
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

9 March 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People: Councillor E Ruane

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Children's Services

Ward(s) affected:

All wards. Services are delivered on a city wide basis

Title: Update on Children and Families First Team

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People with an overview of what the Children and Families First Team delivers linked to the Early Help and Prevention Strategy. Performance data attached evidences that the service reaches the most disadvantaged/vulnerable children and young people living in Coventry.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is requested to note the current position in relation to the Children and Families First Team and to consider making any recommendations in relation to that Team.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Performance Management Data – Children and Families First Team

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny? No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Update on Children and Families First Team

Our Coventry context

Coventry is a city of around 329,800 residents with 83,800 of whom are aged 0-19 years old (2012). The population is younger than the average for England, the average age of a Coventry resident being 34 compared to 40 overall in England. The city is ethnically diverse, with 33% of Coventry's inhabitants coming from ethnic minority communities compared to 20% for England as a whole. Deprivation is higher than the England average; 25.9% (16,400) children live in poverty.

The majority of Coventry children and young people are safe at home and in the community, do well at school and are healthy. However, we have high numbers of children who are known to social care and have a Child in Need Plan, Child Protection Plans or are Looked After and high numbers of troubled families (Strengthening Families programme) compared to our statistical neighbours. The 'toxic trio' of domestic violence, mental health issues and drug and alcohol abuse are significant issues for some Coventry parents, which impacts on their children. Some families have deeply entrenched multi-generational problems.

The high levels of demand for specialist services lead to significant financial costs against a backdrop of significant public sector financial pressures. This combination of high service demand and financial challenges underline the importance of delivering effective Early Help. Our aim is for a redirection of resources from high cost, high intervention services to prevention and early intervention support and services.

Coventry's Early Help Strategy describes an intervention model that maximises support to children in the early years of their lives, or early on in the emergence of a problem at any stage of their lives, across a 0 – 19's age range, and upto 25 for a young person with a special need or disability.

The Children and Families First Team

The Children and Families First (CFF) Team forms part of this delivery model – working at Common Assessment Framework level 3, they work with the whole families to enable the development of positive extended family, personal and community networks so that families access positive informal support. The CFF team is a skilled and competent workforce who are able to work with families to identify the root causes rather than presenting issues at the earliest possible opportunity, by utilising a range of evidence based interventions including multi systemic therapy.

The team is made of workers whose identified roles are varied to ensure the range of issues that families face can be dealt with effectively. CFF schools workers – support families and schools to ensure children's attendance in school is above 85%. Early Help Co ordinators, in the main work with partners to ensure the quality of assessment undertaken ensures outcomes are met. CFF Key workers undertake direct 1.1, and group work with the most chaotic families whose issues are entrenched and multi-generational, and who fall into the cohort for the Strengthening Families Programme.

As part of the Early Help and Prevention service – the Children and Families First service is a 60 strong team who work with families with complex needs and who have a strong relationship with Social Care to enable the family to get support, when their needs no longer meet the threshold for social care intervention. They hold a case load of between 12 and 15 cases each, the variation allows for flexibility and responsiveness when dealing with complexity eg some worker will hold 12 complex cases this will increase in number if the level of complexity reduces within the family. The team of workers follow a set of practice standards, which has formalised process's that are embedded and systematic which ensure the families receive interventions that have the greatest impact, whilst being able to routinely monitor the team's performance. Workers receive reflective supervision, and case management oversight from Team Managers who are skilled and

knowledgeable and are able to effectively support their staff. The team benefits from bi monthly Practice Improvement sessions that are led by Team Managers, who analyse themes emerging from Case File Audits to improve practice. This team of staff are based in some the most deprived areas of the city in Neighbourhood buildings that support integrated working with social care colleagues.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal: N/A

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 N/A

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 N/A

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications – budget attached

Cabinet member report

Update on CFF team - 9th March 2016

2015/16 forecast - Qtr 3	Budget		
	Spend	Income	Net
	£	£	£
Children and Family First Team	1897332	0	1897332
Children and Family First Team - DSG	626383	-548142	78241
Troubled Families	1118019	-1004297	113722
Education Welfare Officers	791141	-695286	95855
Total	4432875	-2247725	2185150

5.2 Legal implications – no legal implications

6. Other implications

Non

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The Children and Families First Team as part of the Early Help and Prevention service identifies with the following strategic objectives

- To identify the needs of children, young people and their families across the continuum of need.
- To understand and respond quickly to the needs of children and young people and families across the continuum of need.
- To support the refocusing of resources from crisis intervention to prevention.

