

# APPENDIX G

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE – 9 APRIL 2013

---

### Title:

#### **WAVERLEY FAMILIES SUPPORT TEAM**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

---

### Summary and purpose:

Following confirmation of funding from the National Troubled Families Fund, authority is sought to establish two Family Co-ordinator posts within the Waverley Families Support Team.

---

### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

This report relates to the Council's priority of understanding and responding to the needs of local residents, including Waverley's most vulnerable and challenged families. This report also relates to the Council's priority of securing value for money, championing the needs of Waverley residents and ensuring that they receive the services they need from the different voluntary and public sector services. The service will provide intensive outreach support to families with multiple problems, in addition to co-ordinating other services and empowering families in the Borough to improve their own lives.

### Financial Implications:

Family Co-coordinators staffing cost is approximately £32,000 rising to £35,000 each with increments, excluding mileage and other variable staffing costs. There is an approved budget for 2013/14 for the service unit running costs and, in accordance with Council policy, a provision will be made to offset any redundancy costs should the external funding be withdrawn.

### Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications.

---

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A disproportionate amount of public funds are spent each year on a relatively small number of families who have multiple or complex problems, The challenge is that these families (and the individuals within them) often find themselves stuck, with their problems resulting in a significant call on Council and other public funds and a huge impact on neighbours and the local community. Unfortunately this impact can sometimes span many years and sometimes through multiple generations. This is most often seen through the Council's Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services as well as by Ward Members.
- 1.2 On 5 February, the Executive reviewed the positive progress made by Waverley in turning around the lives of some of the most vulnerable families in

the borough. In particular, the work undertaken by officers in Housing to co-ordinate the input of different agencies and in delivering intensive outreach work.

- 1.3 Waverley has taken a pragmatic approach that has not been driven by the expectation of Government funding but rather the improvements in the lives of some of Waverley's most vulnerable families, ensuring that agencies operating in the area are providing the services that are required, and in securing a reduced burden on a range of local Council services including Housing, Environmental Health, Community Safety etc that occurs when families move out of chaos and regain control of their lives.
- 1.4 External Government "troubled families" funding has now been made available to Waverley to further support the Council's work. Nationally, the Government has made a commitment to help turn around the lives of 120,000 families. The funding to Waverley is provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) but distributed through Surrey County Council.

## **2. Pilot Project – Waverley Families Support**

- 2.1 In 2012, Waverley Council successfully ran its own Troubled Families Programme: The Waverley Families Support Project. The Families Support Team successes included:
  - i. Getting children back into school
  - ii. Reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour
  - iii. Reducing the high costs these families placed on the public sector
- 2.2 The results achieved by:
  - i. Joining up and better co-ordinating local services
  - ii. Dealing with each family's problems as a whole rather than responding to each problem or person separately
  - iii. Appointing a single key worker (co-ordinator) to get to grips with the family's problems and work intensively with them
  - iv. Using a mix of methods that support families and challenge poor behaviour.

## **3. The Way Forward**

- 3.1 £80,000 per annum has been made available to Waverley through the DCLG Troubled Families Funding which will be paid in advance for the lifetime of the programme.
- 3.2 This report seeks to establish two additional co-ordinator posts using the DCLG funding. With this additional staffing resources the Families Support Team will be able to turnaround the lives of 55 families that meet the Government's troubled families criteria.

## **Recommendation**

The Executive is asked to recommend to the Council that:

1. 2 Family Co-ordinator posts be establish, funded from the DCLG funding to Waverley, specifically earmarked for the delivery of the national “Troubled Families” programme; and
2. The posts be reviewed at the point the DCLG grant comes to an end in relation to their achievements during the programme and any alternative funding available.

---

## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

---

## **CONTACT OFFICER:**

**Name:** Hugh Wagstaff

**Telephone:** 01483 523361

**E-mail:** hugh.wagstaff@waverley.gov.uk