**Troubled Families Programme headline updates –**

**15 January 2017**

This briefing provides a general update of the Kent Troubled Families Programme. For additional information, including district specific data, please contact david.weiss@kent.gov.uk or the relevant District Partnership Manger.

**1. Claims**

Between May 2015 and September 2016, 549 claims were made by Early Help, and 91 by FIPs. The total minimum target is 1580. There has since been a significant improvement in submission of claims, with the expectation that Kent will reach or exceed 16/17 targets, which places the county among the highest achieving TF program nationally.

There are currently 8508 families verified across the county. At 5th October 2016, 6776 of these families had been allocated to a worker, 69% of these being an early help worker.

**2. Criteria**

Education is the greatest refer at 41.4% of notifications, with the Police following at 21% and Health at 16.4%, with the remainder being from other agencies.

16% of all cases meet the Crime and ASB criterion, 57% Education, 96% Children Needing Help, 21% Out of Work/Financial Exclusion, 17% Domestic Abuse, and 52% Health.

There is marked success in most areas however, of the 16% meeting the ASB headline criterion only 29% of those have achieved the ASB indicator outcome as this is a difficult area to tackle. TF team are working with Kent Police and DPMs are working closely with Community Safety Partners to identify more effective ways of reducing ASB.

Only 28% of the cases meeting the Education Criterion are achieving the minimum requirement of 90% school attendance. Work is ongoing with schools and other partners to improve this.

Of the families meeting the health criterion the majority is due to having emotional health and well-being issues. The new Early Help Primary Mental Health Services designed to improve on this outcome.

3. **Commissioned Services**

From 1st December 2016, project Salus has been commissioned deliver the new Family Support Services contract in the North and West of the County, and Porchlight in the South and East. Referrals to the services will be made by district managers through the early help notification process.

An EU funding bid for the Saturday job scheme is to be developed.

**4. Troubled Families Team**.

Internal consultation of a restructure proposal closed on 21st December 2017 with Implementation planned for 1st April 2017. The restructure could see TF District Partnership Managers reduced from 12 to 9 across Kent (there are currently three vacant posts), which means that some districts would share a DPM.

TF is being integrated into Early Help to try and ensure that Early Help and Intervention offer a whole family approach, embedding the TF agenda.

Internal consultation ended 21st of December, with staff notified being 16th of January and implementation of the new structure from 1st April 2017.

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Swale Borough Council

January 2017