

## Impact Analysis to Enable Informed Decisions

### Background Information

Directorate	Assistant Director area	Service area	Lead officer	Person / people completing analysis	Date of workshop / meeting	Version
Adults & Children's	Meredith Teasdale	Children's Commissioning	Andrew McLean	Linda Turnbull	N/A	0.1
<b>Title of the policy / project / service being considered</b>	Separating Parents Programme					
<b>General overview and description of the Separating Parents Programme</b>	<p>Exception to Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules - Separating Parents Programme.</p> <p>Since 2010, Lincolnshire Children's Services has entered into a pilot programme with Relate Lincolnshire to provide a comprehensive package of support for parents, children and young people in Lincolnshire who are in the process of separating or have separated. The 'Separating Parents Working Together' project recognises that parents and families need support to enable them to deal with issues and reach agreement to enable them to build positive relationships and co-parenting responsibilities into the future.</p>					
<b>The status of the Separating Parents Programme</b>	Existing			Commissioned		
<b>Timescales for implementation</b>	The pilot programme is currently funded via a grant agreement to the value of £177,000, which is due to finish on 31st March 2013. Now the pilot is complete Children's Services wish to continue the service and enter into a Contract Agreement with Relate Lincolnshire for the period 1st April 2013 to the 31st March 2014, at the existing value of £177,000.					
Analysis						
<b>1. What is the current situation?</b>	Permission is required to approve an alternative procurement route to the LCC Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules. This exemption is required in order to maintain current service levels and minimise service disruption.					
<b>2. What are the drivers for change?</b>	It is not anticipated that the service will change. However, due to the service becoming on-going it is important that a contract is in place rather than a grant agreement. There is inadequate time available to go out to competitive tender for the delivery of this service and to ensure the successful continuation of this service a formal contract agreement with the provider will be required. To no longer fund the service would present the substantial loss of a preventative service, which helps to reduce families entering crisis situation and helps to improve positive outcomes for children and young people.					

<b>3. What difference will we make?</b>	<p>The pilot programme has proven very successful, with some of the key highlights of the project being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 200 cases seen per quarter (240 cases in Q2 2012).</li> <li>- Up to 400 individuals access sessions per quarter (365 individuals in Q2 2012)</li> <li>- High numbers of males engaged in the project (43% of users in Q2 2012)</li> <li>- Users reported a positive impact on increased self-confidence, children's distress and sense of isolation.</li> <li>- Low percentage of users late cancelling/no shows, demonstrating clients value in the service (13% in Q2 2012)</li> <li>- Range of referral sources, including GPs (22 in Q2), friends (19 in Q2) and current advertising by Relate (31 in Q2)</li> <li>- Clinical progress demonstrates that clients felt less tense, nervous or anxious, more able to cope when things go wrong and have better sleep following intervention.</li> </ul>	
<b>4. What are the assumptions about the benefits?</b>	<p>It is assumed that the project will continue to be as successful as previously and that similar numbers of families continue to engage with the programme. Given that the promotion of the service continues to grow year on year it is not expected that numbers of families will decrease. We also assume that the programme works in a preventative manner. We assume that through family and individual counselling, families have improved communication and continue to parent their children in a joint, positive manner. We are assuming that this has a positive impact on the outcomes for these young people.</p>	
<b>5. How are you testing your assumptions about the benefits?</b>	<p>Relate will continue to collect outcomes information on the project to monitor the benefits it is having. For example, Relate currently collect clinical progress, which monitors feedback from clients on issues such as feeling nervous or anxious, feeling able to cope when things go wrong and difficulty sleeping. In addition, the effect the counselling has on relationships before and after the sessions and the impact of counselling on personal issues, including drinking alcohol, self confidence and children's behaviour is monitored. At present a range of positive outcomes are reported. These indicators will continue to be monitored by the provider and the Children's Commissioning Team and any issues will be addressed quickly and comprehensively.</p>	
<b>6. What are the assumptions about any adverse impacts?</b> Could it have a negative effect on anyone?	Yes	
<b>6.1 Which groups/individuals could it have a negative impact on?</b>	<p>A small number of individuals report a negative effect on some personal issues. This may be due to the wider situation effecting the family, rather than the individual counselling sessions. Such families are monitored carefully by the provider. User feedback, including any complaints are used positively by the provider to improve future services.</p>	
<b>6.2 How could it have a negative impact on these groups/individuals? Please refer to the list of protected characteristics to assist your answer</b>	<p>The provider has a proactive approach to equality and diversity. One potential negative impact, could be that some groups of people are more likely to access the service than others and some protected characteristics any prevent people accessing the service. However the service continues to advertise the service in a variety of different locations to ensure that all individuals in the community have access to the service. In addition monitoring information is collected to ensure that the service continues to be utilised fully, by all eligible members of the community.</p>	

