

Transformation to 2021 proposal details

Name of Transformation to 2021 proposal: Family Support Service and Early Help

T21 Opportunity Reference: PH6

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Department:

Adults' Health and Children's Services
Care



Corporate
Services



Culture,
Communities and
Business Services



Economy,
Transport and
Environment



Date of assessment: 5/8/2019

Is this a detailed or an overview EIA?

Detailed



Overview



Description of service / policy and the proposed change

Describe the current service or policy, giving a brief description of the current services in scope and the user demographic:

Early help is delivered through the Family Support Service (FSS), a multi-disciplinary, locality-based service, focused on children, young people and families where there is a need for support, but where families do not reach the threshold for statutory social care intervention. The FSS coordinates preventative support for identified families, provides support to partner agencies supporting families, offers groups and courses for families, offers sessions for single issues within a family and supports schools to manage attendance issues. Between April and June 2019, 3,412 children were receiving support at Level 3, multi-agency involvement to address multiple family needs.

Geographical impact:

All Hampshire

Basingstoke & Deane

East Hampshire

Eastleigh

Fareham

Gosport

Hart

Havant

New Forest

Rushmoor

Test Valley

Winchester

Describe the proposed change, including how this may impact on service users or staff:

The Public Health budget for the Family Support Service and Early Help is £2.821 million. A reduction of 13% would reduce the budget to £2.456 million and could have the following impact on the service:

- Reduced access to one to one support.
- Increase in waiting times for access to support.
- Reduction in the variety of support interventions available to children and families.

Who does this impact assessment cover?

Service users

HCC staff (including partners)

Engagement and consultation

The County Council's *Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget* consultation (2019-2021) will seek residents' and stakeholders' views on strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. Where applicable, detailed proposals for making savings will be subject to further, more detailed 'stage two' consultation before any decisions on service specific changes are made.

Has any pre-consultation engagement been carried out?

Yes

No

No, but planned to take place

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. Describe who was engaged or consulted. What was the outcome of the activity and how have the results influenced what you are doing? If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal – however, the County Council ran a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2019 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing Council Tax, using reserves and making changes to the way services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to the County Council’s Cabinet in October 2019. When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Consideration of impacts

Indicate whether the proposed change is expected to have a positive, neutral or negative (Low, Medium or High) impact on people who share the following characteristics.

For any characteristics with a positive, low negative, medium negative, or high negative impact, please describe this impact in the box provided.

For any characteristics with a medium negative, or high negative impact, please describe any mitigations in the box provided.

Statutory considerations

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: The Early Help Offer supports children and young people (CYP) from 0-19 (25 if they have learning development needs or disabilities). As of 31 July 2019: 449 CYP aged 0-4, 990 CYP aged 5-11 and 853 CYP aged 12-19 were using the service. Vulnerable young parents, children and young people aged 0-19 years and their families may experience a more limited offer and experience poorer outcomes due to the lack of capacity for early intervention. Reduced capacity to work one to one with families could potentially lead to greater numbers experiencing higher needs as fewer would be supported at the early stages.

Mitigation: By consulting with partners and service users, we would seek to maintain an Early Help offer that continues the highest priority interventions in key geographical areas, in line with usage and outcome data, within the budget constraints.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: As of 31 July 2019, 55 children with Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were receiving Early Help intervention in Hampshire. Impact: Potential for reduced:

- Early identification of special educational needs (SEN) resulting in
- adverse impact on development and attainment.
- support for CYP with SEN around transition (between schools etc).
- identification of parents with additional needs.
- integration opportunities resulting in poorer outcomes for children
- identification of and intervention for mental ill health (CYP and their adult parent/ carers).

Families where children have EHCPs would be able to access support such as short break activities, minimising the impact of any potential reduction.

Mitigation:

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:					
Mitigation:					
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:	Reduced accessibility of the service could disproportionately impact on families where English is not their first language as the offer becomes less focused on face to face intervention with interpreters. Reduced capacity to undertake holistic assessment to identify need and provide tailored care to ensure people from ethnic minority groups can access services where required.				
Mitigation:	Ensure all communications and marketing (including any digital offer) are available in different languages.				
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:					
Mitigation:					
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:					
Mitigation:					
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:	As of 31 July 2019, there were 1,044 female children accessing Early Help support and 1,239 male children therefore reductions to this service could impact more on male CYP. However, as primary care givers, mothers tend to be the primary contact with the service and there could be at risk of a disproportionate impact on adult women.				
Mitigation:	By consulting with partners and service users, we would seek to maintain the interventions most in demand in each local area, within the budget constraints.				
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact:					
Mitigation:					
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: A number of families accessing the Family Support Service Early Help offer will have multiple children. Some will have babies and others will be pregnant. These families and babies will receive a reduced service offer leaving them at a greater level of vulnerability to poor mental health, poor attachment, unidentified domestic abuse or substance misuse, higher rates of low birth weight (due to smoking in pregnancy for example). Safeguarding risk will increase due to reduced opportunity to assess risk thoroughly and intervene early.

Mitigation: Ensure effective links with wider partner services such as maternity and Public Health nursing to help ensure these women and babies are supported effectively

Other considerations

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Families with children face higher levels of poverty than other demographic groups and in 2016, 27,510 CYP under 20 were living in low income families in Hampshire. Families with low income and other vulnerabilities are at greater risk of needing level 2 or 3 support. There will no longer be capacity to offer the same level of support to these families which could subsequently lead to an increase in inequality in Hampshire.

Mitigation: We would consult with partners and service users, we would seek to maintain an Early Help offer that continues the highest priority interventions in key geographical areas, in line with usage and outcome data, within the budget constraints.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Rurality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Potential longer travel times to access interventions, which may result in more rural communities becoming isolated and unable to access the support they need at the right time. This may result in a greater level of need through escalation over time due to a lack of early intervention.

Mitigation: We would consult with partners and service users, we would seek to maintain an Early Help offer that continues the highest priority interventions in key geographical areas, in line with usage and outcome data, within the budget constraints. activities, in key geographical areas, in line with activity usage data, within the budget constraints. We would ask partners to ensure that they give consideration to families from surrounding areas in their service delivery. We would also look to facilitate discussions between partners operating in rural areas to explore innovative approaches to delivery, the sharing of resources and closer joint working to reduce costs.

If you have only identified neutral impacts, please state why:

Additional information

[Click here for guidance on any other factors to consider.](#)

Include any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment here:
(optional)