- To support families to achieve their full potential and thereby mitigate the impact of issues such as child poverty and health inequalities.
- To support an action learning approach that ensures that learning and evidence informs future service design and delivery. This includes listening to what children and families have to say about what best helps them to prevent problems from occurring or escalating.
- To provide the context for multi-agency partnerships to work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families for generations to come.

The offer is personalised, multi-agency, evidenced based and embedded within a Whole Family approach. Children and young people in those families will live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and develop into responsible adult citizens, thereby breaking the intergenerational cycles of risk and vulnerability. Families will become more resilient and develop capabilities to prevent and resolve problems. The aim is to reduce demand for higher cost specialist services and achieve greater use of community based universal preventive services. Social capital and resilience within local communities will be identified and enhanced.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The multi-agency Children's Early Help Board will oversee the progress of the strategy, which includes a range of services delivered, including the Children and Families First Team, with accountability to the Children's Partnership Board and Children's Services Improvement Board. An Early Help action plan is developed with the Early Help Board to ensure oversight, support and challenge and measure key performance and success.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

N/A

6.4 Equalities / EIA

N/A

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

N/A

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

N/A

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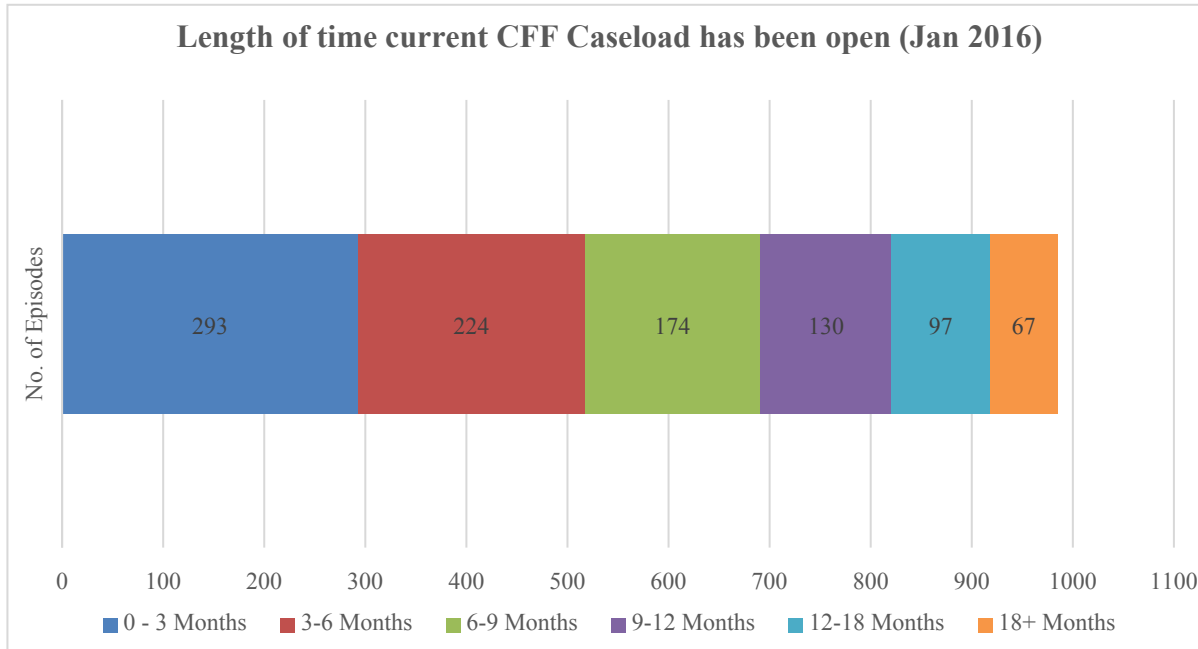
Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Members: Cllr Ed Ruane		Lead – Children and Young People	10.02.16	

