

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: 2022/25/PH/Emotionalhealthsupport

BOX 1

DIRECTORATE: Public Health

DATE: 20/06/2022

Contact Name: Michael McBurney

Tel. No: 01302 736830

Subject Matter: Parenting and Family Support Service – Doncaster Children’s Services Trust have been allocated £168,203 from the Better Care Fund over a two year period until June 2024. This is to operate a borough wide service across 12 family hubs delivering emotional health support for children and young people and parents and carers of young people.

BOX 2**DECISION TAKEN**

The decision being taken is to due to Doncaster having a significant shortfall of counselling support for children and young people, with waiting lists for NHS services such as child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) being 16 months on average, meaning children and young people are waiting too long to get their needs met and children need access to a more immediate response at the point of any crisis to look to prevent longer term mental health issues and ensure support is available.

This project aims to improve mental health provision by means of employing specially trained counsellors for children and young people under supervision of a clinical advanced practitioner, this allows for any referral into the service to have a more immediate response, ensuring a child or young person’s immediate wellbeing is prioritised as well as their longer term mental health needs.

This decision will be funded from the Better Care Fund earmarked reserve.

BOX 3**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

The service provides 1:1 therapeutic counselling to children/ young people aged 7 – 18 years and parents/ carers of children and young people. Trainee Counsellors undertake work placements in partnership with associate Colleges and Universities with many trainee counsellors retained as volunteers on completion of work placements. There are established

referral routes across all 12 family hubs, serving every locality area with activity concentrating in the central area due to demand for our services. Measurable benefits include increased capacity for young people with poor mental health, effective therapeutic sessions for issues such as self-harming resulting in reduced admissions to hospital and CAMHS referrals.

BOX 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

During the current year (June 2021 – June 2022) the service received funding from the Social Mobility Opportunity Area, however, this was a one off time limited fund which will not be sustained. During this period the team have established a cost effective and timely intervention not only for children and young people but also adults who suffer from complex situations such as bereavement.

In the past the availability of Children and Young People's counselling capacity within Doncaster has been limited, meaning that access to services has been restricted. There was capacity issues within the service meaning that they were not able to respond to all requests for support in a timely manner. Since securing funding for the additional staff they have been able to reduce the waiting list, children now receive a service in a timely manner. If they were not successful in securing funding then they will lose the additional staff and waiting lists will not be overseen in a timely manner and referrals coming into the service will be restricted to higher threshold of need rather than a universal support service.

In accordance with S75 agreement Doncaster Council has established a grant funding scheme to support Better Care Fund projects. Not to approve the application in accordance with the requirements of the Better Care Fund scheme would reduce the level of support that can be provided. Time sensitivities means if grant funding was not issued it would lead to services being delayed.

BOX 5

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.
2. Section 1 of the Care Act 2014 places a number of duties on the Council to promote an individual's wellbeing.
3. Section 3 of the Care Act 2014 states that the Council must ensure that care and support provision is integrated with other health provision and health related provision where it will promote wellbeing.
4. Section 6 of the Care Act 2014 states that the Council must co-operate with each of its partners and each relevant partner must co-operate with the Council in exercise of their respective function relating to adults with needs for care and support.

5. The provision of the grant funding to Doncaster Children’s Services Trust must comply with the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules and ensure that a formal written agreement is in place setting out all the terms of the grant funding.
6. Legal Services should be consulted as soon as possible in respect of the preparation of the grant agreement.

Name: Phil Crawley Signature: By E-mail Date: 29/06/22

BOX 6

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A business case to fund the Parenting and Family Support Service (currently based in Doncaster Children’s Services Trust; this service is due to transfer to the Council by the end of September 2022) was presented and approved at the Joint Commissioning Operational Group (JCOG) meeting on 10th June 2022 and subsequently approved virtually by Joint Commissioning Management Board (JCMB). The £168,203 allocated is to cover the period July 2022 – June 2024 and will be funded from the Better Care Fund earmarked reserve.

It is not expected to fund this service over and above the approved allocation from this earmarked reserve, therefore the service will need to have secured an alternative funding source in order for it to continue beyond July 2024.

Name Helen Rowlands

Signature:

Date: 27/06/22

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7

OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS

None identified

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.

BOX 8

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author).

The project is coordinated by advanced practitioners affiliated to the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. This is supplemented with university placements to ensure enhancement and continuity of the service with 1000 volunteer hours contributed per year. Children and adolescent mental health service waiting times have improved from 10 months to 6 months with the service managing caseloads of 75 people from 25 people due to increased capacity which will continue under BCF project funding. This meets equality impacts of vulnerable young people regardless of background, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

BOX 9

RISK IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author)

There will be expected TUPE implications of staff moving from Doncaster Children's Services Trust into Doncaster Council.

There is no exit strategy in place despite the prospect of informing future commissioning cycles.

The project is young person focused with a lack of impact with regards to embedding adult's health and wellbeing impacts such as discharge rates, non-elective admissions and length of stay in hospital.

BOX 10

CONSULTATION

Prior to formal approval of applications at Joint Commissioning Management Board there is an assessment process undertaken by the Joint Commissioning Operational Group, ratified by the chair and associate membership.

Consultation regarding the project has taken place with Doncaster Council, NHS, Schools, Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board, children and families.

BOX 11

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION

None identified

Name: Claire Hewitt

Signature _____

Date: 21st June 2022

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 12

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR **NO**

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13
AUTHORISATION**

Name: Dr Rupert Suckling Signature : Date: 01/07/2022

Director of Public Health

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer

No

If yes please authorise below:

Name: Signature: Date:

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: Signature: Date:

Declaration of Interest

If YES please give details below

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.