

Derbyshire County Council

**Meeting with Cabinet Member, Health and Communities
8 March 2018**

Report of the Director of Public Health

**PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
(Health and Communities)**

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to continue the delivery of the perinatal mental health service (Family Action), for the 2018/19 financial year, utilising funding of £0.110m Public Health funding to enable continuity of service delivery while a service is procured.

2. Information and analysis

At the meeting on 20 September 2016, Agenda Number 13, Cabinet approved a programme of non-recurrent investment in prevention interventions in 2016-17 and 2017-18, to support the priorities within the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The commissioning arrangement for each intervention was also agreed. At the meeting on 14 March 2017, Agenda Number 31, Cabinet approved an amendment to the funding mechanism in order to provide grant funding directly to Family Action.

The Family Action perinatal mental health service is available throughout Derbyshire. The service is an early intervention, low intensity service for those with low to moderate mental health issues. It is delivered through peer support to families by volunteers, additional family support, and therapeutic group interventions.

Family Action work closely with, and accept referrals from midwives, health visitors, GPS, Children's Centres and existing perinatal mental health services in order to support mothers with poor perinatal mental health and improve the life chances of infants and their parents. Interventions focus on supporting parents and promoting a secure attachment between parent/caregiver and infant before the baby is born and/or in the early weeks afterwards.

Family Action engages with families in their local communities, in their own homes and/ or within venues they currently access, making the service easily accessible.

Family Action report against four outcomes:

1. Parents supported by the project will demonstrate improved mental health, confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to fulfil their potential as parents
2. Parents supported by the project will demonstrate improved attachment with their children, improving their children's life chances, well-being and safety
3. Women supported by the project will feel less isolated and better supported through sharing their experiences and through accessing local provision
4. Volunteers will show improved confidence, self-esteem and well-being

As recipients of the grant, Family Action would not be contractually obliged to deliver the services, however the Council would seek to claw back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance.

Public Health are seeking to develop a partnership approach with the Provider and the National Parent Infant Partnership (PIP) initiative which has the potential to increase the overall investment. Extension of the grant will enable continuity of the service while the development of a Derbyshire PIP is explored. This will then inform decisions on longer term procurement of the service in line with Financial Regulations

3. Financial considerations

Funding of £0.110m for the service will be met from the Public Health ring-fenced budget. The funding will enable the service to provide continuity to service users while a long-term solution is investigated.

4. Social Value considerations

The service helps prevent the adverse effect of poor attachment on infants' long term health, thereby contributing to thriving children, young people and families. The inclusion of peer support builds the local voluntary sector capacity and improves self-esteem and employability for the volunteers. Many of the volunteers have been affected by perinatal mental ill-health themselves, so their involvement leads to social inclusion and ability to influence services.

Family Action is a well-established charity in Derbyshire who strengthen families and communities, build skills and resilience and improve the life chances of everyone they work with. In addition, Family Action offer mentoring to students and professionals on placement with the service.

5. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers

Cabinet Report 20th September, 2016

Cabinet Report 14th March, 2017

6. Key Decision

No

7. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

8. Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities approves the proposed award of grant payments of £0.110m to Family Action as set out in the report to continue the delivery of the perinatal mental health support service for one year from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2019.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health