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| <b>Report title: Early Intervention Commissioning</b>                               |                      |
| <b>Report to: Helen Lincoln, Executive Director for Children and Families</b>       |                      |
| <b>Report author: Chris Martin, Director for Strategic Commissioning and Policy</b> |                      |
| <b>Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>  | <b>For: Decision</b> |
| <b>Enquiries to: Clare Burrell, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Policy</b>      |                      |
| <b>County Divisions affected: All Essex</b>   |                      |

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To approve the extension of the Family Innovation fund for two years from April 2020 to March 2022 to the total value of **£1,000,000**.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Agree to extend the 2 Family Innovation Fund Grants which deliver early intervention services in Essex. Each grant value is £250,000 per annum, and a total of £1,000,000 over the two years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

## **3. Background**

- 3.3 The vast majority of the current early intervention budget is spent on a programme of early interventions, currently known as the Family Innovation Fund (FIF).
- 3.5 FIF is aligned with other commissioned children and family services that form part of the children's system in Essex and this minimises duplication and maximises use of financial resource for greater impact.
- 3.6 Within the Children and Families portfolio, FIF been reduced over a 2 year period with £500,000 saved in 2018/19 and the remaining £500,000 saved in 2019/20.
- 3.7 £500,000 funding has now been reflected in the portfolio's Medium Term Resource Strategy from 2020/21 onwards and will be used to deliver services for families through:
- a) Coaching and Mentoring
  - b) Group and Key work programme of support for children and young people participating in risky behaviours
- 3.8 These interventions were proved in the 2017 independent evaluation of FIF to provide best value for money and the biggest financial return on investment.

## 4. Operating Model

### 4.1 The two grants delivery the following model;

| Priority                         | Stable, Resilient and Safe Families  |   |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| High level outcomes              | Socially connected, resilient and resourceful families   | Healthy inter-parental & family relationships | Emotionally healthy, happy and resilient | Behaviour choices that promote safety and wellbeing |
| Model                            | Delivered in partnership between The Children's society and Kids Inspire<br>50% Funding South/West Countywide grant<br>50% Funding Mid/North Countrywide grant   |   |  |   |
| Interventions 1:1 and group work | Coaching - Goal Orientated and Non-Therapeutic<br>Mentoring/Befriending (Volunteering Model)<br>Mediation, Conflict Resolution   |   |  |   |
| Criteria                         | Mild learning difficulties (No Education Health Care Plan)<br>Low level behavioural (No Education Health Care Plan)<br>Home School educated<br>Part time school timetables<br>Risk of exclusion<br>Parents in conflict<br>Risky behaviours (to self or others) that jeopardise personal safety |   |  |   |

### 4.2 FIF will continue to form part of an early intervention approach that is integral to and complements (but not duplicate) other services and continue to prevent demand on more costly specialist and statutory services.

## 5. Next Steps

### 5.1 To issue extension letters to the current providers who are The Children's Society and Kids Inspire.

## 6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Children and Families portfolio medium term resource strategy has been increased by **£500,000** from 2020/21, which will be used to fund the Family Innovation Fund
- 6.2 The budget required for this grant award process is **£500,000** per annum to provide non-statutory early intervention services as outlined in 4.1 and will run for a two year period up to 2021/22. After this point the delivery of early intervention will be reviewed.
- 6.3 There will be advance payment terms for the grants which are the current terms conditions of payment. There are clear grant clauses for withholding payments if expectations within the Grant terms are not met.

## 7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The services are not a statutory duty and therefore no legal requirements in the context of service provision and delivery other than our statutory safeguarding and data compliance and protection duties.

## 8. Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012

- 8.1. It is noted that this requirement is subject to the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 and as such a Corporate Impact Assessment has been conducted by the commissioner and a number of areas of social value have been identified and tested within a series of market engagement events with providers. There are opportunities within this contract for apprenticeships, volunteering, building of community resilience, provision of additional funding and national partners/networks supporting aims of the service.

## 9. Equality and Diversity implications


- 9.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 9.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 9.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## 10. List of Appendices (only include if relevant. Do not embed files):

EIA completed

## 11. List of Background papers

N/A

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|--|---------------------------|
| <b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b><br><br><b>Helen Lincoln, Executive Director for Children and Families</b> | <b>Date</b><br>11/11/2019 |
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