

# Safeguarding Families Together Evaluation

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Partnerships

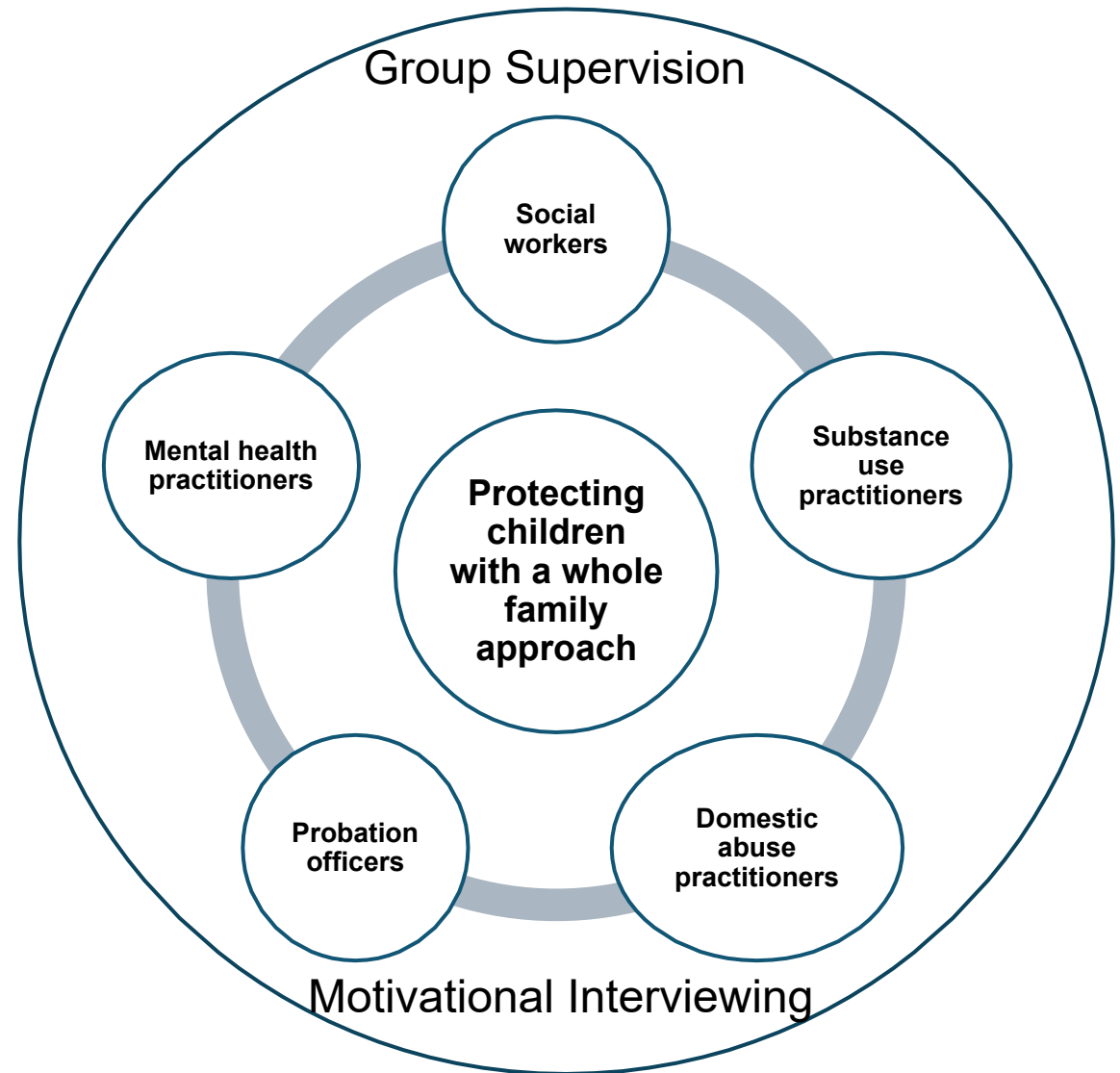
## **Recommendation:**

To receive and review the evaluation report and to consider what the partnership commitment to the wider roll out and any further expansion is, for example to care leavers. For consideration, the partnership commitment could also include a review of commissioning arrangements that supports this way of working and could contribute to the model. Agencies not directly involved in SFT may also wish to consider how we track and evidence wider impact and what commitment can be offered by all partners to support this initiative being able to continue past March 2025

## **Reason for Recommendation:**

To allow full consideration of the wider benefits of SFT in improving the outcomes for our children and young people and how as a partnership we can go further. The Board needs to advise how the partnership wishes to proceed post March 2025 and agree how funding can be secured or commitments to existing/new commissioning arrangements.

- Innovation designed in Hertfordshire County Council as part of DfE Children's Social Care Innovation Programme
- Aims for children to remain living with their families where it is safe to do so
- Focuses on supporting parents and carers in relation to specific safeguarding concerns
- Growing evidence base relating to positive outcomes across domains
- Implemented in three pilot localities in Dorset Council
- Implementation plans underway for a full



We will offer the right support at the right time, to improve family life

## Key messages from the formative evaluation of SFT pilot based on Process of implementation, service experience and performance outcomes

- Successfully implemented to 127 families and 148 children & successful closure of 37 children (17 families)
- Shared aims & hopes for longer term preventive impact
- Created a new shared value-based language across professional groups & with families
- Improved information sharing & understanding of disciplinary perspectives for professionals
- Provided a more holistic, accessible & responsive service for parents
- Opportunities to expand geographically and towards a wider partnership
- Parents described increased self knowledge and awareness is the issues and gave them a sense of purpose and empowerment that enhanced their capacity to care for their children
- High engagement levels from both those previously known to specialist partner services and new engagement from individuals not previously known.

