

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 09 March 2021

TITLE	Troubled Families Data Accelerator Bid	
Ward(s)	City wide including Avon and Somerset Police area	
Author: Gary Davies	Job title: Head of Service Early Intervention and Safer Communities	
Cabinet lead: Helen Godwin	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen	
Proposal origin: BCC Staff		
Decision maker: Officer		
Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>		
Purpose of Report:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To secure agreement for an Avon and Somerset wide bid with key partners across Police, Health and Local Government to a MHCLG Data Accelerator Bid in which Bristol City Council is the lead partner. 2. To secure agreement to spend the money should the bid be successful, to implement the work. 		
Evidence Base:		
<p>The National Troubled Families Team in the Ministry for Housing and Local Government have been successful in bidding to the Governments Shared Outcome Fund for the sum of £8m over 2 years. The purpose of their bid was to facilitate local authorities working in a consortium to develop and improve the use of data across partnerships focused on early intervention with children and families.</p> <p>The key elements of the fund are to be used to increase the sharing and matching of data, improve the maturity of local data systems, create networks for sharing good practice, increase the use of data to improve operational delivery and commissioning decisions.</p> <p>It is intended that a single bid would include between 5- 10 local authorities to work in collaboration to deliver these aims.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a single authority that has a proven track record in data maturity will lead the consortium.</p> <p>There is an expectation that between 7/10 successful bids will emerge from a process which will commence in March 2021 with an application process. The decision regarding successful bids would be completed by the end of April with a view to commencing the work in May/ June 2021 for a two year period.</p> <p>It is believed that there is limited desire for the fund to be used to buy case management or other IT equipment or to be used in employing consultancy firms but equipping local authorities to build skill and experience and develop longer term sustainable capabilities in this area of work.</p> <p>The application process will look for exemplar project work, improved information sharing mechanisms, building skills and training, developing and ethical framework, align and supporting information governance and data security.</p>		

Bristol is highly regarded in this field of work and has been invited to several discussions with the national team to develop the bid /approach to using this fund. It is well place to be an applicant.

The most natural partnership for Bristol, with cognisance of its excellent relationship with Avon and Somerset Police in this area of work, is to build a consortium based around the Avon and Somerset Police Force boundaries incorporating Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Somerset with Bristol as the lead partner.

Initial discussions with all the local authorities have been extremely favourable towards a collaborative bid. The police are like minded to participate and the CCG (Health Data Team) in BNSSG are both supportive and willing to consider how health information might be included in developing this work. The Somerset CCG are still being consulted. The partner organisations all reflect that this is timely, there is a desire to do more with data and the benefits of collaborative working will be significant.

The proposed bid is likely to contain proposals relating to:

Information Governance and Ethics

Information governance support to participants to ensure compliance with data protection legislation and encompassing a data ethics approach for the work being developed as part of this bid - common consortium wide approach.

Creation of a best practice toolkit for info governance templates and approaches including data ethics - with associated guidance.

Learning and broader development

Develop the existing southwest analyst network meeting into a knowledge sharing network underpinned with academic rigour and evaluation.

Individual support to local authorities developing a local approach based on best practice and learning from others.

Specialised training in key elements of analytical approaches e.g. Power BI, python

Development of good practice guidance for national use

Sharing Information/ Approaches across partnerships

Creating the information flow between statutory organisations and local authorities relating to information which identifies risk and vulnerability in children and families.

Developing a flow of information from and to Health partners

Sharing of developed dashboards and models designed in Power BI

Automating the sharing of at risk information from incident source to related safeguarding lead whether in schools, hospital or other relates statutory bodies.eg domestic abuse information under Operation Compass (domestic Abuse notification approach)

Product development

Supporting the development of bringing together the information relating to the vulnerability of children and families to support early intervention inside local authorities to understand a wider view of a person or family which leads to strategic analysis to support operational resource allocation and commissioning

Examples of exemplar projects (might have a lead authority developing approach and then share with others)

- A. The identification of risk and vulnerability information from all local authorities into Avon and Somerset Police lighthouse safeguarding unit to support triaging and decision making about young people and who are victims of a range of crimes including exploitation and sexual abuse. Create a visualisation dashboard for use by the Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit.
- B. The dissemination of risk and vulnerability information including the product of predictive analysis being presented to key partner agencies who work with young people in the realm of early intervention and prevention or have a responsibility for their care
- C. Develop a local authority dashboard view of vulnerability of children and families including a focus on key at risk themes e.g. CCE, Violence, Missing, Neet to support staff who have a responsibility for triaging the needs for services and work in these fields.

