
Report to People Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2018

Subject: Evidence Based Practice – Functional Family Therapy

Report by: Head of Social Services and Chief Social Work Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To inform Committee of the positive impact, improved outcomes for children, and significant budget savings from the *Spend to Save* funding for Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to
- 2.2. Note the positive impact of Functional Family Therapy, in particular the improved outcomes for 12 families and
- 2.3. Review and note the budget savings achieved and forecast from this initiative.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 In 2016 Clackmannanshire had the highest number of children and young people Looked After Away from home in Scotland, accordingly the Council also had the highest spend on Looked after Children. The weekly cost for a child in residential school ranges from £2,500 to £4,000. In 2016 the net cost for children in residential schools was £4.091m.
- 3.2 A member/officer Scrutiny Review was set up to examine the factors contributing to this increasing trend. The review heard from various speakers, examined data and trends and carried out a broad scan of effective interventions.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny review concluded in December 2017 with several recommendations on how Social Services would seek to address the *Balance of Care* and reverse this negative trend by ; bringing children and young

people back from high cost placements, increasing Internal fostering resources, reshaping service provision to create an Intensive Family Support service and adopting evidence based practice to return and retain children and young people in the community when safe to do so.

- 3.4 Family Functional Therapy is an evidence based programme aimed at improving outcomes for young people aged 11- 18. It is a family based intensive intervention programme and unlike a number of other interventions builds on the existing strengths of the family relationships. The programme works with some of the most vulnerable young people including those who are demonstrating significant behavioural difficulties, involvement in offending, violent behaviour and substance misuse.
- 3.5 Following on from the Scrutiny Review the Executive Team agreed a proposal and business case to make a commitment from the corporate Spend to Save fund for Family Functional Therapy (FFT).

Improving Outcomes

- 3.6 In the first half of 2017 FFT have worked with 12 families and of all the families none of the children or young people have come into care. There have been demonstrable improved outcomes in relation to returning children home, improved attendance at school and retaining young people at home.

The following examples illustrate some of the success stories: (NB pseudonyms are used)

- *“Sean had been accommodated in an external Children’s Unit since 2015. He returned home in Feb 2018 and FFT have been supporting the rehabilitation plan.”*
 - *“Over the course of FFT work John has increased attendance at school from 3 days per fortnight for 1.5hours to 100% attendance over a 4-week period with an increased timetable of 3.5 hours per day.”*
 - *“During the period family have worked with FFT positive changes have been observed including; violence no longer being present within family, Claire remaining in the full time care of her parents, improvements in parental relationship, improvements in Claire’s relationship with her parents, increased family resilience, reduction in family negativity. Family are able to acknowledge the significant progress they have made.”*
- 3.7 Research has evidenced that the outcomes for children and young people placed in Residential Schools are the worse recorded. Over the past year the service, with the increased support from FFT have significantly reduced the amount of residential placements for children and young people, this has led to improved outcomes and significant budget savings as illustrated at 5.1.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The council have committed to the redesign of Social Services to keep children and young people at home in their own communities when it is safe to do so, and to return children and young people from high cost placements that are not meeting their needs.
- 4.2. In Year One significant progress has been achieved by a range of interventions including Functional Family Therapy. This situation needs to be sustained over time to ensure the service does not revert to serious budgetary over commitment as previously demonstrated.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in Appendix 1. The following spend on residential placements evidences the significant shift in spending : Yes ✓

2016/17	£4.091m Actual
2017/18	£2.585m Actual
2018/19	£1.579m (June Forecast)

- 5.2 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ✓

5.2. Staffing

N/A

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ✓

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	X
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	X
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so	

that they can thrive and flourish

X

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1: Evidence Based Practice Costs

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report?

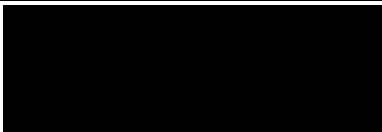
(All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive	



Action for Children Staffing Schedule

Cost Centre: **FFT Stirling**

Financial Year: 2017/18
Version: Budget

Staffing Schedule 108,380.21

Row	Post Title	Spinal Point Min	Spinal Point Max	Total Spinal Point	Pension Flag	Pension Scheme	Contract Hours	Base Hours	FTE	Start Month	End Month	Worked Months	Basic Pay	ERS NI	Pension Contribution	Gross Salary
1	Supervisor	-	-	-	-	-	11.1	37	0.30	Apr	Mar	12	13,340	1,458	2,148	16,946
2	Therapist	36	40	38	Y	NCH1	37	37	1.00	Apr	Mar	12	32,052	2,866	5,160	40,078
3	Therapist	36	40	38	Y	NCH1	37	37	1.00	Apr	Mar	12	32,052	2,866	5,160	40,078
4	Business Support 2	16	18	18	Y	NCH1	17.5	35	0.50	Apr	Mar	12	9,020	806	1,452	11,279

2.80

Financial Year: 2018/19

