

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Scrutiny Board

4 April 2017

Review of the Safer Havant Partnership – Troubled Families Programme

FOR RECOMMENDATION

KEY DECISION NO

REPORT BY: Crime and Disorder Panel

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This review was undertaken to review the effectiveness of the Safer Havant Partnership with regard to dealing with troubled families.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that;
- 2.1.1 Hampshire County Council be requested to relax the scheduled timescales for working with families within the Troubled Families Programme to allow for full support to be given;
- 2.1.2 Hampshire County Council be requested to extend the length of grant funding to be given over a three year period to allow for long-term planning and resource allocation;
- 2.1.3 the Department of Work and Pensions be requested to allow for the access of data for agencies within the Troubled Families Programme;
- 2.1.4 the Leader of the Council be requested to seek the support of the local Members of Parliament for an extension of the funding for the programme beyond 2020; and
- 2.1.5 an investigation be undertaken into the feasibility of requiring a contribution towards the programme as part of the planning permission for certain developments.

3.0 RESOURCES:

- 3.1 The above recommendations can be delivered within the existing budget.

4.0 LEGAL:

- 4.1 The Department of Work and Pensions currently restricts the sharing of information on the grounds of confidentiality. It is unclear whether they would be willing to share this information within the Programme.

5.0 STRATEGY:

- 5.1 The Troubled Families Programme is a key example of how the Council looks to work with partners to help ensure the health and well being of residents, while also promoting partnership working to realise financial efficiencies.

6.0 RISKS:

- 6.1 There are no risks rising from the contents of this report.

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS:

- 7.1 N/A

8.0 FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- 8.1 The recommendations seek to improve the processes and procedures of the Troubled Families Programme and allow for better support for vulnerable families within the Borough.

9.0 METHODOLOGY

- 9.1 The Council is required to review how the Havant Safer Partnership discharges its function every year. In view of the wide range of functions delivered by the Partnership it was decided to limit this year's review to the procedures and processes involved in the Troubled Families Programme
- 9.2 The Crime and Disorder Panel held an initial meeting with the Neighbourhood Development Team Leader and Community Safety Officer to discuss the procedures and processes of the Troubled Families Programme.
- 9.3 From this discussion, the Panel identified four agencies to interview further on their experiences of working within the Programme. Representatives from Barnardos, Motiv8 and the Department of Work and Pensions met with the Panel and held a detailed discussion with members on the Programme. There was no response to the invitation sent to Havant Academy.
- 9.4 Full details of the methodology of the project are set out in the separate Findings Pack.

10.0 KEY FINDINGS

- 10.1 The Panel were pleased to note that there had been tangible successes to the Troubled Families Programme. All agencies interviewed felt that the aim for improved partnership working had been a big success that had allowed

for support to be delivered in a more effective manner to vulnerable families and individuals.

- 10.2 The multi-agency approach allowed for a wide range of support and advice to be available for vulnerable families, and also ensured that the relevant support was easier to access. The addition of the Department of Work and Pensions in particular had enabled access to important advice and guidance.
- 10.3 There were however areas within the Programme that could be improved. The criteria for evaluating the success rate of the Programme only measured outcomes by statistics (such as improvements in the percentage rate of school attendance), and did not consider other positive impacts on families.
- 10.4 The timescales set out in the Programme in some cases had proved inadequate. As of April 2016, agencies had a maximum timescale of 6 months engagement with a family, which raised concerns as some vulnerable families may not receive full support from the Programme due to these restrictions. Recommendation 2.1.1 seeks to relax these timescales to allow for families to receive a full support package.
- 10.5 One of the areas that the agencies identified for possible improvement is the timescales for the allocation of Hampshire County Council grants. Grants were allocated on an annual basis which inhibited the partnership agencies from making long term plans for this much needed service and made it difficult to properly allocate resources to this service.
- 10.6 Although the Programme had allowed for improved partnership working, it had proved difficult to access information held by the Department of Works and Pensions and in particular for the DWP to refer families who visit their job centres to this Programme.
- 10.7 The Panel consider that due to the importance and the success of the Programme, action is needed to secure the continuation of the work that the programme undertakes. For this, the Panel recommends that the Leader be requested to seek support from local Members of Parliament for an extension of funding for the programme, beyond the current end of 2020.
- 10.8 The Panel also feels that in looking to secure future funding for the Programme, an investigation should be undertaken to look into the feasibility of requiring a contribution towards the Programme as part of the planning permission for certain developments.
- 10.9 Full details of the findings of the project are set out in the separate Findings Pack.

Appendices

Appendix A – Comments on the Final Report

Background Papers

[Findings pack for the review](#)

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