

Executive Board meeting - 12th March 2008

Deputation to Council regarding Funding for Relate Leeds

Further information for members arising from the Report from the Director of Adult services.

- 1.3 A detailed application was sent to Leeds City Council following a review undertaken by Social Services. This pointed out the effect that a cessation of funding would have on the service being offered – a service which is unique in Leeds. The service seeks to enable families to mend or rationalise their relationships. This is bound to have an effect on children within that relationship, hence significantly contributing to the key priorities for Children’s social care. Research shows that children from dysfunctional families are affected in all aspects of their development. Hence a service such as Relate is essential to offer support to such families; thus taking some burden off Council services.

- 2.1 It is clear from Relate Leeds’ most recent statistics, that due to increasing the counselling fees in order to run the service, this has had the knock-on effect of cutting out clients from the most deprived areas of Leeds. Councillors will be most aware that it is in these areas that the more support is needed and Leeds Relate would be in a position to offer that support, should our request for a recurring grant payment of £23,000 be available.

- 5.1 Relate Leeds is now offering particular support to victims of domestic violence, with specifically trained counsellors able to support both partners within the relationship. There is no doubt that referrals from statutory services to this counselling would ease the burden on those services.

- 5.3 Had the question been asked at the review stage, there is no doubt the Relate Leeds would have been able to give discernable evidence of the way that it was able to reduce the overall demand for social care services in the city.

- 5.4 Why should such a social service, needed by citizens from all walks of life, only be available to those who can pay for it?

Recommendation - please review you original recommendation.

Ann Nicholl
Chair relate Leeds
11.3.08