

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	13 March 2018
Officer	Nick Jarman, Interim Director for Children's Services
Subject of Report	Early Intervention and Prevention
Executive Summary	<p>Most public services now try to manage or dampen demand, in order to reduce cost.</p> <p>The design principles of Early Intervention and Prevention (EiP) are about agencies working together in an agreed way to intervene early in order to prevent escalation of needs leading to intensive, costly services later on.</p> <p>Considerable sums are invested in EiP, which means that the results and returns achieved, which must be evidenced, are commensurate with the investment.</p>
Impact Assessment: <i>Please refer to the protocol for writing reports.</i>	Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A at this point.
	Use of Evidence: In the body of the report.
	Budget: Dorset currently spends in the order of £4.2m a year on Family Partnership Zones. (EiP)
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:

Early Intervention and Prevention

	<p>Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk MEDIUM <i>(i.e. reflecting the recommendations in this report and mitigating actions proposed)</i></p> <p>(Note: Where HIGH risks have been identified, these should be briefly summarised here, identifying the appropriate risk category, i.e. financial / strategic priorities / health and safety / reputation / criticality of service.)</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>(Note: Please consider if any of the following issues apply: Sustainability; Property and Assets; Voluntary Organisations; Community Safety; Corporate Parenting; physical activity; or Safeguarding Children and Adults.)</p>
Recommendation	Members are asked to note this report and to ask officers to provide further evidence, after May 2018, that the Council's investment in EiP is working and delivering the results which can be expected.
Reason for Recommendation	It is important that the principles of EiP are understood by Members in order that they can provide effective challenge to officers and partner agencies to ensure that the results which can be expected from EiP are forthcoming and that the investment in it is commensurate.
Appendices	Appendix 1: Family Partnership Zones: Design Principles Appendix 2: Family Partnership Zones: Direct Results that can be expected
Background Papers	
Officer Contact	Name: Nick Jarman Tel: 01305 224166 Email: nick.w.jarman@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 For about a decade and a half now, public services to a greater or lesser extent have tried to manage demand for services, especially very expensive specialist services.
- 1.2 Early Intervention & Prevention (EiP) are the design principles used to:
- Intervene early before needs escalate leading to more expensive provision
 - Manage (or dampen) demand
 - Reduce cost of provision
 - Reduce dependency upon the state and public services
- 1.3 Two significant examples are:
- (a) Fire and Rescue services where fitting of smoke alarms and home safety inspections have led to a massive drop in fires, particularly domestic fires; leading to hugely fewer call outs and less cost.

Early Intervention and Prevention

- (b) Intermediate Care where good early collaboration between Health and Social Care enables frail elderly people to remain independent longer; leading to fewer hospital admissions and demands for intensive, costly social care packages.

1.4 This report however specifically on EiP as it relates to children, young people and families. (CYP)

1.5 EiP principles have been extended to CYP somewhat later than other public services and there is much variation in pace between how soon different Councils have adopted EiP for CYP.

2. Design Principles and Objectives

2.1 The key design principles for EiP in the CYP context are:

- Intervention at the very earliest opportunity in families showing the indices of needing early help (e.g. Health Visitors; identifying children in need, preferably before they reach two years of age)
- The approach must be multi agency. That is to say, all agencies working with CYP must collaborate using an agreed set of principles effectively and share information in order to develop a coherent bespoke offer of early help
- There is one assessment and CYP and families do not have to “tell their story” a multiple of times to different professionals
- An early offer of help is designed to prevent deterioration leading to later more complex, expensive problems (e.g. children being taken into care and families broken up)
- The majority of the resources to intervene early are already out there and lots of additional cash should be unnecessary. It is a shared way of working. This would include: schools, youth services, health visitors, youth offending services, social care, job centres, colleges and many more.
- In each case there needs to be a lead professional who co-ordinates the package of different services which ‘wrap round’ a family or young person. S/he can come from any of the agencies. There need to be effective protocols about who and which professional accepts the lead practitioner role
- Penetration Rates are critical. In any given area around 7%of families (however defined) do not participate fully in society, socially and economically. The higher the rate of penetration, the more substantial are the results of EiP. There is a “tipping point” where the penetration rate is high and interventions are demonstrably successful, which can transform whole areas or communities. Such transformation will include:
 - Much greater social cohesion
 - Lower levels of crime, domestic abuse, substance abuse, mental ill health, street violence and vandalism, demand upon all public services, welfare dependency, worklessness and much more

Early Intervention and Prevention

- Higher educational attainment, school attendance and completion rates

- There needs to be an emphatic commitment to promoting independence, increasing resilience and reducing dependency (NB this includes service providers and service recipients not being mutually dependent)

2.2 The most comprehensive authority on EIP are the [Allen Reports](#). These were commissioned in 2010 and 2012 by government, chaired by Graham Allen MP. The second Allen report sets out a formula for calculating the return on EiP (e.g. spend “£1 get £7 back”)

2.3 The financial returns and results from EiP can be quantified. This is obviously important to ensure value for money and return on investment.

3. The Situation in Dorset

3.1 Dorset’s approach to EiP for CYP is the Family Partnership Zones (FPZs). They are based around the County’s seven school pyramids. (Please see Appendix 1 for details).

3.2 FPZs were established relatively recently- the last 18 months. Since their establishment, there has had to be a restructure on account of HR issues.

3.3 On account of their relative newness, it has not thus far been possible to quantify results from FPZs in terms of either:-

(a) Return on investment. (The FPZs cost £4.2m a year)

(b) Direct linear results which are truly attributable to the work of FPZs

3.4 Experience elsewhere indicates that there is a time lag between establishment of EiP and generation of results- normally 15 months.

3.5 So, by around May 2018 we should be able to see some clear results and benefits which have arisen from the work of FPZs. There are four linear evidence of results and effectiveness (Please see Appendix 2) which shows four specific results we should expect from FPZs.

3.6 At this point it would be appropriate to pause and evaluate the effectiveness of FPZs in Dorset and whether: (a) returns and results are commensurate with investment; and (b) whether the design principles are working.

4. Summary and Conclusions

4.1 EiP is used by many public services to manage demand and reduce cost.

4.2 In the case of CYP, there are clear design principles and objectives.

4.3 EiP is consistent with all of the County Council’s (“SHIP”) outcomes.

4.4 EiP must enable independence, reduce dependency and enable CYP and their families to participate fully in society, socially and economically.

4.5 Results and returns must be commensurate with investment.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Nick Jarman
Interim Director for Children's Services
March 2018