COMMITTEE: SOUTH EAST  REF NO: SEAC/14/04
DATE:  24 JULY 2014
SUBJECT:  HOMESTART FUNDING REQUEST
AUTHOR:  TARA SOMERS

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

List of Appendices included in this report:

a) Appendix 1 – Budget
b) Appendix 2 – External Evaluation undertaken by Steve Allman consultancy 2013
c) Appendix 3 – Family Casestudy

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

The following policies form a context to this report:
(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Transforming Ipswich
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW
(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

1. External Home-Start Evaluation undertaken by Steve Allman 2013
2. Home-Start 2013-14 annual accounts (draft until 14/7/2014)
4. Building a Better Ipswich report

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS
(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)
1. **Introduction**

Home-Start Suffolk Coastal is requesting funds to continue volunteer based family support, to families living in at the area covered by the South East area committee. Home-Start completed a 1year pilot in South East Ipswich in March 2014, evaluation and anecdotal data and information have shown a proven need to continue working in the South East Ipswich area.

1.1 No funding has been previously received by the area committees

1.2 £2000 has been received from IBC to support Ipswich based activities

1.3 £5000 has been received through fundraising and grants

1.4 The project will be volunteer based, managed by paid Home-Start Suffolk Coastal staff

1.5 Volunteers will visit families from 7am-8pm, and can support at weekends where appropriate

1.6 40 families will be supported during Apr 2014- Mar 2015

1.7 The referral criteria for families supported will be having at least 1 child age 0-11 living at home, and family residing in project area.

1.8 The total cost of annual South East Ipswich Home-Start support to families is £34,428 based on supporting 40 families

1.9 Through early intervention, and provision of targeted support, the cost saving on the public purse is £45,880, due to the decreased use of higher level services.

2. **Background**

2.1 Home-Starts aim is to improve the life chances of children by developing their parent’s skills in parenting, social relationships and budgeting to make stronger more cohesive families, such that families are able to contribute to their community and develop mutual support structures.

Our main activities are the provision of 1-1 support to families who display support needs which can cover (list not exhaustive); Social/Rural Isolation, Mental Health, Bereavement, Illness, Disability, and multiple birth.

This support provision whilst managed by paid, trained staff, is provided by our current team of 75 Home-visiting volunteers, all of
whom have received comprehensive, accredited training, and ongoing support. Volunteers visit their carefully matched and allocated family on a weekly basis, to help the needs as identified by both the family and professionals working with them, with the ultimate aim of providing children with the best start in life, and supporting parents to grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the local community. The scheme also provides a weekly family group in South East Ipswich (on Nansen Rd), where parents essentially meet to make friends and support each other. At the group Home-Start provides a group Leader and volunteers who are available to play with the children and to help the parents to improve their relationship with the child through play. The Family group allows the parents the opportunity to talk to and make friends with other parents. Family groups also serve the purpose of assisting families in engaging with other agencies, and are regularly attended by Health and wellbeing professionals, having this involvement in an environment that families consider non-threatening is key to families building up trust and continuing to engage with professional outside of the group, where usually they would have avoided these key services. Families we support can also receive benefits and grants checks, these can ensure families are receiving the correct level of benefit, and also assist families in applying for funding for equipment and services where appropriate.

2.2 Suffolk Coastal has worked in Suffolk Coastal for 13yrs, and since 2007 there has been increasing demand from both local families and professional agencies for the schemes work to be expanded in Ipswich. In 2012 two of the Suffolk based Home-Start schemes agreed to develop work within the Ipswich Boundaries, with Home-Start South Suffolk taking responsibility for North west and South west Ipswich, and Home-Start Suffolk Coastal taking responsibility for North East, South East and 2 of the Central wards. We were lucky enough to be granted funding from the East Suffolk Clinical commissioning group, and adding fundraising efforts to this allowed us to take a lead in getting a pilot in Ipswich underway. During the Pilot phase which ran for 1 year, we supported 34 families living in South East Ipswich.

2.3 During the pilot phase we received 35 referrals from the South East area:
- Priory Heath ward- 24 referrals
- Gainsborough ward- 9 referrals
- Holywells ward- 2 referrals

We were able to support 34 of 35 of these families during the pilot phase.

