

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 18 December 2018

TITLE	Children affected by domestic abuse (CADA) – Home Office Bid		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Vanessa Catterall	Job title: Principal Social Worker		
Cabinet lead: Helen Godwin	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
<p>Purpose of Report: This report sets out the details of Bristol City Council’s bid for Home Office Funding in the sum of £845,330 to support children across the city affected by domestic abuse and seeks Cabinet approval to delegate authority to spend the funding, should our bid be successful, to the Executive Director, Adults, Children and Education.</p>			
<p>Evidence Base:</p> <p>Bristol picture: Bristol City Council’s 2018 Children’s Charter sets out our vision for Bristol’s children to be safe from abuse and harm. In 2017 our Bristol ‘Think Family’ database identified 4,000 victims of domestic abuse in our city, involving 665 perpetrators. The majority of victims of domestic abuse had children. Over three quarters of children supported by Children and Families Services have been impacted by domestic abuse and it is a feature in 68% of social work assessments completed, which is significantly above the national average of 50%.</p> <p>Our bid: Our bid is focused on reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children by offering therapeutic evidence based interventions. Our bid is focused on training practitioners across the city, and across a range of agencies, in programmes aimed at supporting children who have experienced domestic abuse. The primary delivery partners in this project will be Next Link, Bristol Children Centres, Bristol City Council’s Strengthening Families Teams and the Through Care Service. Our project will extend our existing partnership delivering interventions to children aged 0-8. Children over 8 have existing access to 1-2-1 and groupwork so this funding would establish a therapeutic offer across the life-course for Bristol’s children. Specialist domestic abuse practitioners will be seconded from Next Link to deliver interventions through our children centre hubs, primary schools and in homes, expanding our existing multi-disciplinary Strengthening Families teams. They will deliver specialist interventions to families in refuge accommodation. We will expand our therapeutic social work offer for children in care to support recovery and achieve stability and permanency.</p>			
<p>Proposed interventions and expected outcomes:</p> <p><u>Theraplay</u> (for children 3-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pro-social behaviours and reduction in difficult behaviours • Reduction in symptoms of anxiety and fear • Improvement in social/parent/carer relationships • Improvement in school attendance/attainment <p><u>Video Interactive Guidance</u> (for children 0-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pro-social behaviours and reduction in difficult behaviours 			

- Reduction in temper tantrums or fighting/increase in positive behaviours
- Improved relationship/attachment between parent and child
- Parenting strategies improved

Non-Violent Resistance Nurture Programme (for children 5-8)

- Improvement in the relationship between parents and children/families
- Reduction of aggression between siblings
- Children feel happier at home, less stressed and anxious.
- Parents and teachers feeling more hopeful and confident.
- Parents report better coping/enhanced enjoyment with parenting.
- Children are perceived as more cooperative with parent.

Welcome to the World antenatal and postnatal nurture programmes (Parents/parents-to-be)

- Increase in parent/parent-to-be attachment.
- Increase in parent/parent-to-be mental wellbeing.

Freedom Programme and Theraplay crèche (Parent and children 0-5)

- Improved family relationships and wellbeing for parents

We will train staff and multi-disciplinary practitioners across partner agencies and developing referral pathways that enable access to interventions. This will include:

- Seconding practitioners from our specialist domestic abuse services to work within Children’s Centres.
- Establishing referral routes through our integrated Locality meetings and from neighbourhood police responding to domestic abuse incidents ensuring a responsive and timely service.
- Training Children’s Centre staff in the interventions and offering these to parents as part of a targeted offer.
- Interventions to children and parents in refuge accommodation.
- Expanding the social work offer to children in care, foster carers and adopters.

This Funding will:

- Train 75 practitioners in Theraplay.
- Train 12 practitioners in VID.
- Train 150 practitioners in NVR.
- By March 2020, 400 children aged 0-8 will have receive therapeutic interventions.
- By 2020-2021, outside the funding years, 500 families with 750-1,000 children will be receiving therapeutic reparative interventions.
- By 2020, 120 additional parents to have accessed the out-of-hours Freedom Programme.
- By 2020,36 parents will have completed a Rockabye course.
- By 2020, 450 parents to have completed Welcome to the World & the Nurture Programme.
- Build knowledge and understanding in the system by helping those working in our Integrated Locality Teams to effectively identify and respond to children who are exposed to domestic violence by co locating/seconding.

Whilst this funding is short term we envisage that sustainability will be achieved by embedding the project and the training proposal within our existing workforce thereby retaining capacity to deliver interventions within the workforce after the funding ends.

