

Report of: The Project Manager, Family Valued

Report to: The Chief Officer, Partnership Development and Business Support

Date: September 2015

Subject: Frameworki Development for Family Group Conferencing



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The majority of recording details for Family Group Conferencing is undertaken using an Excel spread sheet, with minimal recording on Frameworki
2. The rapid expansion of the Family Group Conferencing through the Family Valued Programme, alongside the additional reporting requirements for evaluation means that this position is no longer sustainable.
3. Due to timescales involved and other pressures on Frameworki development there is not capacity within the team to undertake this work.

Recommendations

4. The Chief Officer, Partnership Development & Business Support is recommended to agree to contract an external partner, funded through Family Valued programme, to undertake the developments required to enable all the required information for Family Group Conferencing to be captured on Frameworki.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to contract an external partner to undertake developments to Frameworki to enable recording by the Family Group Conferencing team.

2 Background information

- 2.1 At present, the majority of recording of the details for Family Group Conferencing is undertaken using an Excel spread sheet, with minimal recording on Frameworki. The rapid expansion of the Family Group Conferencing through the Family Valued Programme alongside the additional reporting requirements for evaluation means that this position is no longer sustainable.
- 2.2 Children's IM&T, who develop and support the Frameworki application, are being restructured. There is a gap in resources available to work on Frameworki whilst this takes place. A number of posts have now been recruited to which will be filled in the coming months. At the present time, the team do not have the capacity, or depth of skills, to complete the work within the timescales required by the Family Valued Programme.
- 2.3 Development priorities for the Frameworki application are agreed at the Frameworki Steering Group. The existing Frameworki resources have been aligned to the agreed priorities for development. Reallocating the resources to make developments for Family Group Conferencing would impact on the delivery of other agreed priority work for Children's Services.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 It is proposed to move all recording on to Frameworki and develop reports to extract the information required for internal performance management and external evaluation. This will reduce the administrative burden on the service by having all recording in one place and providing easy access to data through reports.
- 3.2 Due to the timescales involved and other pressures and priorities on Frameworki development, a proposal is has been put to the Family Valued executive group to contract an external partner, funded through Family Valued, to undertake the developments required to enable all the required information for Family Group Conferencing to be captured on Frameworki. The Family Valued executive group supported this proposal.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that an external partner would be required for 8 weeks at a cost of £2.5k a week giving a total cost of £20k. The funding for this work would come from the Family Valued budget. The appropriate processes for procuring a an external partner will be followed.

4 Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The Family Valued exec group supports this proposal.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Screening form attached

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 This proposal supports the ambitions of the children and young people's plan by allowing proper reporting and evaluation of the FGC team. This will allow for the team to focus more time on supporting families through the FGC process.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There is sufficient budget within the Family Valued programme to support this work and the decision to spend has been agreed with the Family Valued executive group.

4.4.2 There is currently no capacity within the Frameworki team to carry out this work.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The rapid expansion of the FGC team and the requirements of the Family Valued programme evaluation mean that proper reporting is needed urgently. If the work is not undertaken there is a risk that the team of evaluators would not be able to carry out an effective review of the impact of the work programme, and that the FGC would face an increasing administrative pressure.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The development of Frameworki is needed to allow the FGC team work effectively, in the context of its rapid expansion, and the evaluation of the Family Valued programme.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Chief Officer, Partnership Development & Business Support is recommended to agree to contract an external partner, funded through Family Valued programme, to undertake the developments required to enable all the required information for Family Group Conferencing to be captured on Frameworki.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.