

22 September 2014



**Family Intervention Project (FIP)
& Housing Intervention Project (HIP)**

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information on the Family Intervention Project and the Housing Intervention Project prior to an overview presentation by Lorraine Walkden, Advice and Prevention Manager.

Background

2. The work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan ('Altogether Wealthier' priority theme), Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. The work programme of the Committee is refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that it focuses on the priority areas identified and members will recall that at the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 23 June, 2014 the work programme of the committee for 2014/15 was agreed. One of the areas identified within the work programme was an overview in relation to the Family Intervention Project (FIP) and the Housing Intervention Project and arrangements have therefore been made for Lorraine Walkden, Advice and Prevention Manager to attend the committee meeting on the 22 September to deliver a presentation providing background in relation to the projects, detail of the objectives of the projects, eligibility criteria, how both projects operate, assessments and interventions and detail of the FIP and HIP process.

Family Intervention Project (FIP)

4. The aim of the FIP team is to provide a comprehensive, pro-active and intensive intervention packages to families who have multiple and complex needs and are at risk of homelessness or are already homeless. The aim of the role is to secure suitable accommodation, reduce ASB, assist them to make sustainable changes and reduce their barriers to employment.

5. The Family Intervention Project works solely with families and must include at least one child under the age of 18. The FIP offers intensive support to families who are at risk of homelessness and where at least one member of the family is a perpetrator of ASB. The service works with families with multiple problems and complex needs who have the biggest impact on services and the community. To tackle the root causes of ASB and homelessness we aim to make sustainable changes and reach positive outcomes for the whole family and the community in which they live.
6. The FIP offers support and guidance to families to address the causes of their behaviour, alongside supervision and enforcement tools to provide them with incentives to change. The project uses intensive and individually tailored packages of support, supervision and clear sanctions to improve the behaviour of families at risk of homelessness and anti-social households.
7. The FIP team deliver a wide range of evidence based parenting programmes as well as programmes to help reduce ASB and deal with anger and aggressive behaviour. The Team also aim to deliver regular diversionary activities for young people within the families.
8. **To access the FIP families must meet criteria 1**

Criteria 1

The family must currently be at risk of becoming homeless or already homeless. This can be due to ASB, rent arrears or the home being unsuitable for the family's needs. Owner occupiers will only be considered if a closure order or crack house order has been issued.

Criteria 2

At least one family member has been involved in recent ASB or criminal activity and this must be evidenced or the family must have multiple and complex needs, which can include a variety of the following:

- Alcohol Misuse
- Substance misuse
- Mental health issues
- Domestic abuse
- Severe financial hardship (including clients affected by Welfare Reform changes)
- Worklessness

Housing Intervention Project (HIP)

9. The HIP will provide the same support to clients as the FIP however the client group is different. This service is for adults or childless couples (18yrs and over) who are entrenched in their situation and without intensive support would not be able to sustain accommodation or employment: - to meet the requirements of the service the clients need to meet the following criteria:

Criteria 1

Somebody who has a housing need that could lead to homelessness or is already homeless, who is entrenched in their situation and without intensive support, would not be resolved.

Criteria 2

- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol Misuse
- Substance misuse
- Mental health issues
- Domestic abuse
- Severe financial hardship (including clients affected by Welfare reform changes)
- Worklessness

Next Steps

10. Durham County has now had confirmation that they have been awarded an early start for the second phase of the Troubled Families Programme (Durham's Stronger Families Programme) this is to be rolled out from September 2014. The Criteria has been amended for phase 2, the new criteria is:

- Children who need help
- Parents involved in Crime/ASB
- Children who do not attend school regularly
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by DV & Abuse
- Parents & children with a range of health problems

11. It is felt that the new criteria will be more inclusive and will work across all levels of need, from early help to statutory. The Family Intervention Project plays a significant part in the achievement of this target working with families from level three up in to statutory services at level 4. It is expected that all FIP cases will meet the new stronger families' criteria. FIP will report to CAS on all stronger families' cases and ensure the single assessment process is embedded.

12. The HIP became live in August and referrals now stand at 14; staff are already working with 11 of these referrals. Of these 11 cases three of them have been referred through the Multi Agency Intervention Pilot that's delivered by Community Safety.
13. The project will continue to work closely with the Think Family Partnership, Community Safety and all relevant partners to provide a high level of support for chaotic and complex clients across County Durham: including high impact households.
14. Work is ongoing to secure future funding for the continuation of both the FIP & HIP.

Recommendations

15. Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment upon the information provided during the presentation.
16. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update on the Family Intervention Project (FIP) and Housing Intervention Project (HIP) at a future meeting of the Committee.

Background Papers

Member's Seminar - Overview presentation on the 15 July 2014 focusing on Housing Solutions.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity– None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Discrimination Act –None

Legal Implications – None