

Decision Record – Grant Funding to Expand the Family Nurse Partnership Service in Preparation for the Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for 0-5s from NHS England to Warwickshire County Council

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Alan Cockburn Deputy Leader
Date of Decision	27 October 2014

Decision Taken

That the Deputy Leader:

1. authorises the allocation of £750,000 from the Council's Public Health budget to increase the capacity and availability of the Family Nurse Partnership service to more eligible women and families in Warwickshire;
2. delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Communities to enter into a grant agreement with NHS England on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources.

Reasons for Decisions

The Council's Public Health service is proposing to increase investment in FNP using the Council's Public Health budget in preparation for the transition of commissioning responsibilities. The proposed investment will enable the service to be more sustainable and will increase the number of families that can benefit, bringing about the additional benefits of early intervention. It is proposed that £750,000 is invested in the programme during the period November 2014 and March 2016 to significantly increase the capacity of the service.

Background Information

From 1st October 2015, the Government intends that Local Authorities (LAs) take over responsibility from NHS England for commissioning Public Health services for children aged 0-5. This includes Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) - targeted services for teenage mothers

The Family Nurse Partnership is a voluntary home visiting programme for first time mums and dads, aged 19 or under. A specially trained family nurse visits the young mum regularly, from early in pregnancy until the child is two. The FNP is delivered in accordance to a license and aims to enable young mums to:

- Have a healthy pregnancy
- Improve their child's health and development

- Plan their own futures and achieve their aspirations.

The FNP programme is underpinned by an internationally recognised robust evidence base, which shows it can improve health, social and educational outcomes in the short, medium and long term, while also providing cost benefits.

Young mothers and their children are a vulnerable group. Early parenthood is associated with poor health outcomes and an increased risk of social exclusion. Having children at an early age can limit the education, career and economic prospects of young women. Although young people can be competent parents, there is evidence that children born to teenagers are more likely to experience a range of negative outcomes in later life, and are more likely to become a teenage parent themselves.

Serious case reviews undertaken in England have identified teenage parents as being vulnerable families who may need additional support to help them achieve positive futures for themselves and their children.

A paper outlining the proposed expansion of FNP was approved by WCCs Corporate Board on 17th September 2014.

The FNP team in Warwickshire is employed by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) and consists of 1 Nurse Supervisor and 7.4wte trained Family Nurses. Each nurse has a case load of up to 25 families. The FNP license requires that each Nurse Supervisor has 8 or less Family Nurses.

The FNP service is currently provided by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) under a contract commissioned by NHS England. As noted above, this commissioning responsibility will transfer from NHS England to Warwickshire County Council on 1st October 2015.

The FNP programme is overseen locally by an FNP Board and inspected annually by the National FNP team. The latest annual review was completed in March 2014 and an improvement plan has been agreed to further develop the service. The review concluded that despite local challenges around the lack of sustainability of the service relating to the small staffing numbers, the programme had developed well and was meeting expected standards. The service has a particular strength around client involvement with young parents involved in meetings and in interviewing of new staff.

Financial Implications

£750,000 between Nov 2014 and March 2016

Report Author	Rachael Leslie
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Strategic Director	David Carter
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Alan Cockburn

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

Report considered

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3028/Committee/551/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Alan Cockburn
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Alison Hallworth, Vicky Newbold, Jane Pollard
 Finance – Liz Firmstone
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Corporate Services OSC – party spokes:

Councillors John Appleton, June Tandy, Alan Webb and Nicola Davies