

**Report To: Cabinet**

**Date of Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Bobby Feeley**

**Report Author: Leighton Rees**

**Title: Establishment of an Integrated Family Support Team**

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**1. What is the report about?**

The implementation of the statutory duty to establish an Integrated Family Support Team

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To seek agreement of Cabinet to the establishment of an Integrated Family Support Team within Denbighshire

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Cabinet agree to the proposed arrangements for Denbighshire

**4. Report details.**

The Welsh Government's Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010 introduced a duty on Local Authorities to establish an Integrated Family Support Team and an Integrated Family Support Board. It created an obligation on the Local Health Board to take part in the establishment and supporting the Local Authority to conform satisfactorily. The focus of the initiative is to work with some of the most challenging families we work with to enable them to improve the safety and attention of their children and significantly reduce risk

Initially this was pioneered by a limited number of Local Authorities from 2010/11 onwards. It is now at the final phase of the roll out which includes five of the six North Wales authorities for the first time. The expectation is that it will be operational from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

The funding across the six authorities is £850,000. Discussions have taken place with all six Heads of Service and agreement reached on the following arrangements. Gwynedd and Anglesey will join together as will Flintshire and Wrexham to establish a team to cover their areas, these teams will focus on delivering just the Intensive dimension of the model (Phase 1)

Considering the existing context in both Conwy and Denbighshire in which both already have a service which has many of the features of IFSS in relation to intensive involvement it was agreed that there was more purpose for us linking this

development to our existing Intensive Family Support Services within each County. It also would require less additional costs in relation to overheads, management arrangements, complication in relating to existing in-house activity. This would enable us to deliver to a small number (3 to 6 families) for a short period of time (phase1) intensive engagement and intervention and follow on service which is focussed on preventing relapse and building on the progress made at the intensive stage (Phase 1).

This will mean for us that our Therapeutic Services Team will be extended to include the Integrated Family Support Team function, we could be looking to increase the establishment / number of posts funded by three. These will either be health or social workers (at least one needs to be a health post) the focus will be on workers with therapeutic experience particularly of substance misuse, mental health and learning difficulties. This with the additional support from the Waking Hours Family Support Service will provide us with a very positive approach to addressing families problems at various stages and levels of intensity and need.

It has been agreed that the Board function requirement will be provided for by the North Wales Family Support Board. At a local level we will seek to establish an operational group to assure delivery of responsibilities.

#### **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The Service provided extends the range of services available to families with children who are vulnerable and whose children need intensive involvement to address their needs

#### **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

The resources for the North Wales IFST arrangements have been apportioned on the basis of the Standard Spending Assessment which for Denbighshire means £136,273. In 2013 /14 this is accessed via a grant which is being managed via Wrexham Council. In 2014 / 15 the resources will be added to the Revenue Support Grant

#### **7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

There are no specific Equalities Implications for this report, other than it positively addresses the needs of vulnerable children in the context of their families

#### **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

We have consulted with the BCU Local Health Board, other Local Authorities who are supportive of the developments proposed

#### **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The additional costs must be contained within the funding available

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The risks posed are similar to those already contained in the risk register for Children and Family Services

**11. Power to make the Decision**

The Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010 creates a duty on Local Authorities to establish an Integrated Family Support Team as proposed