

**Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
28 January 2020**

Different Futures Two-Year Report

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives the 2018-2019 Different Futures end of year 2 Annual Report and notes the progress they have made against their respective strategic priorities

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Different Futures works with birth parents who are no longer able to care for their child due to adoption or kinship care.
- 1.2 Dedicated Project Workers offer a two-year support programme, with the option to access aftercare for an extra year if that support is still required. They seek to address individual needs to improve the current situation for the clients such as vulnerable housing or homelessness, debt, mental health issues, drug and alcohol issues and employment. This is to enable clients to be able to provide care for any future children.
- 1.3 Funding initially originated from Public Health and due to the success of the project, the project coordinator and three project workers have become core funded by Warwickshire County Council.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 The end of year 2 report provides a high-level overview of key performance data in relation to the work of Different Futures. Details of the work undertaken throughout the course of the year.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The detailed business case undertaken in November 2016 analysed the financial costs of a child being removed into care. The figure was found to be on average then £23,191 per child per year if they were in an internal foster placement. The success at the end of Year 2 has seen the Different Futures team become a permanent project and take on a much needed third full time project worker. This will allow the project to work with more parents across the county, breaking the recurrent cycle of pregnancy and care proceedings.

- 3.2 At the end of year 1, two project workers supported 22 parents and there was an estimated a gross saving of £510,202.
- 3.3 At the end of year 2, the project supported 28 parents with project workers at full capacity and the gross saving increased to £649,348
- 3.4 As we move into a year 3, there has been the recruitment of a much needed third project worker and a projected increase of gross savings to £834, 876.
- 3.5 All the savings are cost avoidance rather than cashable savings.

4.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1 The Annual report will now be distributed across partner organisations for wider circulation

Background papers

None.

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