During the pilot phase referrals came from the following sources:
• Health visiting team - 49%
• Self-referral's - 41%
• Social work referrals - 6%
• Children’s centre referrals 4%
The total number of referrals accounted for 25% of our entire service, and the number of families supported in South East Ipswich accounted for 24% of the entire service.

2.4 Of the 34 families supported in South East Ipswich, 27 received Home-visiting support, from a trained, managed volunteer, 7 received a group only service, and 9 received group and Home-visiting services. Co-ordinators worked with families and referrers to identify how families were managing in certain areas, and then supported families based on these identified areas. The following chart shows the outcome of this support:

Overall in South East Ipswich 68% of families need was achieved, and 34% were partially achieved.

2.5 21 Volunteers have been provided to support the number of families. 15 of these have been newly trained, and 6 have been from the existing pool of volunteers (due to their experience in complex cases). Volunteers are recruited locally, we ask that volunteers have parenting experience, and they undergo DBS and reference checks. All volunteers receive a minimum of 35hrs training, and an externally
recognised level 2 accreditation. Volunteers receive ongoing support, supervision and training. Volunteers visit families at an agreed time for 3/4hrs per week, providing support in line with a family's identified need.

Support is monitored by co-ordinators, who liaise with the family, the volunteer and any professionals working with the family. Home-Start's role is to provide the family with skills and support so that one support comes to an end the family are able to cope in the long term, e.g. volunteers can work with a family to help them access local services, attend health appointments, supporting families to improve child school readiness, support in household routines, support with play, support to set up and manage routines etc.

3. Relevant Policies AND Area Action considerations

3.1 South East Area committee priority- Families
3.2 Building a Better Ipswich Themes 1, and 2. - 1.2, 1.6, 2.7
3.3 State of Ipswich report 1.11- Thriving young and diverse population
3.4 Suffolk Health and wellbeing board outcomes 1, 2, 4
3.5 Children's Trust priority 4

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

4.1 Option 1 Fund £9000 which is approximately 1/3rd of the remaining annual project shortfall of supporting families in South East Ipswich. £7000 funding has been awarded from alternative sources, but there is still a shortfall of £27,428 to cover the support needs of South East Ipswich

4.2 Option 2 Fund the staff costs 1/2 of a co-ordinators salary for the south east area £8069

4.3 Option 3- Fund ¼ of the shortfall £6857 and provide costs savings to the scheme through the use of free to use public transport and parking permits for volunteers to support families, and prevent these costs from being incurred.

5. Consultations

5.1 External evaluation undertaken 2013- included as appendix b
5.2 Case study appendix c
6. Risk Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Consequence of risk</th>
<th>Risk Controls</th>
<th>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale A-F): A – very likely, F – almost impossible</th>
<th>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – catastrophic; 4 – negligible)</th>
<th>Actions to mitigate risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Insufficient funding leading to withdrawal of service from area</td>
<td>Limited non-stigmatised, flexible early intervention service available to families, families requiring later higher level support</td>
<td>B if funding not given</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Provide funding to service</td>
<td></td>
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7. Environmental Impact Assessment

7.1 The project activities will have a minimal impact on the local area, as activities are generally to support ‘normal’ day to day activities, and will take place either within the family home, or in the local area public places.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

8.1 There has been no adverse equality and diversity impact identified within the activities of the project. The project will work with a diverse section of society, and include a wide ethnic mix. Home-Start has equality and diversity policies in place, undertakes cultural awareness training with volunteers, and recruits a wide mix of volunteers to reflect the local area.

9. Financial Considerations

9.1 Explanatory notes to any financial implications and a summary table of the implications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue/capital expenditure item</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding towards the ongoing costs of running Home-Start services in SE Ipswich</td>
<td>£9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>½ of co-ordinators salary</td>
<td>£8069</td>
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<tr>
<td>¼ cost of scheme</td>
<td>£6857</td>
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10. Legal Considerations
10.1 There are no specific legal considerations relating to this report

11. Performance Monitoring

11.1 The activities will be monitored by HSSC and monitoring reports can be provided in line with requests from the area committee

12. Conclusions

12.1 To Continue to offer support, friendship and practical assistance to families in the South East area

12.2 Giving reassurance to parents when they need it.

13. Recommendations

13.1 That the South East Area Committee support the Homestart service and fund either option 1, 2 or 3. From the Area Committee Budget

Reason: To support and reassure parents and families at crucial times