

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board

A committee of Suffolk County Council

Report Title:	Review of the need for a Suffolk Family Focus Board as a governance process to the Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date:	8 September 2016
Chairman:	Councillor Tony Goldson
Board Member Lead(s):	Sue Cook - Director of Children and Young People's Services and Adult and Community Services
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What is the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to this paper?

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has the overall governance of the Suffolk Family Focus (SFF) Programme, which is Suffolk County Council's response to the National Troubled Families Programme. It tasked the Suffolk Family Focus Board to report back to the HWB periodically on the progress being made and to help unblock any barriers in the provision of the SFF programme across the multi-agency landscape in order to deliver the required sustainable outcomes for families being worked with by all agencies.

Key questions for discussion:

2. The key questions for discussion are:
 - a) Should the current Suffolk Family Focus Board be placed in a dormant, but shadow form to review the progress of Suffolk family focus annually and then report back to the HWB.
 - b) Should the SFF board still maintain its network of contacts in order to 'unblock' issues or to enable information to be shared.

What actions or decisions is the Board being asked to take?

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To decide if the current Suffolk Family Focus Board should be placed in a dormant, but shadow form to review the progress of Suffolk family focus annually and then report directly back to the HWB 4. To decide if the SFF board still maintain its network of contacts in order to 'unblock' issues or to enable information to be shared |
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Brief summary of report

5. The Suffolk Family Focus Board has been an integral part of the Suffolk Family Focus Programme for the last two years, and was created to provide oversight and challenge during the end of Phase 1 of the programme and the start of Phase 2. In order to achieve this frequent monthly meetings were originally tabled and then bi-monthly meetings as the programme was running smoothly.

6. Members of the SFF board have all been consulted and it is felt that SFF is now an integral part of and synonymous with the normal transformational business of Making Every Intervention Count for CYPS. With the viability and provenance of the Families Outcomes Plans for measuring progress of SFF and the associated Payment By Results it seems clear that SFF is working and that the oversight and challenge that the board were able to provide with our frequent meetings is no longer required in this form and an annual meeting to review progress, with the board in a dormant position, but still able to be consulted via the network of connections to unblock any issues.

Main body of report

Background

7. Suffolk Family Focus is the response of Suffolk County Council and its partners to the Government's Troubled Families Initiative. Under Phase 1 we had been focussing on transforming our approach to families with poor school attendance or exclusion, crime and anti-social behaviour and worklessness.
8. The target for Suffolk in Phase 1 was to work with a total of 1150 families across Suffolk by March 2015. Suffolk Family Focus was very pleased to announce that it had achieved the target set by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) claiming for all 1150 families via the payment by results process.
9. These results have been achieved by the hard work of frontline staff that engages with families every day. The programme is enabling practitioners to take a more intensive, coordinated approach to support challenged and challenging families. The 'whole family' approach under the Making Every Intervention Count (MEIC) transformation programme within Children and Young People's Services of One Family, One Co-ordinating key worker and One Family Plan, that Suffolk is using to work with families has been key to our success and under the current Phase 2 of the National Troubled Families programme that approach will be for all families that Children and Young People's Services work with.
10. Under Phase 2 there is now a strong drive to work closer with our Health colleagues and there is a real will to make our partnership working more co-ordinated for the benefit of our Families. The range of issues to be identified and worked on with a family has been increased from 3 to 6 and now includes, wider health issues such as Mental health, Physical health (Alcohol and Drugs) and Domestic Abuse. In the main most families that come to the notice of SCC Children's Services will hit the new Phase 2 criteria and Suffolk are in an excellent position because of the transformational approach we have taken in Phase 1 to deliver the sustainable outcomes for over 4000 families by 2020 as set by DCLG for Suffolk in Phase 2.
11. It is considered that SFF is now an integral part of and synonymous with the normal transformational business of Making Every Intervention Count for CYPS. With the viability and provenance of the Families Outcomes Plans for measuring progress of SFF and the associated Payment By Results it seems clear that SFF is working and that the oversight and challenge that we as a board were able to provide with our frequent meetings is no longer required in its present form.

12. Consultation with all SFF board members has taken place and the consensus is that the board wishes to continue to maintain its network of contacts, and keep the Board extant but dormant and in a shadow form to call on each other (through the chair Mike Evans or Allan Cadzow as lead in CYPS) when necessary if there is a need to "unblock" something in the system and/or to facilitate the sharing of information.
13. The SFF board members consider there is a need to keep the work of Suffolk Family Focus on the radar of all agencies, including the Voluntary and community Sector (VCS), because it is invaluable in the overall drive to help families from making high demands on public services and working pro-actively with families with complex needs.
14. The SFF board is confident that this proposal is a satisfactory way ahead and given the recent good assessment from Ofsted and a successful visit by the DCLG Troubled Families team to Suffolk in the earlier part of the year the work of the board and the SFF programme has been sound.
15. The overall governance of the SFF programme should remain with the HWB.

Key Questions

- a) Should the current Suffolk Family Focus Board be placed in a dormant, but shadow form to review the progress of Suffolk family focus annually and then report back to the HWB?
- b) Should the SFF board still maintain its network of contacts in order to 'unblock' issues or to enable information to be shared?

Actions/decisions recommended

16. That the current Suffolk Family Focus Board be placed in a dormant, but shadow form to review the progress of Suffolk family focus annually and then report back to the HWB.
17. That the SFF board maintains its network of contacts in order to 'unblock' issues or to enable information to be shared.

Why this action/decision is recommended

18. Members of the SFF board have all been consulted and it is felt that SFF is now an integral part of and synonymous with the normal transformational business of Making Every Intervention Count for CYPS. With the viability and provenance of the Families Outcomes Plans for measuring progress of SFF and the associated Payment By Results it seems clear that SFF is working and that the oversight and challenge that the board were able to provide with our frequent meetings is no longer required in this form.

Alternative options (if appropriate)

19. That the SFF board meets twice a year.

Who will be affected by this action/decision?

20. All partners and agencies connected with SFF will be affected, as the programme is a cross cutting programme that looks to transform the way all agencies work with families. It promotes the whole family approach which has proved to provide sustainable outcomes for families, however the programme is now business as usual within all CYPS teams and currently does not require the continuous challenge and oversight from a multi- agency board, but still needs support to unblock issues as they happen, and to help share information.

Sources of further information

No other documents have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this report.