding has been brought into Derby over the course of the programme to support Council and Voluntary services offer the right level of Early Help, supported by c £1m co-ordination funding.
- 7.3 Programme funding is currently due to end March 2021.

### **Legal implications**

- 8.1 None noted

### **Climate implications**

- 9.1 N/A

### **Other significant implications**

- 10.1 In order to report on need and outcomes, the Priority Families programme collates data from a range of sources including; LPC, School census, NEET, DV, Flexible offer for 2yr olds in nursery, ADMS-DWP, LCS, YOS and Pupil Referral Unit.

However, unlike other Local Authorities a comprehensive data set across all partners has not been obtained, for example, from the Police, Derby Homes and Health which impacts on the reporting of holistic positive outcomes.

10.2 A presentation will be provided to Members.

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>	Alison Parkin	8/10/2020
<b>Service Director(s)</b>		
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Gurmail Nizzer	8/10/2020
<b>Other(s)</b>	Lisa Melrose	8/10/2020
	Fiona Colton	8/10/2020
<b>Background papers:</b>	n/a	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	n/a	