<p><b>7. How are you testing your assumptions about adverse impacts?</b></p>	<p>We currently have clear and concise monitoring information for the service to date. Data suggests that those protected characteristics are not adversely affected. For example, in Q3, of 354 clients, 45% were males and 55% were females. Males are generally harder to engage with counselling than females. This figure demonstrates that the service is attractive to both sexes, and that once engaged, both sexes find the service beneficial.</p> <p>The service also collects data on the age of the clients it reaches. In Q3, the age range of people accessing the service varied widely. For example, people from age ranges 0-9 years to 60-69 were accessing the service. This demonstrates that the service is accessible to users of all age groups. This is further supported because Relate are one of the few counselling services that offers counsellors trained to work with both adults, children and family counselling. This ensures that all ages of the community are able to access the service from young children to adults.</p> <p>In addition the service collects data on the ethnicity of the clients seen. In Q3, a large number of the clients considered themselves to be white British (66%), 2% considered themselves to be white other, 3% as other and 30% of people preferred not to disclose this information. Given the high number of people who preferred not to disclose this information it is difficult to say if it is exactly representative of the Lincolnshire population but it could be considered to be broadly similar.</p>
<p>7.1 What further evidence do you need to gather?</p>	<p>It would be useful if the service in the future could consider collecting data on the other protected characteristics, which are disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.</p>
<p><b>8. Who are the stakeholders and how will they be affected?</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Primary</b> (those directly affected, either positively or negatively by the organisation's actions)</p> <p>If the service is not recommissioned, this will primarily affect children, young people and their families. This will be the loss of a core preventative service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Secondary</b> (intermediaries, people or organisations who are indirectly affected by the organisation's actions)</p> <p>The service will have a knock on affect on to other services. In Q3 35 referrals were received from GPs and 9 from health visitors. Consequently a loss of the service would impact on health services who would have no service to refer families onto. In addition, a variety of other services, such as schools, social services and the armed forces refer into the service. It is likely that the separating parents programme also impact on other indicators, such as children's performance at school.</p>
<p><b>9. How are you assessing the risks and minimising adverse impacts?</b></p>	<p>We hope to minimise the risk of no longer having a service, by applying for an exception to the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules to ensure that the Separating Parents Programme can continue.</p>
<p><b>10. What changes will the Council need to make as a result of introducing the policy / project / service etc.?</b></p>	<p>A formal contract for a year will ensure the successful continuation of this service. This will allow adequate time to review the future needs of the service and develop a commissioning plan for counselling across Children's Services.</p>

<b>11. How will you undertake evaluation once the changes have been implemented?</b>	The service will continue to be monitored through contract monitoring meetings which are led by the Children's Commissioning Team. These will continue on a quarterly basis.
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<b>Further Details</b>			
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<b>Are you handling personal data?</b>	No	If yes, please give details		
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<b>How was this analysis undertaken? Facilitated workshop? Who attended?</b>	Analysis of contract management information.			
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<b>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Impact Analysis has been?</b>	Yes	If No, who needs to be involved?		
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<b>If this is new, or requires a decision by Councillors to revise, has this impact analysis been included with the committee report?</b>	Yes	If No, why?		
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<b>Actions required</b> Including any actions that have been identified in this analysis for monitoring in the service area work plan?	No	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Timescale</b>

<b>Signed off by</b>		<b>Date</b>	
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\* Cells of the form with shading will help you form your consultation plan, should you need to carry out a consultation as a result of Impact Analysis discussions.