Appendix 1: Early Help and Prevention Management report data - January 2016

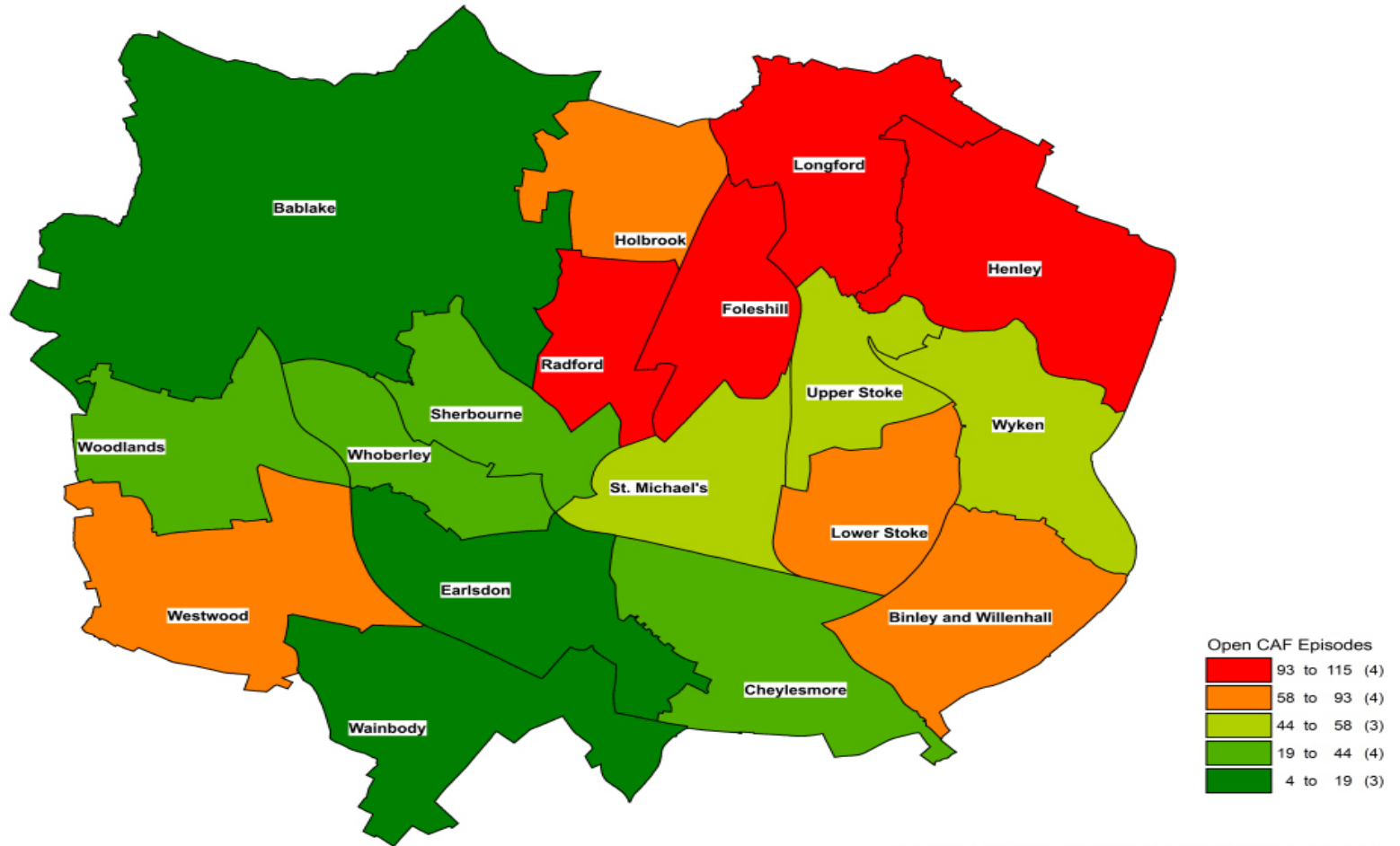
Children and Families First Team Current Cases (985 episodes open)

The following data is of currently open cases (11 Jan 2016)



Time CAF Episode Open	No. of Episodes	% Case load
0 - 3 Months	293	30%
3-6 Months	224	23%
6-9 Months	174	18%
9-12 Months	130	13%
12-18 Months	97	10%
18+ Months	67	7%

Thematic Map Showing Open CAF Episodes within Children and Families First by Ward (January 2016)



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This thematic map shows the distribution of open CAF episodes by Lower Super Output area. These are the same areas that the Indices of deprivation are mapped against (p8) http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/17733/english_indices_of_deprivation_2015_-_coventry_summary

