

Decision to receive 'Supporting Families' (formerly Troubled Families) grant funding income of £8.6m from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) across a 2 year period commencing on 1st April 2023

Date: November 2022

Report of: Head of Early Help Services

Report to: Director of Children & Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

- The report seeks permission to receive Supporting Families (formerly Troubled Families – known in Leeds as Families First) funding from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). LCC have received Supporting Families/Troubled Families grants since 2014.
- The grant commences on 1st April 2023 for a period of 24 months. The grant income is £8.6m. This is broken down to £4.1m for 2023/24 and £4.5m 2024/25.
- The figures are only indicative at this stage and formal confirmation of the figure will be notified by DLUHC nearer to the beginning of each financial year.
- The grant will continue to support investment in a range of Early Help services to enhance and expand the offer available to children, young people and families via our Family & Community Hubs and Children Centres. The grant will also be used to fund the specialist coordinator roles commissioned with the 3rd sector: a separate decision is to be taken around this commissioning activity.
- The grant supports a wide range of city and council ambitions, priorities & outcomes including:
 - o Making Leeds a child friendly city
 - o Supporting families to give children the best start in life
 - o Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
 - o Be safe and feel safe

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to approve the receipt of grant income from DLUHC for £8.6m to commence on 1st April 2023. This is broken down to £4.1m for 2023/24 and £4.5m 2024/25.

- b) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to note the contents and approve the proposed use of the grant funding.

What is this report about?

- 1 LCC have been notified by DLUHC that we have been granted continued Supporting Families – Earned Autonomy funding. The new grant commences on 1st April 2023 for the sum of £8.6m. This is broken down to £4.1m for 2023/24 and £4.5m 2024/25. The existing grant funding ends on 31st March 2023.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The grant will have a positive impact on children, young people and families in Leeds. The grant will continue to support investment in a range of Early Help services to enhance and expand the offer available to children, young people and families via Family & Community Hubs and Children Centres to ensure positive outcomes are achieved.
- 3 The Supporting Families programme provides much needed, significant investment to Early Help Provision within the City. To ensure that families receive the right support, at the right time and avoid unnecessary/avoidable escalation to statutory social work services, the continued investment from the Supporting Families Programme is essential.
- 4 The purpose of the grant, as described by DLUHC, is to enable a wider package of support to deliver more early help for families and achieve outcomes across government, particularly reducing the demand for children’s social care.
- 5 The Supporting Families programme involves local authorities being given a target number of families to achieve outcomes with. For a family to be 'attached' to the programme, they must meet at least 3 or more of 10 broad criteria. In order to claim a family as achieving outcomes means the family must demonstrate an improvement against all identified needs at closure and sustain the improvement for a period of 6 months. As Leeds is an Earned Autonomy (EA) area there is an expectation on exceeding these targets by at least 20% in order to retain the EA status. The below table indicates what the targets will be:

Year	Target Outcomes	Earned Autonomy Status expectation (+20%)	Allocated Funding
2022-23	1,270	1,524	£3.5m
2023-24	2,054	2,465	£4.1m
2024-25	2,540	3,048	£4.5m

- 6 The grant will be used for the following:
- a) **Data intelligence team.** A dedicated team supporting a range of data intelligence initiatives to improve intelligence on early help to inform decision making. This includes supporting the transition & onboarding of early help on to Mosaic, practice improvement forums, development of a new families first database, increasing registration of Early Help activity on Mosaic to ensure we are able to evidence the true extent of early help happening in the city.

