MTRP Proposal - 18/19 and Beyond - Business Case

Service Area	Children Services		
Unique Reference Number	CFS181902		
Proposal Title	Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) restructure		
Version	20 th December 2017		
Proposal Summary Description	The IFST is a regional team delivering family support using a range of intervention services to families where parental substance misuse is a key issue. It is proposed to wind up the regional team and replace with a consultation service in line with statutory requirements.		
Impact on Performance	The performance of the IFST is reported to Welsh Government. The reporting will be part of the proposed new arrangements which will be discussed with Welsh Government officials.		
Impact on FTE Count	12 posts. 3 posts return to the health service, six will have alternative roles		
Impact on other Service Areas	There will be increased demand on family assessment and support services but, given the current demands, this will be a manageable impact.		
Impact on Citizens	There will be a change in the way services are provided but the recommissioning of the reduction in the service available for Family Support but the recommissioning of the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) contract and the use of very similar interventions will mean a similar level of delivery.		
Delegated Decision (Head of Service/Cabinet Member/Cabinet)	Cabinet Member		
Activity Code	SOC 26 integrated family support service		

Net Savings (£000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	120			

Implementation Costs (-£000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension	75			
Revenue – External consultants	0			
Revenue - Other	0			
Capital – Building related	0			

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Capital - Other	0		
Implementation Cost - Total	25		

Current Position

The Integrated Family Support Team is a regional service delivered across the five Gwent councils. The requirement for the IFST is set out in Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWA). The current arrangements have been reviewed and the five councils are in agreement that, in order to deliver more aligned outcomes for family support and achieve savings, the service needs to be restructured.

In principle, agreement for the restructuring is already in place across the five local authorities and the type of minimal arrangement proposed has, again in principle, been agreed with Welsh Government.

In Newport, the work undertaken by the IFST would be absorbed into the wider family support services of the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS).

Current Resources

Three staff seconded from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board who will return to the board. There are nine staff employed by Newport who work across the region. All are qualified social workers and are likely to be redeployed by the five councils following consultation.

Key Objectives and Scope

The IFST has operated regionally for the past four years. While the service has supported many families and offered a strong range of evidence-based interventions, the regional delivery model has been challenging to deliver because of the structures of local teams and variations across the five councils.

Changes as a result of the SSWA bring an opportunity to review and rethink the delivery of the model. The best way to meet the needs of families and the requirements of the Act is being considered across Wales. For Newport, it is clear having the FASS and FST provision in place will ease the transition and ensure service delivery can be largely protected.

The IFST staff are already aware changes are required.

Options considered

Option 1 Retain the current arrangements

A restructuring would still be required to deliver the services in a way that is more effective

Option 2 Secure a saving of £120k

The current proposed restructuring to provide minimal service will generate a saving of £120k

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Recommended Proposal/Option

Option 2

Required Investment

None

High Level Milestones and Timescales

If the proposal is accepted the restructuring for the alternative arrangements will be finalised. Given the work already completed a full year saving will be achievable.

The final model will need to be agreed with the Regional Partnership Board and Welsh Government.

Key Risks/issues

Risk Description	Risk Score (as per matrix below)	Mitigation Measures
A loss of service will impact directly on families	3 x 3	Work with FASS and FST to consider additional pressures

Specific linkage with Future Generation Act requirements

The proposal is a saving which would result in a reduction in service. There is therefore no positive linkage with FG Act requirements.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

Yes