

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 July 2016



Innovations Programme

Report of Rachael Shimmin Corporate Director Children and Adult Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee an update on the progress and implementation of the Innovations in Children's Social Care Programme in County Durham.
- 2 The presentation will be given by Julie Scurfield, Children's Services Strategic Manager on behalf of Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services.

Background

- 3 The Department for Education (DfE) launched the Innovation Programme in October 2013 with the aim of supporting the transformation of Children's Social Care services so that vulnerable children and families could be supported more effectively to achieve improved outcomes. The programme is set over a five year period and seeks to inspire whole system change so that in five years the following will be achieved:-
 - Better life chances for children receiving help from the social care system
 - Stronger incentives and mechanisms for innovation, experimentation and replication of successful new approaches;
 - Better value for money across children's social care
- 4 In March 2015 County Durham Children's Services submitted a successful proposal for Innovations Programme funding of £3.2m.
- 5 The key elements of innovation contained within our proposal were:-
 - The creation of 10 integrated early help and social work teams to create Innovation teams across the County, significantly increasing the range, access, quality and effectiveness of services for the whole family across the continuum of need.
 - The creation and development of third sector alliances in all areas of County Durham to build community capacity and sustainable change for families.
 - An intensive workforce development programme to support the new teams

and the whole workforce.

- Significantly enhanced service user engagement to change the relationship between professional and service user.

Detail

6 The presentation to Members will address the following:-

- Progress to date on delivering the key elements as set out in paragraph 5 above
- The approach to practice transformation and quality improvement being delivered
- The impact of the transformation to date
- The challenges that remain and next steps

Recommendation

7 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:-

- (a) Receive the presentation and comment accordingly;
- (b) Receive a further progress update at a future date.

Background Papers

8 None

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - The £3.2m Innovations Fund has been utilised to support the delivery of the Innovations Programme and the creation of 10 Families First Teams. Detailed financial oversight is provided through the Programme governance at regular meetings of the Project Board, which is chaired by the Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services.

Staffing - A restructuring exercise was carried out across Children's Services in May 2015 which aligned staff from across a number of teams into the 10 Families First teams. Some new posts were created through the use of the Innovations Funding to create multi-skilled social work led teams.

Risk – A detailed risk log is kept and maintained through the governance of the programme overseen by the Project Board

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – a detailed Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be refreshed in September 2015.

Accommodation – All teams have been accommodated within existing buildings.

Crime & Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None