

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2012

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TROUBLED FAMILIES

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the council's continued involvement with the Leicestershire County Council Troubled Families programme and to allocate resources for the Melton project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **a sum of £30,000 be allocated from the Corporate Priorities Reserve to the Countywide pooled budget to support the Troubled Families Programme, and a similar sum be included in the relevant budget for financial years 2012/14 and 2014/15;**
- 2.2 **in kind contributions be made available to the Troubled Families Programme to cover accommodation in Parkside and locality relevant management.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Melton Borough Council has for some considerable time been actively involved in the support of families and in particular those families with complex needs. The Council was one of the few Districts within the Region and country to develop a Family Intervention Project (FIP). The FIP has worked closely with the Pathways Reoffending Project which assists certain prisoners released on licence to reintegrate back into the community and their families. This commitment by the Council to working with families with complex needs in their communities has resulted in the Council fully understanding the outcome of the Community Budgets Programme focussing on such families.
- 3.1.2 The revised programme now called 'Troubled Families' is supported by the Coalition Government which has through research and practical example accepted the impact of certain families on the use of public services and their call on the public purse. This Council had recognised this fact by an analysis of its contacts from the community using the Mosaic classifications which showed to the Council a disproportionate impact on requests for service from families within the relevant Mosaic classifications. The Government has therefore, through a programme led by Senior Civil Servant, Louise Casey, launched a programme of support for the Troubled Families. This is a Payments by Results Model based around indicators with primary reference to worklessness, education and crime and disorder. Research has shown that many of the families with these complex needs have difficulties in these areas, although, the experience of Melton and County colleagues is that the complex needs presented will include difficulties in other areas. The model worked through by County colleagues acknowledges this and in particular the need to treat all issues arising in a family and acceptance that although the project will run over three years this, as has often been said by this Council, is a 'generational issue'.

- 3.1.3 Leicestershire County Council has worked through the Communities Budgets Programme in recent months to develop a families model which can be used in the localities to attend to the needs of Troubled Families. A diagrammatic representation of this model is attached at Appendix 1. Melton Borough Council officers have worked with the County Council in designing and developing understanding for the creation of this Model. A summary of the evidence base prepared and used by Leicestershire County Council when discussing the proposals with partners is attached Appendix 2. Members will note reference to the Melton Family Model within this evidence base.
- 3.1.4 The evidence and research has also calculated the number of families which will need assistance under the Government's programme as well as those in the wider category of 'at risk' or with multiple but perhaps not complex needs. These tables are attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.1.5 With the model designed and the Government's Payment by Results in place for Council's to draw down against the County Council, as lead partner, has requested other partners to contribute to the scheme. A sum of £30,000 has been requested from this Council together with acceptance of accommodation costs as the workers will be based in the locality and associated local management costs. For this Council those additional costs have been estimated to be £28,000. A draft summary of current understanding of partner contributions is attached at Appendix 4.
- 3.1.6 This Council has long been committed to the concept of working with families in the community that present with complex needs. The successes in working with those families both in terms of reductions to indicators used to assess the impact of the programmes have shown a significant change in the Melton Community. Members will recall that in a basket of 28 indicators prepared with colleagues at County, Melton Borough Council was either top or second across the County in 14 of those indicators. This is against the background of little or no additional contribution to costs or services within Melton from partner agencies. Officers would suggest that this shows the impact of the existing FIP within the Borough and would suggest formal participation and engagement within the Programme with the County Council and other partners is the way forward to develop this. Also copies of the current National Countywide/Melton Projects is attached at Appendix 5.
- 3.1.7 There are certain issues upon which the Council has sought and gained clarification, including the fact that its FIP workers will be properly assimilated in this Programme and paid for through the work but also that the integrated approach at Melton will be accepted as meeting and fitting in within the Countywide Model. Further work is continuing upon these issues particularly through workshops on the latter point to gain absolute clarity as the requirement of the model in the locality.

4.0 FULL POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has for some considerable time through its own FIP and the Pathways Reoffending Project supported "Troubled Families". "Supporting People" and its associated actions are existing priorities of the Council. The Countywide Troubled Families Programme will have a locality focus and add capacity to the Council's work.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has been requested to pay a sum of £30,000 towards the Countywide Programme. In return the Council will receive funding which would cover its existing FIP workers together with additional allocated workers and administrative support from the Countywide Programme. The Council would also provide supported accommodation together with relevant management. The latter points within the

working arrangements of Parkside and the integrated approach to the delivery of this service can be accommodated.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 It is expected, and indeed a report was presented to the recent County Council Cabinet, indicating that that body will be the accountable body. The financial sums will be 'pooled' and the County Council will manage the budgets, together with any Payment by Results funding returned to the County for the benefit of the scheme as a whole. This will include funding relevant resources within the localities to deliver across the three year programme for the key families indicated. It is expected that some form of Service Level Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding will be required and Officers will work with colleagues at the County Council to facilitate this.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 In carrying out its work with Troubled Families the Council has seen a reduction in certain of its indicators around Community Safety in particular, the benefits to local communities when children and others within the family adopt what is considered to be an acceptable approach to their community and neighbours. Local people have seen the benefits with a reduction in anti-social behaviour and other nuisance within their areas.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The County Council as the intended Accountable Body has advised it will produce an Equalities Impact Assessment. Officers will examine this assessment and see if any changes or additional matters are needed with respect to the operation of the Programme within the Melton Community. It is anticipated that there would be few changes to needed to the Countywide EIA, however this work will be carried out.

9.0 RISKS

Probability



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D				
Very Low E			1	
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

Impact →

Risk No.	Description
1	Requested changes to the current Melton Integrated Model impact adversely on the Council's previous success
2	
3	

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from the report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The County Council has worked proactively and fully with Councils and partners in the design of the Model to assist Troubled Families. It has also consulted widely upon the funding mechanisms. Partners have been fully involved. In particular, this includes this Council who have assisted through seconded workers and other resources to help develop the impact modelling, the model and the roll out methodology.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All.

Contact Officer:	Lynn Aisbett Chief Executive
Date:	22.6.12
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Diagramatic Representation of the Troubled Families Model Appendix 2: Countywide Evidence Base Appendix 3: Estimate of Countywide Troubled Families Appendix 4: Draft summary of presently understood Partner contributions Appendix 5: FIP outcomes: National, Countywide and Melton
Background Papers:	Troubled Families Evidence Base and Model Report (LCC) Indicator Report – Melton Borough Council Relevant Notes of the Community Budget Working Group Exchange of Information Concerning Contribution Requests
Reference:	X:C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/Exempt/PFA/2012-13/3-7-12/LA-Troubled Families