It seems like they're looking at the whole, how everything interrelates, so the domestic abuse and then the mental health and then your children are part of that...not everything's separate? ... It's enabling almost, yes, that word "holistic", to look at everything and around?

(Parent)

Parents experienced SFT as a holistic, helpful and humane service that was focused on building respectful relationships to support them to make changes for themselves and their children

(Independent evaluation)

The whole concept really is for fewer children to be taken into care which is what everybody wants.

(Domestic abuse professional)

# Next Steps and considerations of Health and Wellbeing Board

- The cost for a whole council roll out of SFT is approximately £1.15m in 2024/25 (see breakdown)
- **This provides an indicative cost for SFT delivery in the new financial year (25/26). NB: this is subject to inflationary increases which partners may need to add, a notional figure of 2% could be applied - £1.18m (estimate only)**
- Funding beyond 31 March 2025 to be determined.

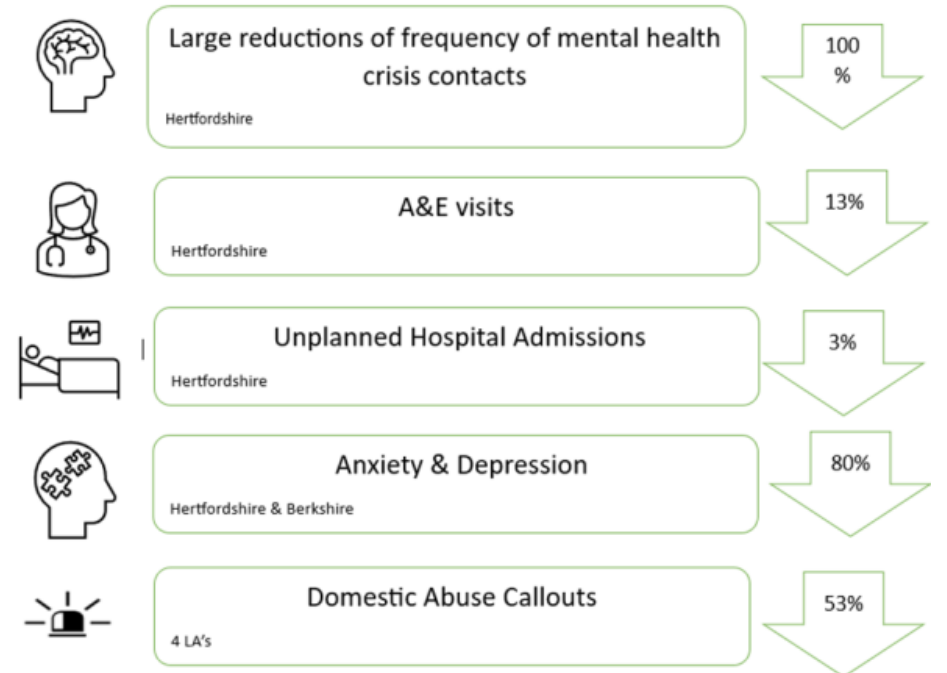
| SFT - council wide roll out<br>6 localities |   | FTE         | 2024/25<br>£     | Partner<br>contributions<br>(2024/25) | 2025/26**<br>£   |
|---|---|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Adult Practitioners                         | <b>Substance Misuse</b><br>Public Health                          | 5           | 257,103          | 84,000                                | 262,245          |
|   | <b>Domestic Abuse-Victim</b><br>CSP/Adult Services                | 4.8         | 200,800          | 0                                     | 204,816          |
|   | <b>Domestic Abuse-Perpetrator</b><br>Probation and Up2U programme | 4           | 182,713          | 0                                     | 186,367          |
|   | <b>Mental Health</b><br>DHUFT                                     | 6.5         | 425,767          | 0                                     | 434,282          |
| Other costs                                 | <b>Group Case Supervision Administration</b>                      | 2           | 72,000           | 0                                     | 73,440           |
|   | <b>Motivational Interviewing</b>                                  |             | 10,000           | 0                                     | 5,000            |
|   | <b>Miscellaneous</b>  |             | 5,000            | 0                                     |                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                |   | <b>22.3</b> | <b>1,153,383</b> | <b>84,000</b>                         | <b>1,166,151</b> |

|   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Dorset Council - Children's Services<br/>Transformation investment</b> | <b>1,069,383</b> |                  |
| <b>Partner contribution</b>   | <b>84,000</b>    |                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,153,383</b> | <b>1,166,151</b> |

\*Funding for 2025/26 and beyond to be determined

\*\* 2025/26 costs are **indicative only** - a notional increase of 2% has been applied to 24/25 costs to take into account any potential inflationary increase that partners may need to add.

Through national evaluations the model has proven to achieve better outcomes for children and families, with reducing children in need and fewer children being taken into care or placed on child protection plans. Wider system benefits were also evaluated with promising outcomes.



[Hertfordshire Family Safeguarding \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)