

Appendix D Combined Budgets Analysis

(i) Family Support Service £350k

This service delivers family support work to children and families and supports effective assessment and planning work for a range of children with additional needs.

There are two main elements to the work undertaken:

- Direct work with children and their families in their homes
- Delivery of evidence based and evaluated Parenting Programmes.

The direct family support work includes work with children subject to Child Protection (CP) plans, children returning home who have been in care, children who have previously been subject to CP plans, children in need, and children who are vulnerable but not known to social care. If social care are not involved Family Support Workers (FSWs) are often designated the Lead Professional and ensure effective planning and co-ordination through team around the child and team around the family meetings. Work is undertaken at different levels. This ranges from practical support and advice, to work with parents to improve their parenting capacity that involves visiting some families 2-3 times a week at key times to assist in such things as establishing meal time or bed time routines, and establishing and maintaining consistent boundaries.

Full time equivalent FSWs carry a caseload of between 10 and 15 cases at any one time depending on the intensity and complexity of the work, and whether they are running a parenting programme. In addition they assist with CAF assessment work, and offer one off advice sessions or visits to families. Managers in this service have contributed to the design and delivery of the CAF training attended by school staff.

Parenting Programmes are planned and co-ordinated by this service. Each term there is 1 Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC), 1 Triple P for parents of children under 11 years and 1 Triple P for parents of teenagers. Staff from this part of the service are involved in the delivery of Triple P teens and SFSC programmes in conjunction with staff from other parts of the service.

Brief summary of costs and resources such as staffing costs and numbers

The total salary costs for the over 5s FSWs are		£345,000
• 7 full time equivalent FSWs	£39,566	£276,962
• 1 full time equivalent FS Co-ordinator		£47, 375
• 0.5 administrator		£20, 000

Benefits to schools

Family support work often has a focus of improving parenting capacity with a focus on how the parents are able to manage their children's behaviour, meet their needs for stimulation and their children's emotional needs. The FSWs will work closely with the children's school or children's centre and other professionals involved.

The range of Parenting Programmes mean that we are able to offer them to the parents of children and young people of all ages, and that the programmes can address different needs. SFSC has a particular emphasis on parents getting support from each other and breaking down isolation, while Triple P is beneficial for parents who are struggling with their children's behaviour. These programmes are accessed by direct referral using one Parenting Programme referral form.

The CAF team dealt with 930 CAFs last year and this resulted in the allocation of 860 different services.

A recent case example of successful work

Work with a single parent father of three boys who were subject to child protection plans because they were losing weight due to neglect in relation to diet and meal times, and concerns about the state of the home. The boys were aged between – 11 and 14 years, and the family support worker was able to assist the family in establishing housekeeping routines that meant that they were able to improve and maintain the state of the household, but most significantly she engaged the father and the boys in developing their self care and cooking skills so that their nutrition improved significantly. She used imaginative ways to engage them, cooking with them developing their understanding of their nutritional needs. They gained weight appropriately and the state of the home improved. In turn this impacted positively on their engagement and attainment at school. This work contributed significantly to their recent removal from CP plans.

(ii) Looked After Children Placements (£1m)

As reported to the Forum In January 2012, the number of Looked After Children (LAC) has risen steadily over the last few years and as part of that increase the number of children placed in residential accommodation outside of the borough, in which there is an educational component has also risen. Complex placements which contain elements of care relating to either health or the Special Educational Needs (SEN) of those children are generally the subject of joint funding agreements.

The SEN component is charged against the DSB (and the NHS contribute to the Health component) however, it is now apparent that the educational component, which is provided as part of the placement as opposed to being met through a maintained school, has grown to such an extent that it cannot continue to be met from the Council's placement budget.

The number of children in residential placements fluctuates over the course of the year but based on experience in 2012-13, we estimate that the educational component of these placements will continue to amount to up to £1m.

The central retention of this budget was last agreed by Forum on 26 January 2012.

(iii) Strategic and Intervention Education Services (£391k)

This budget has also supported the evolving agenda for education services, including pump priming the development of school to school support. Progress with this work is planned to proceed with the appointment of the new Assistant Director, School Improvement. Continuation of the budget (£390,800) for 2013-14 will support embedding school to school support across all schools and academies.

(iv) Contribution to Overheads

The balance of the combined services budget represents a contribution to the Council's overheads. This is a historic commitment that pre-dates the implementation of the DSG.