

## MTRP Proposal - 18/19 and Beyond - Business Case

<b>Service Area</b>	Children's Services
<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	CFS181904
<b>Proposal Title</b>	Restructuring of the funding within the prevention services.
<b>Version</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
<b>Proposal Summary Description</b>	Restructuring of the funding within preventions services.
<b>Impact on Performance</b>	<i>Option 1</i> No impact <i>Option 2</i> No impact <i>Option 3</i> Reduction in number of families supported preventatively
<b>Impact on FTE Count</b>	<i>Option 1</i> No impact <i>Option 2</i> No impact <i>Option 3</i> Reduction of 4 FTE
<b>Impact on other Service Areas</b>	Reduced access to services particularly for schools and increased referrals to Children's Services if Option 3 is agreed
<b>Impact on Citizens</b>	Reduced service if Option 3 is agreed
<b>Delegated Decision (Head of Service/Cabinet Member/ Cabinet)</b>	Cabinet
<b>Activity Code</b>	SOC 26 integrated family support

<b>Net Savings (£000's)</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	311			

<b>Implementation Costs (- £000's)</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
<b>Revenue – Redundancy/Pension – if option 3 is agreed</b>	100			
<b>Revenue – External consultants</b>				
<b>Revenue - Other</b>				
<b>Capital – Building related</b>				
<b>Capital - Other</b>				
<b>Implementation Cost - Total</b>	100			

### **Current Position**

The preventions team provides support and interventions to families below the

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threshold for statutory intervention by Children's Services

This service has been independently evaluated by IPC as part of the wider Families First evaluation and is an effective provision for families. It contributes to the sustainability of comparatively low numbers of looked after children in Newport and provides the step up and step down provision for vulnerable families on the cusp of child protection. It provides the foundation for the Families First services and coordinates the single point of entry.

CANS (Children with Additional Needs) mirrors the preventions service but with a focus on children who have additional needs who do not meet the criteria for statutory interventions from the Disabled Children's Team.

Young Carers supports children and young people undertaking a caring role for their parents because of disability.

This proposal if Options 1 or 2 were agreed would not change the service and would not impact on the numbers of staff.

However, Option 3 would see a reduction in the service and a loss of posts.

### **Key Objectives and Scope**

The objective of this business case is a simple restructuring of the existing preventions service budget.

Families First provides a ranges of preventative services for children and families across the city. The existing grant funding is spread across strands with some delivered directly by council services and some by other providers. Welsh Government reviewed the grant in 2016 and has changed the parameters of the grant funding with an increased emphasis on parenting and direct work with children and young people. The stress on skills and employment related projects has reduced. Families First has to be recommissioned for the commencement of services in April 2018.

Children's Services delivers statutory interventions for families. The services are delivered in line with legislation and a regulatory framework. Services are inspected against the statutory and regulatory framework. Performance for Children's Services is measured externally against services for the most vulnerable. Early intervention and prevention, while desirable, are not part of the statutory provision.

Therefore, the preventions services should reasonably be funded by Families First. The timing of the recommissioning of Families First is an opportunity to reconfigure the funding in line with the statutory requirements.

### **Options considered**

#### **Option 1 - Retain the current arrangements**

The services would continue to be funded in the same way across Families First and Children's Services so no saving would be realised.

#### **Option 2 - Children's Services continues with funding of £130,000 while Families First funds £181,000 thus generating a saving of £181K from the core budget**

Families First has to be recommissioned by April 2018. There are already changes anticipated because of the changes in the grant conditions. The changes would allow

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for the increased funding of Preventions, CANS and Young Carers from the grant as all three will satisfy the grant requirements.

### **Option 3 - Children's Services saving of £311K so Families First would fund £181,000 while Children's Services ceases all funding**

This would lead to a diminution of the service offered. The increased pressure would in the short term be felt in other Families First services, education and community providers. In the medium term this would lead to greater numbers of children surfacing in statutory Children's Services. The three elements of Preventions, CANS and Young Carers all have waiting lists for services so any decrease in funding would increase the gap in provision.

#### **Recommended Proposal/Option**

Option 3

#### **Required Investment**

#### **High Level Milestones and Timescales**

In order to achieve a full year saving the engagement with staff would need to commence prior to the final cabinet decision.

#### **Key Risks/issues**

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Risk Score (as per matrix below)</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>
Greater number of referrals to Children's Services	4 x 4	None in place
Reduced capacity in schools for support	4 x 4	None in place

The primary risk will be an increased demand for other services including statutory Children's Services. This could bring about greater costs for acute services.

#### **Specific linkage with Future Generation Act requirements**

The preventions service is a core element of working with families in such a way as to prevent future problems. The service offers integrated interventions involving a range of agencies.

This business case potentially reduces the preventative services offered to families. A potential restructuring of the Families First grant may lead to a reduction in opportunities for third sector organisations.

#### **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment**

Yes