

Families First for Children Pathfinder

Report to People and Health Overview Committee
17 October 2023

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Stable Homes Built on Love

- 'Stable Homes Built on Love' is the Government's Strategy for implementing the recommendations of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services
- The Families First for Children Pathfinder is a test and learn approach to delivering key aspects of the Stable Homes Built on Love Strategy before it is rolled out nationally
- Dorset is one of three local authorities nationally to be selected to deliver the Pathfinder.

Recommendations

1. To note and comment on the approach to delivering the Pathfinder, and,
2. To recommend to Cabinet that the approach detailed in the report is adopted by the Council.

Six Pillars in the Strategy

1. Developing a multi-disciplinary Family Help Service
2. Establishing a Multi-Agency Child Protection Team
3. Unlocking the potential of family networks
4. Putting love, relationships and a stable home at the heart of being a child in care
5. Securing a valued and highly skilled social worker for every child who needs one
6. Creating a system that learns and improves and makes better use of evidence and data

Families First for Children Pathfinder

Requires us to develop a new model of provision that delivers:

- A multi-disciplinary Family Help Service
- A multi-agency Child Protection Service
- An approach and a whole service that maximises the potential of Family Networks
- Clarity on the role of Safeguarding Partners and an enhanced role for education

Progress to Date

- Our involvement was announced nationally on 26th July
- Signed MoU and received £200k seed funding
- Delivery partner in place and working alongside us
- Mapped current provision against minimum requirements for new model
- Submitted costed plan and co-design plan
- Programme Board established
- Co-design work on-going
- Partners briefed and engaged
- Co-design period finishes end of October – implementation from end November

Financial Implications

- Undertaking the Pathfinder provides an opportunity to secure funding for the change work that we might not receive if we were not a Pathfinder
- Funding available is up to £1.8m in 23/24 and £2.3m in 24/25
- The costed plan we have submitted requests the full amount available
- We have also submitted commentary setting out that the funding available is not sufficient to undertake all the change required

Financial Implications 2

The funding will be used to:

- Support Police and Health to resource programme development work
- To fund new and additional roles in Family Help and Child Protection spaces
- To fund programme management roles
- To provide enhanced learning and development provision for staff
- To commission services differently