- b) **Early Help at the Front Door:** A need has been identified to improve the capacity & offer of Early Help at the Front Door. The grant will be used to support this development; including funding new additional posts
- c) **Practice improvement:** This work includes delivery & development of a range of workforce development and training including: the Early Intervention (EI) qualification Level 3 and development of Level 2, Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) and Reducing Parental conflict. New areas of work that the grant will support include developing the capacity and ability to assess the EI qualification and establishing additional levels of EI qualifications, including Level 4 & 5 Apprenticeships. There is an aim to increase the number, and availability, of evidence based parenting programmes in the city particularly for areas where there are identified gaps e.g. parents of CYP with SEND. The practice improvement work also supports the evolving development of Early Help at the Front Door.
- d) **Family Intervention Fund:** A dedicated pot of funding to fund one off pieces of equipment to support families in times of crisis.
- e) **Hub Specialist Coordinators:** Continued investment in hub Specialist Coordinators for domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health. The coordinators are employed by the 3rd sector providers who hold the main citywide Adults & Health contracts for the specialisms (Forward Leeds, Leeds Domestic Violence Service and Live Well Leeds).
- f) **Family & Community Hubs:** Continued investment in a range of posts in the current Early Help Hubs. The outcome of the Children Looked After/Early Help service review will see a move towards Family & Community Hubs. The grant will be used to support opportunities identified as part of the review to support identified gaps in provision. For example: the review has identified a gap in support for families for with a CYP with SEND.
- g) **West Yorkshire Police (WYP):** A WYP Inspector is funded through the grant which enables an effective joined up partnership between the police, the Local Authority and the wider Early Help partnership.
- h) **Early Help provision:** The grant will continue to fund a range of early help provision including the Local Authority contribution to Cluster partnerships. The Children Looked After/Early Help service review will see a move towards an integration of teams and the creation of an integrated Therapeutic Support Service and Family & Community Hubs. The grant will be used to provide additional investment in a range of Early Help Services, specifically those to support family-led decision making e.g. FGC and supporting children missing out on education and young people that are not in education, training or employment.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 7 The Supporting Families Programme underpins the Best City Ambition by enabling us to address poverty, inequality and supporting residents from birth to lead happy, health lives. The new Supporting Families Outcomes Framework will support the tackling of poverty and will support the creation of opportunities by focusing on barriers such as mental health, domestic violence and substance use difficulties. The Programme will also support the zero-carbon pillar by working with communities, supporting food networks in the city, and promoting appropriate, stable housing for all.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Citywide

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 8 Cllr Venner, Lead Member Children, Families and Adult Social Care has been informed of the three- year extension in relation to the Supporting Families Programme.
- 9 Consultation has taken place across the partnership to support the accurate completion of the Early Help System Guide (EHSG) which is a requirement as set out by DHLUC. The EHSG is a self- assessment which considers culture, leaders, workforce, communities, and data. Minimum levels are required of Earned Autonomy areas for these arrangements to continue.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 The new grant commences on 1st April 2023 for the sum of £8.6m. This is broken down to £4.1m for 2023/24 and £4.5m 2024/25. The existing grant funding ends on 31st March 2023.
- 11 To achieve/exceed the targets as set out in section 5 above, services will need to have completed work with at least 14,073 families before October 2024. This is assuming a 50% success rate for achieving outcomes with families (each family must achieve all their outcomes in order to claim it as a success). The last 6 months (Oct 24-Mar 25) will be the sustainment period for evidencing outcomes for those families worked with ending Sep 24. This emphasises the need to invest in the LCC Early Help workforce as well as swiftly bring clusters and children's centres onto Mosaic in order that we can more accurately report on early help activity taking place across the partnership. This will also require an investment to increase capacity in workforce development.
- 12 The funding will be held by Children & Families - Early Help budget

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 13 The key risk is not achieving the number of outcomes required of the Supporting Families Programme. This would have significant implications for the continued Earned Autonomy Status of the Council.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 There are grant conditions that LCC has to comply with. The Service Delivery Manager for Families First is responsible for ensuring compliance with all grant conditions.
- 15 There are no other known legal implications with this decision.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 16 No other options were considered as Support Families (Families First) is now fully embedded and is an important part of the Early Help Strategy in Leeds.

How will success be measured?

- 17 Successful use of the grant will continue be measured in a number of ways:
 - Monitoring against successful family outcomes reported to DLHUC
 - Early help dashboard.

- Accountability to partnership boards such as Local Care Partnerships to evidence that provision is meeting need; in areas where it is need and to the most vulnerable such as CYP with SEND.
- Workforce development and staff progression for those working in early help.
- Increased access to Early Help provision across the city.
- Joined up systems and better information sharing.
- Increased in evidenced based parenting offer in the city.
- Completion of the early Help System Guide which is a requirement of the funding and of DHLUC.
- By ensuring alignment of approaches within early help to the early help strategy and through due consideration to the outcome indicators as set out

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

18 The grant commences on 1st April 2023 for a period of 24 months.

Appendices

- Equality, Cohesion & Diversity Impact Screening

Background papers

- None