



Meeting	Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Board
Date	9 December 2011
Title	Community Budget Programme: Families with Multiple Problems
Responsible Officer	Fiona Fleming, Commissioning Manager, Services for Children and Young People
Purpose of Item	The Children and Young People's Trust Board are requested to receive the attached paper outlining next steps for this Community Budgets Programme
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This work is progressed in line with DCLG timescales to provide intentions by the early New Year and a fully published plan by March.</li> <li>2. The scope of the Community Budgets Programme is agreed and the phased approach is supported. Alcohol acting as the lead theme for this work and will therefore proceed in Phase One.</li> <li>3. That the plan is developed in line with the principles of this paper and the programme of work is defined in greater clarity in conjunction with partners. Jointly agreed outcomes and benefits realisation measures are established.</li> </ol>
Consultation Record	Consultation will be in the first phase of the Programme Board work plan
Meeting Notes:	

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Community Budgets is a new opportunity to maximise the use of freedoms and flexibilities. It is expected to bring together services and resources to significantly impact on outcomes for troubled families.
- 1.2 The premise is a focus on the family however Department for Communities and Local Government have also launched whole area Community Budgets Programme where they hope to see Local Authorities lead partnerships to bring together public funding for the collective greater impact.
- 1.3 Plymouth City Council submitted an expression of interest to become a second phase roll out area for Community Budgets for Families with Multiple Problems in September 2011. This was agreed by the partnership at the August meeting. This was accepted in October by way of Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, speech to the Local Government Association where he positioned the Community Budgets Programme as the key mechanism to ensure a joint approach to vulnerable families to fulfil the Governments ambition “turning the lives of these families around by the end of this Parliament”.
- 1.4 The DCLG has just appointed Louise Casey as the Head of the Troubled Families Unit and she has been tasked to produce a plan by the end of November. In that time the funding for technical support £50k and Dissemination Hubs £50k has been held back. It is therefore expected that the detail of the agenda will be released in December. In the mean time we are being asked to continue and that this approach is flexible to be defined locally to meet need.
- 1.5 Louise is planning to visit Plymouth in early January and will be bringing a minister. The approach to us has been via the Family Intervention Project. This will be an opportunity to show the processes we have in to move forward Community Budgets for Families with Multiple Problems.

## **2. Community Budgets – Scope**

- 2.1 The Community Budgets Programme aims to design new ways to minimise harm and prevent escalation of complex need, thus improving the life chances for the whole family.
- 2.2 This work is well placed to support the existing priorities for the City and the key areas of focus for 2012 in Alcohol, Child Poverty and Worklessness.
- 2.3 These issues have been clearly identified as the greatest need in the City. The Community Budgets Programme could deliver aspects of this work through either a family or themed approach.
- 2.4 It was agreed at the meeting in August to take alcohol as the theme to begin the work with a clear understanding that alcohol misuse need is symptomatic of a greater need for focus on domestic abuse, poverty, worklessness and mental health.

2.5 The JSNA considering the harm caused by Alcohol in the City has clearly highlighted that impact on high cost interventions in relation to crime, child protection, homelessness, and health and hospital admissions. For example the draft JSNA Alcohol Needs Assessment 2011 for Plymouth identifies that:

- Alcohol Misuse has been identified as an indicator of high harm and multiple vulnerability factors in families, with 60% of Children with a Child Protection Plan having parents with the primary classification being alcohol problems. Between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 152 people aged 18 to 49 years attended the emergency department at Derriford hospital with medical problems that directly related to alcohol (excluding assaults data)
- Alcohol is persistently the most significant contributor to violent crime. Between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 there were 752 domestic abuse crimes that were alcohol related.
- Plymouth has significantly higher than average levels of alcohol-specific hospital admissions (males and females), alcohol attributable hospital admissions (males and females)

### **3. The Challenge**

3.1 The Department for Education have previously led on this work and under the previous government led a “Think Family” agenda. Within this work, analysis of the inter-related vulnerabilities experienced by these families has determined a range of indicators such as; parental alcohol and substance misuse, long term unemployment and parental mental health problems. Children from these families are ten times more likely to be in trouble with the police and eight times more likely to be suspended from school. The DoE have estimated that there are 710-780 families with multiple problems in the City of Plymouth.

3.2 The 16 first phase areas have begun with the figure and then refined their definition locally, picking up local data sharing. Therefore turning this number into the names of local families in need of support. This is a significant challenge and one which many of the 16 areas are still working to resolve information sharing and data collection systems.

3.3 The principle in identification and definition is to set clearly the scope and scale of the work. Then to ensure sufficient resource is deployed in the right way to have an impact.

### **4. Building Blocks**

4.1 The design of the “solution” differs significantly place to place and this also depends on where they are in the partnership and improvement journey. Information at national events have highlighted key elements to enable the delivery of this agenda. These include Partnership, Strategic Governance, Resources, a clear Service Offer, Project Management and ability to identify families and flexibly meet their needs.

4.2 It is clear Plymouth is ahead of the game, with key building blocks for this work already in place, including:

- Clear commitment at partnership level to this work
- Programme management capacity
- A commitment and practice base of joint assessment and multi-agency working through Common Assessment Framework
- Principles of key working and lead professional
- Joint commissioning to improve outcomes within a system of services promoting collaboration
- A gateway approach for services to join up no matter which front door is used

## **5. Next Steps**

There are four key areas that will be developed in order to progress this work:

- The Governance and leadership for this work needs to be agreed
- The scope will be specified and phased approaches to themes established.
- Resource alignment beyond phase one set
- The benefits realisation calculated and agreed at a partnership level