

**EDUCATION AND
 CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT:	Suffolk Family Focus phase 2 – National Troubled Families Programme
AUTHOR:	Stuart Hudson – Suffolk Troubled Families Co-ordinator
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SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS:

Phase 1

1. This report provides an update on the work carried out to date to implement phase 2 of the Suffolk Family Focus (SFF) programme 2015 – 2020.
2. Suffolk finished phase 1 of the SFF programme very strongly, hitting the national set target for Suffolk of working with 1150 families and then claiming a payment by results payment for all 1150 families.
3. The success that SFF had in Phase 1 allowed Suffolk to be one of the Local Authorities to be early starters for phase 2 and start work with 200 families by March 31st 2015. This target was achieved and has given Suffolk a good start into phase 2 of the programme.
4. The decision to continue with the transformational approach adopted in phase 1 for phase 2 and to make the 'Whole Family' approach, business as usual for all Children's and Young Person's service's (CYPS) teams has provided a strong base to ensure that the Troubled Families Programme in Suffolk is aligned with the national goals of systems transformation of Children's Services.
5. Including the SFF whole family approach of One family, one key worker to co-ordinate, and one family plan, as a fundamental part of Making Every Intervention count (MEIC) and linking in with the Signs of Safety (SoS) methodology is key to this transformation of services ethos.

Phase 2

6. The introduction of the wider criteria to identify families under the new financial framework,(see attached) has allowed all families that come to the notice of CYPS to be potential SFF families, thus making the target set nationally under Phase 2 of working with and achieving sustainable outcomes for 3995 families between 2015 and 2020 workable and realistic. The new criteria does allow our complex cases to be part of the SFF process and to be worked with to achieve sustainable outcomes.
7. The current performance is that the team has fulfilled its year 1 target to start work with and identify 960 families easily, with 2209 identified and being worked with.
8. These families will have between 2 and 6 identifiable criteria that require interventions to take place and then to be able to demonstrate that sustainable progress has been

made over time, as per the County Outcomes Plan (See attached).The criterion includes crime, domestic abuse, poor school attendance, health issues (including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and physical health issues) and families where a child needs help. The whole family approach must be used and one family plan linked to Signs of Safety demonstrates the required interventions against the identified criteria. Our target is to claim for 750 families as a minimum and a1000 as a maximum (funding restrictions apply)

9. The time required to demonstrate sustainable progress as per the Suffolk Outcomes Plan, introduces a time lag of usually at least a year and in some cases longer as these families are complex and have been known to agencies for many years in some cases. The collection of data from all agencies to demonstrate the sustained progress is a complex process and systems are being developed to provide greater co-operation between agencies and allow internal systems to be able to capture the required data at point of first contact and then monitor the required data up and beyond closure of a case.
10. The new wider criterion has produced challenges for the collection of data and its use particularly where consent is an issue. This is being addressed but, slowly and there needs to be a more collaborative approach as the sharing of data is not just an issue for SFF or SCC, but a system wide 'wicked issue' that requires leadership and energy to overcome. It's not a new issue and is one that should be looked at from all organisations points of views.
11. An outcomes plan has been produced that is a multi-agency agreed document within Suffolk, that identifies how a sustainable outcome will be measured and deemed to be positive or not. It is a key document to allow there to be Payment By Results claim to central government.
12. Many of the sustainable outcomes require other organisations, both statutory and in the voluntary sector, to provide quantitative or qualitative data of the families they are working with. The above lack of ability to share data and get consent to share data with families at an early stage will impact on the ability of the SFF data team to demonstrate sustainable outcomes in some cases, particularly where there is health, mental health and alcohol or drugs issues identified within the family. A claim for PBR cannot be made unless all identified issues within the family are addressed to demonstrate sustainable outcomes.
13. There has been a health offer within Phase 2 around a statement of commitment to the National Troubled Families programme and how we should be able to share data together. However progress has been slow there are still areas that we could and should work closer together, particularly in relation to GP's who are seeing and working with the same families as other organisations.
14. There is, however, work currently taking place with health to develop an overarching data sharing agreement, with consent with SCC, Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT), other health partners (GP's, CCG's)
15. The area of working practice with families is an area that still needs to be more joined up and our systems and processes need to allow key workers to be able to demonstrate the whole family plan, and also allow a team around the family approach. To this outcome the SFF team are working with CYPS colleagues to align the plan for CP, CIN, and Early Help to include the SFF 6 sustainable outcomes and to have these outcomes included in both the Profile and CareFirst case management systems. Also the new Social Work Assessment will include the SFF sustainable outcomes and also

to feed down actions as the cases progresses.