There are ongoing discussions with other local authorities and partners and therefore the above elements of the bid may change. Our Director of IT has agreed to review the bid to assist in its creation and to ensure that the bid is compatible with existing IT transformation plans. In addition the proposed bid will be taken to the Data and Insights Board for consideration prior to submission.

If successful, this bid will enable Bristol to take significant advantage of the new IT infrastructure that has been put in place which will benefit the city both strategically and operationally in responding to emerging need and vulnerability in children and families. The key benefits anticipated will be:

- A. Best practice in information and ethical governance of personal and sensitive information sharing
- B. Improved strategic understanding of the needs of the City
- C. Better communication amongst partner agencies equipping multiple workforces to respond more effectively to early intervention in Bristol
- D. The visualisation of multiple data sets in one place to ease and assist decision making for resource allocation to the right service in a timely way
- E. Greater collaboration across partnerships in communicating and responding to risk in a timely way
- F. The operational implementation of a number of exemplar projects across the city.

The bid will be designed so that a project management approach is taken to the work being conducted. All projects will conclude by the end of year 2 and there will be no financial commitment to sustaining the work. All projects will be implemented into mainstream services, automated and capable of running with limited or no ongoing maintenance requirement above and beyond our existing capacity.

No match funding is required to support this application.

Permission is therefore sought to develop a collaborative bid with the above mentioned partners once the application process is commenced. (No official information has yet been published)

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the submission of a MHCL Data Accelerator Bid in collaboration with all local authorities in Avon and Somerset police area, including police and health partners.
2. Authorise, if the bid is successful, the Executive Director, People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Women, Families and Homes to take all steps necessary spend the funding including procuring and awarding contracts to implement the work.
3. Note that the funding bid will include a commitment to work with key statutory partners covering the Avon and Somerset Police area on exemplar data projects, information sharing arrangements, the development of best practice relating to ethics and information governance, and the use of data analytics to identify and support targeted work to complement early intervention approach across the area.

Corporate Strategy alignment: This work aligns with the corporate strategy on a number of fronts; Education, Health

and People. It focuses on early intervention and prevention and narrowing the gap, improving partnership working and making better use of our data.

City Benefits: There will be significant benefit to developing our approach to early intervention by allowing partner agencies to understand risk and vulnerability of children and families and to respond in a more timely way with the right resources to support the right children and families.

Consultation Details: none required at this stage

Background Documents:

Revenue Cost	£ TBC	Source of Revenue Funding	Government grant
Capital Cost	£ TBC	Source of Capital Funding	
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:
The report seeks approval for a collaborative funding bid with partners in relation to the Data Accelerator Fund. The submission of a grant funding bid does not itself commit the Council to expenditure. There is however, a reputational risk if a bid is successful but following further detailed analysis of grant terms and conditions (when they become available), the Council decides not to proceed further.

The report outlines that if successful the projects will conclude by the end of year two and there will be no financial commitment to sustaining the work. An exit strategy will therefore need to be considered that ensures this.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 24 February 2021

2. Legal Advice:
The procurement process in relation to spending the funding must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the grant and collaboration agreements, the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 22 February 2021

3. Implications on IT: "IT Services are very supportive of the bid to provision financial support to aid the redevelopment and improvement of the current service provision (which is already held in high regard and giving good outcomes) to enable it to meet current and future compliance standards and ambitions. Care will be needed to ensure that this programme of work aligns with the wider Insight and Data programme of work and that developments dovetail."

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver Director

4. HR Advice: The purpose of the report is to gain agreement to make a funding bid, this does not have any HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing

EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	06/01/2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Helen Godwin	18/01/2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's office	22/02/2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
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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	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – I	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO