

Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director Adults and Children's

Report to:	Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Adult Learning
Date:	10 February 2012
Subject:	Procurement of an Evidence Based Training programme for Family Support and Social Workers in response to The Munro Review
Decision Reference:	02016
Key decision?	No

Summary:

In the recent child protection review by Munroe, she states that "Preventative services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services and the coordination of services is important to maximise efficiency" (Munroe 2011). Within the report Munroe demonstrates that there is substantial evidence to suggest that supporting parents through an evidenced based parenting programme has a significant impact on outcomes for children and young people and improves safeguarding.

The Early Intervention - Next Steps review by Graham Allen also suggests that evidence based parenting programmes underpin early intervention and the Triple P programme is named as one of the recommended programmes.

The Triple P methodology is recognised nationally and internationally for its evidenced based approach to parenting training programmes and resources.

Lincolnshire has recently restructured its family support services to ensure that it complements the specialist support services that are provided through FAST teams. It is therefore imperative that these teams have common practices, principles and methodologies to ensure we have a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. By adopting a common core of training for staff, supported by an ethos of reflective practice, sound supervision and appraisal; we can ensure the workforce has the ability to respond to the needs of families. As research suggests the Triple P methodology will allow practitioners to work with families to improve their outcomes; it is envisaged that if the pilot was to be deemed to be a success within Lincolnshire all Family Support Workers, and staff within the FAST teams will be trained and accredited in the delivery of a combined Standard Triple P and Standard Teen Triple P training programme.

The initial training will focus on the one to one delivery, as this is felt to be an area that needs to be strengthened within Lincolnshire. This will provide measurable evidence on how we improve outcomes for children and families

who access targeted and specialist services within the county.

Approval is being sought to contract directly with Triple P UK to deliver training to an identified group of Children Services staff, who work on a daily basis directly with parents and children in Lincolnshire as part of their core duties. This will include initially Family Support Workers and members of the FAST teams.

This report sets out to propose an Exception, as provided for in the Council's Contract Regulations, for an alternative procurement route to the Council's Contract & Procurement Procedure Rules and to request that Lincolnshire County Council, Children Services enter in to negotiations and then a formal contract with Triple P UK, up to the value of £245,557 to provide as a pilot scheme the following training to the nominated staff; Triple P will provide

- Management Briefing sessions
- Combined standard and teen Triple P positive parenting training programme
- Triple P training and implementation resources for staff
- Triple P staff support and technical Assistance
- Practitioner Accreditation

The programme provides a multi-level framework aimed to tailor information, advice, and professional support to the needs of individual families. It recognises that parents have differing needs and desires regarding the type, intensity, and mode of assistance they require.

Recommendation(s):

The Executive Councillor is requested to consider the report and approve the approach as an exemption to the normal tender route laid down by the County Councils Procurement Procedure Regulations and enter in to one contract with Triple P UK to provide the above training as a pilot programme.

Alternatives Considered:

1. The Triple P positive parenting training programme, methodology, approach and training materials are under copyright and can only be provided by this organisation. Market research has been undertaken and there are no other alternatives that have been identified.

The Triple P evidence demonstrates measurable outcomes equal or greater than the input "intervention" received. Triple P has been delivered and successfully implemented in over 23 countries across the world and has evidence to demonstrate that socio economic and cultural backgrounds do not impact on the benefits of supporting families to undertake this programme.

Reasons for Recommendation:

This programme meets the needs of the Children Services core training requirements for the defined group of staff. There are a number of studies which have evaluated the impact of Triple P interventions which clearly evidence improved outcomes for families.

The Triple P positive parenting programme is an evidenced based programme that was identified within the Independent Report to Her Majesty's Government in 2011 by Graham Allen MP; Early Intervention: The Next Steps. This report highlights several programmes however the Triple P methodology is recognised as best practice, providing a flexible approach to working in groups and on a one to one basis with parents. Lincolnshire will pilot the 1 to 1 interventions to focus on families who access both targeted and specialist services.

Studies conducted on each intervention level of the Triple P delivery formats demonstrate consistent results in the following

- o -Fewer behavioural and emotional problems in children
- o -Greater parental confidence and use of positive parenting techniques
- o -Less negative parenting, reducing stress, depression, and anger in parents
- o -Less marital conflict over parenting

This outcome would reduce demand on specialist and targeted services and enable families to function in a more positive way and children and young people to develop in a positive environment.

1. Background

Triple P is an evidenced based parenting programme that draws on social learning, cognitive-behavioural and developmental theory, as well as research into risk and protective factors associated with the development of social and behavioural problems in children.

The program's multi-level framework aims to tailor information, advice and professional support to the needs of individual families. It recognises that parents have differing needs and desires regarding the type, intensity and mode of assistance they may require.

Triple P interventions range from the provision of media messages on positive parenting, through to brief information resources such as tip sheets and videos, and brief targeted interventions (for specific behaviour problems) offered by primary care practitioners at Levels 2 and 3, to more intensive parent training at Level 4 and Level 5 programs targeting broader family issues such as relationship conflict and parental depression, anger and stress.

The programme promotes an independent approach to parenting with an ethos of providing the least intervention for the greatest impact, in times of limited resources

this principle supports the approach adopted by Lincolnshire; supporting families to remain together with support wherever possible. The programme has evidence that it has demonstrable impact on children and parents who are also accessing either the fostering or adoption services and can support Children with Disabilities. This supports Lincolnshire integrated locality delivery.

The programme has a clear structure and robust approach to evaluation this is undertaken following each course at the end of the programme, with parents and children throughout the delivery of the intervention process.

2. Conclusion

It is recognised that this is a significant investment for Children's Services however this robust evidence based training programme gives both training and accreditation to staff including follow up support sessions post implementation to ensure staff feel confident to deliver the programme and achieve the agreed that outcomes. It also provides extensive staff resources and tools to support working with families. Triple P also includes resources for parents which are a fundamental part of the delivery approach.

The funding for this programme has been secured from the Non DSB allocations for 11/12 and 12/13. If approved, the pilot will be completed by the end of June 2012. Future decisions around the procurement of further training will be taken following the evaluation at the end of the pilot dependent on the success of the programme in Lincolnshire. If the pilot is a success further funding has been identified within the Early Intervention Grant to support purchase of further training and materials. This pilot will provide a briefing session for up to 100 managers and training for 160 accredited practitioners with a further 16 managers undertaking training in the triple P methodology.

If this report is accepted it is felt that staff who undertakes this training, will have a robust set of methodologies, tools, and resources at their disposal to work with parents in a positive and outcome focused approach.

3. Legal Comments:

The issues to be taken into consideration in relation to this proposed decision are set out in the report which is within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

4. Resource Comments:

The Council's Contract Regulations state the exceptional circumstances in which competition may be limited. Given the circumstances outlined in this report, i.e. that market research indicates that there are no alternatives available, the recommendation appears justified.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Early Intervention - Next Steps	www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/early-intervention-next-steps.pdf

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