Funding

16. The current financial position is stable, but the future funding of the programme is dependent on at least 960 families per year for the next 4 years 2016 to 2020 reaching sustainable progress to allow a PBR claim to be made. The funding received will allow CYPS to receive £1M per year for investment in services to continue to contribute to allowing the teams to have the capacity to provide the transformational whole family approach. This main streaming of funding is a key to the transformation of children's services.
17. Future funding will, as in Phase 1, be depend on demonstrating that as a system working in partnership we can deliver sustainable outcomes for families and make them, in the long term, not dependent on statutory services.

Partnership Working

18. The success in Phase 1 on the use of PCSO's and Psychologists working with the teams and partners has been continued in Phase 2 with both areas being expanded. 5 Psychologist posts have now been recruited and we have secured three of the six PCSO's staff we want to include in the programme with negotiations going on for the other three.
19. Our work with partners has been good, and we have strong links with the Boroughs and Districts, where possible. A good example is the partnership with Suffolk Coastal Anti- Social Behaviour Team where SFF has helped to fund family working in the team, which has delivered very good results. Also we have continued where possible to work with Housing Agencies. SFF links to Havebury Housing in the west of the county in support of families is ongoing and we are presently working on a small mentoring project.
20. School Attendance issues were one of the key identifying factors in Phase 1 of the programme and this is still an issue in Phase 2. Work is currently taking place to identify the key factors, including School Attendance, for family inclusion in the programme.
21. Where there is poor or no engagement by children with schools, the use of a third sector organisation called Noise Solution has been very successful to help young people build up their esteem and allow them to be able to achieve and then re-engage with the educational system and their peers.
22. 'The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission Report' December 2015, as a suggestion does float the idea that the Government should change parts of the troubled families programme to deal with Social Mobility and Child Poverty. At present this does not appear to be happening and there has been a bigger drive to link the national programme to the 'Life chances' agenda and school readiness areas. How this will move forward is yet to be seen.
23. Employment is still one of the key areas to improve the life chances for families and again Suffolk has retained the services of a Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) secondee. However the role has again expanded and now includes not only families, but a responsibility for young persons who are deemed as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET's).

24. The SFF DWP secondee now has DWP responsibility for the MyGo centre in Ipswich and across the county where young persons can go for help to gain employment and further education and training.
25. SFF continues to work with the voluntary and community services sector particularly where new ideas are being tried. We will work with projects that will add additionality to existing services and include a process to incorporate the SFF outcomes and share data to demonstrate sustainable outcomes, which then contribute to the PBR process.
26. SFF continues to try to influence commissioning processes so that the sustainable outcomes criteria are part of any service specification and the collection of data to demonstrate these sustainable outcomes are a requirement of the provider of services. This data then has to be communicated to the commissioner as part of day to day business and part of any evaluation process to demonstrate the effectiveness of the providers' service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Finance

18. The funding streams, will be used to continue to help mainstream the Suffolk Family Focus 'Whole Family' approach in Children and Young Persons Services and allow support to other agencies and organisations to deliver the required sustainable outcomes.
19. The potential income for the expanded programme over the course of the programme is £8.5 Million over 5 years, the largest part of which is already committed.
20. The £3.3m to be generated by the success of the Payment by Results process, demonstrating sustainable progress is key to providing continuing funding to support the mainstreaming of SFF within Children's and Young People's Services (CYPS) over the course of the programme and it becoming business as usual.
21. The PBR funding stream is reliant on the collection of data from SCC sources (Education and Family data) and also other key agencies such as police, DWP, Health, Mental Health and the Drugs and Alcohol services and agencies to demonstrate that the sustainable outcomes have been met. If this data is not available then there is a risk the PBR funding targets will not be achieved.
22. There is potentially more funding becoming available as nationally the distribution of Troubled Families funding is being reviewed in line with the latest national deprivation data, which demonstrates that Suffolk has moved to a poorer position. No decision to date has been made, but a decision may come in June 2016.

BACKGROUND

- *DCLG Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme, 5 Mar 2015* (<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/support-for-families>)
- Suffolk Family Focus, Outcomes Plan, v3.1, March 2015 (*This is attached as an Appendix [21 pages]*)
- "State of the nation 2015", Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, 17 Dec 2015: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-nation-2015>)