

Cabinet Meeting		Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date	11 March 2015	
Report Title	Award of Family Support Services Contract	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health	
SMT Lead	Abdool Kara, Chief Executive and Chair of Swale Community Safety Partnership	
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins, Head of Economy and Community Services	
Lead Officer	Charlotte Hudson, Economy and Community Services Manager	
Key Decision	No	
Classification	Open	
Forward Plan	Reference number:	
Recommendations	1. To extend the Family Support Services Contract with Children and Families Ltd to 2015 – 16 for £87,782.	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with an update on progress of the Swale Families Programme, and seeks approval to extend the Family Support Services contract to March 2016.

2 Background

- 2.1 In 2012 DCLG launched the Troubled Families Programme which aimed to transform the lives of 120,000 families nationally by 2015, with a specific focus on families experiencing issues of truancy/exclusion from school, youth offending, anti-social behaviour and worklessness. DCLG estimated that Kent had 2,560 troubled families to engage with over a three year period (2012-15).
- 2.2 The accountable body for the programme is Kent County Council and a multi-agency governance structure was put in place to ensure the programme was delivered effectively. To ensure that delivery was designed to respond to local needs and characteristics, district councils were approached to support local delivery models and facilitate the co-ordination of the programme in their locality. KCC provided a Local Delivery Project Manager to each district to facilitate these processes. KCC also commissioned a county-wide provision of Family Intervention workers to work with the most complex families.

- 2.3 In 2012 it was agreed that Swale Community Safety Partnership would be the local accountable body for the programme due to the national criteria aligning with their priorities. In 2013 Swale Community Safety Partnership submitted a proposal for the local delivery model to Kent County Council to form an expert team of existing professionals that would enhance their current practice from single issue working to a 'whole family' approach. This proposal was accepted by KCC and Swale CSP was issued a grant of £178,000 for a two-year period. Swale Borough Council is the accountable body for the grant. Commissioned services are required to work with 20% of the cohort.
- 2.4 An Expression of Interest process was undertaken to identify existing service providers to provide Family Support Services to the identified families on the programme. Following that process, contracts were awarded to Children and Families Ltd and Swale Community and Voluntary Services. The current contracts are due to expire on 31 March 2015; the contracts have provision for an extension of one year, ie to 31 March 2016.
- 2.5 As of December 2014 there were 429 families identified for Phase 1 of the programme, and 312 were engaged in the programme. The current cohort consists of 108 families engaged in the programme through all the delivery streams, including the local delivery model. The last payment-by-results claims were made in October 2013, and Swale had 'turned around' 161 families, representing c44% of the target cohort. Children and Families Ltd has achieved the highest number of turned around families from the commissioned services working in Swale.
- 2.6 The rollout of Phase 2 has been confirmed which will run for a further three years, April 2015 – March 2018. KCC have confirmed the grant to SBC for April 2015 – 16 as £71,200. KCC have also confirmed that the anticipated underspend of £17,000 from the current grant can be rolled forward to 2015/16 financial year. Within Phase 2 the criteria is much broader, and therefore the commissioned delivery streams will be required to work with more complex families than has been the case during phase 1. The funding for Phase 2 is at a 20% reduction of previous years, and therefore the delivery mechanism for Swale will be on a smaller scale.
- 2.7 A number of options have been considered regarding provision of family support services for 2015/16, including: re-tendering for provision; extension of both existing contracts at reduced levels; or extension of one provider.
- 2.8 Due to funding only being confirmed for one year it is recommended that a retender exercise is not conducted - this will ensure continuity of case work with families and will also ensure quality and skilled workers are maintained. Due to the change of emphasis in Phase 2 of working with more complex families, it is recommended that Children and Families Ltd contract is extended by one year at a value of £87,782, which will provide 2xFTE Family Support Workers and a 0.7xFTE Family Finance Worker for the year.

3 Proposals

3.1 To extend the Family Support Services Contract with Children and Families Ltd to 2015 – 16 for £87,782. This will enable the most successful delivery stream to continue and provide continuity to the programme.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 The alternative options are presented in the table below:

Option	Pros	Cons	Costs	
1. Re-tender for new providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Test market ▪ Identify new ways of working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs and time of procuring ▪ Transition arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of service covered by grant from KCC. ▪ Officer time for procurement exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not recommended due to the negative impact on family from transition arrangements.
2. Extend both contractors at reduced levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider range of provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase 2 requires work with more complex families. This is not the remit of SCVS. ▪ Potential loss of existing workers due to reduced hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of service covered by grant from KCC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not recommended as would impact on staff retention and therefore have a negative impact on service to families.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Chairs of Swale Community Safety Partnership has been consulted due to the governance arrangements of the programme.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The delivery of the Troubled Families Programme assists with

	delivering the healthy environment priority.
Financial, Resource and Property	SBC has received confirmation of a grant for £71,200 from KCC for 2015/16 and agreement to roll the underspend of £17,000. The contract value is within this grant. Contract extension meets with our own procurement rules and Standing Orders
Legal and Statutory	SBC will receive a grant variation to extend the grant for one year at £71,200, and contracts are currently in place with the service providers which have the opportunity to be extended. The current service providers have been issued notices that the contract is due to end on 31 March 2015.
Crime and Disorder	One of the programme aims is to reduce ASB and Youth Crime, and Phase 2 will also include reducing adult offending. Swale Community Safety Partnership also provides the local governance for the programme.
Sustainability	None identified.
Health and Wellbeing	The wider criteria for Phase 2 of the programme also address physical and mental health issues so work with families will positively impact on this priority.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The main risk to SBC is non-delivery on the commitments of the grant agreement. Suitable governance and contract management arrangements are in place to ensure effective delivery.
Equality and Diversity	The national programme has been subjected to an Equalities Impact Assessment, and the families' individual needs will be addressed in their family action plans.

7 Appendices

7.1 None

8 Background Papers

8.1 None