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5. **The Early Help Transition Team Presentation**

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Developing a strategic approach to Early Intervention and Prevention

Update on progress towards developing an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, and short-term implications for the Transitions Team and Early Help Development Service

Background and Context

- Working Together Guidance 2018 set out a framework for partnership working
- Early Help Review 2019 set direction for changes to early help and Front Door services and laid the foundations for establishment of the Transitions Team (Early Help)
- Previous decision by Cabinet to invest 3 years in developing relationships with partners to understand their responsibilities in delivery of early help / early intervention
- Owing to the impact of COVID, the Transitions Team were deployed to support partners, acute delivery, and to help address the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic
- As a result there is more work to do in order to develop a sustainable partnership model of Early Help / Early Intervention and Prevention

Background and Context

- The current model has delivered some significant success, but now requires further development
- An Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy is required to develop the current model of Early Help, build on successes and drive partnership working and accountability
- Until we have an EIP Strategy we are proposing that we extend the current model whilst that work is undertaken – to cease at this point would not be in the best interests of partners, children and young people and families
- Time-limited extension of the Transitions Team will enable:
 - Continuity of support to strategic partners in relation to early help, while a new model is developed
 - Continuity of successful provision of support in relation to Employment, Education and Training
 - Early Help advisers to model Team Around the Child meetings
 - Community Directory Development

Resourcing

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- Transitions Team have generated £5.9m through Supporting Families Programme over three years through payment by results and Transformation Grants
- Income generated has been held in Supporting Families reserves
- Some of the income generated will be drawn down to support the extension of the Transitions Team for 22 months (October 22 – July 2024)
- The annual cost of the Transitions Team is £1.595m. Funds currently in the Supporting Families reserve total over £3m – more than is needed to sustain the Transitions Team for 22 months
- The Government have extended the Supporting Families Programme until 2025 as part of the Levelling Up initiative; extending the Team will enable Derbyshire to continue to generate income whilst improving outcomes for children and young people, and shaping a new sustainable model of delivery post July 2024

Links to Wider Agendas

- **Thriving Communities**

- Central to our thinking
- Empowering and enabling communities
- Communities coproducing and designing solutions

- **Enterprising Council**

- Best way to get the best outcome for the customers
- More efficient, creative and commercial use of resources

- **Vision Derbyshire**

- Focus on Strategic partnership
- Building effective systems leadership
- Looking at further development of Locality Partnership meetings to drive a partnership approach to Early Help / Early Intervention and Prevention

- **Levelling Up**

- Sustained focus on Supporting Families through extension of the Transitions Team
- Delivery against social mobility, Education, Employment and Training outcomes



Next Steps

1. Develop an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, and a new model to deliver it
2. The Strategy will be developed over the next 12-18 months
3. Elected Members will be engaged in and updated on development of the Strategy
4. The Transitions Team do important work which needs to be shaped and evolved as part of a new model of Early Intervention and Prevention

Examples of opportunities to explore further as the Strategy develops:

- A more effective, aligned, strategic partnership approaches to early help and early help assessments
- Early Help becomes the preventative end of children's social care - is working at a higher end to prevent children and young people escalating through the care system, preventing children from becoming Child In Need, on Child Protection Plan or taken into care
- Schools supported and enabled to offer low-level family work without referring into children's social care
- Raise levels of understanding of risk and strengthen risk management in the system
- Review Thresholds approaches to defining and assessing risk
- Develop information, advice and guidance – e.g. an Advice Line fit for purpose; robust and proportionate gatekeeping at the front door; enabling self-service access to information and advice