Our project will also create sustainability in a wider sense by supporting parents and children to break the cycle of abuse that is associated with domestic abuse. By supporting families to recover from their traumatic experiences and strengthen the parent/child relationship we anticipate a reduced rate of referrals into Children’s Services, reduced school disruption and exclusions and reduced rates of family breakdown. We will measure this longitudinal through our Strategy 10-year citywide ACE Programme and integrated Partnership Think Family Database.

If successful the funding will be deployed by way of grant and/or contracted services and/or secondment etc, as is

considered the best fit for the particular service, and in accordance with any relevant procurement rules and regulations. A commissioning strategy will be developed.

Cabinet Member/Officer recommendations:

That Cabinet

- 1) Approve the bid for Home office funding.
- 2) If the bid is successful, delegate authority to the Director for Children & Families in consultation with the cabinet member for Women, Children and Young People, to allocate the funding as set out in the conditions of the grant.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

This proposal aligns with the Corporate Strategy, our principles, values and behaviours. Specifically it aligns with the following themes and principles:

- 1) Empowering and caring: Give our children the best start in life by protecting and developing support services for children who have been impacted by domestic abuse and protecting children from future harm. Provide ‘help to help yourself’ and ‘help when you need it’ to children and parents who have experienced domestic abuse and provide a range of sustainable system of reparative interventions to support children and their non-abusive parent through the recovery process.

City Benefits:

- 1) If successful, our bid will benefit the city and improve outcomes for citizens by keeping children safe from harm and abuse and helping them recover from exposure to domestic abuse.
- 2) By addressing trauma in the early years, we will be able to mitigate the impact of domestic abuse on children, their health, education and life chances.

Consultation Details:

- 1) This bid has been developed in conjunction with the Police, Children’s Centres, Next Link and Children and Families Services.

Revenue Cost	£845,330	Source of Revenue Funding	Department for Education Grant
Capital Cost	£ N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A.
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This is a bid for a Home Office Grant for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse. If successful, up to £0.845m would be available to spend on the activities outlined in the bid. The grant is for the period until 31st March 2020 and the Home Office has insisted that carry-forward of monies between financial years will not be permitted. So, the indicated £0.203m for the remainder of this financial year would have to be spent by 31st March 2019 and, in the following year, £0.642m would have to be spent by 31st March 2020. The implication is that any unspent monies by these two dates would be lost. This points to the need for the service to be ready to implement the project if and when the Home Office confirms that the bid has been accepted. This includes employing the relevant staff and commissioning the services and activities indicated.

Finance Business Partner: David Tully, Finance Business Partner ACE 5th October 2018

2. Legal Advice: The making of the bid raises no particular legal issues. If however the bid is successful consideration will need to be given to the terms attached and thereafter the use of the funding will need to comply with the relevant procurement regulations and the Councils own procurement rules, so far as may be applicable. Further legal advice can be provided at the time.

Consideration should be given to the need for further consultation with prospective service users in developing the commissioning strategy and, if required, that it complies with the general principles of effective consultation. The Public Sector Equality duty requires that an equality impact assessment is completed in respect of this bid and this is

attached.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Team Leader, Legal Services – 4-10-18

3. Implications on IT: There are no IT implications directly identified in this initiative. However, these may materialise during the implementation in such matters as equipment provision, data management and information sharing with partners as well as ongoing support arrangements. The project should ensure early engagement with IT Services to help ensure that these matters are addressed as needed.

IT Team Leader: Ian Gale, Team Leader, IT Services – 04-10-18

4. HR Advice: There will be a number of HR implications in relation to this proposal as set out, namely the need to put in place a strong Secondment agreement between Bristol City Council and Next Link.

It will mean a change of work location for some of our specialist teams to work within Childrens centres, Schools, Hubs and other appropriate places to make the service more flexible and accessible to everyone rather than current arrangements.

An extensive Training programme will be required to ensure the workforce have the appropriate skills to ensure the project is a success. In order to support this, a joint Training Agreement with Partners should be considered to schedule training programme and identify and allocate resource as appropriate.

All changes will be discussed with the workgroup as appropriate in advance of any changes being made and appropriate training will be given prior to new ways of working being implemented.

HR Partner: 08-10-18, Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner

EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	10/10/2018
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Helen Godwin	22/10/2018
CLB Sign-off	CLB	16/10/2018
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	05/12/2018

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Combined Background papers	NO
Appendix J – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix K – HR advice	NO
Appendix L – ICT	NO