

**PREVENTION INVEST TO TRANSFORM: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS/DISABILITIES TRANSFORMATION**

Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Resources

Authors: - Sally Orr, Head of Family Services Commissioning  
(Tel: 01992 555680)  
Karen Noble, Performance Improvement Manager  
(Tel: 01992 588394)

Executive Member/s: - Ralph Sangster, Resources and Performance  
Teresa Heritage, Children, Young People and Families

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 For Cabinet to consider the business case, attached at Appendix 1, for Prevention Invest to Transform funding.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The County Council is responsible for a range of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). There are already financial pressures on these services, and the increasing demography and complexity of need means the demand for high cost specialist services will significantly increase these pressures over the next five years.
- 2.2 In addition, the support and services currently offered have developed over a number of years and parents/carers, schools and professionals have fed back that the system is complex and difficult to navigate.
- 2.3 The rationale and proposals within the business case have been developed at a series of focus group meetings which included representatives from parent forums, schools, Adult Care Services, leads for current services, commissioners, Clinical Commissioning Groups and an external advisor from a neighbouring local authority.
- 2.4 Three priority areas for transformation have been identified:
- Develop local multi-disciplinary teams and community support networks
  - Maximise the benefits of digital technology
  - Improve access to independent living, employment and training.
- 2.5 The business case sets out the current barriers to success, context and data, required business changes, resources needed for transformation, outcomes for children, young people and their families. It also includes the anticipated savings and cost avoidance from the transformation.

- 2.6 The business case seeks two years funding (from September 2018) to deliver the transformation programme, attached at Appendix 2, alongside the ‘business as usual’ work needed to meet the County Council’s statutory responsibilities.
- 2.7 The outcomes from the transformation programme will ensure services for children and young people with SEND and their families provide effective intervention, manage the increasing demand and make efficient use of resources. Families will be able to access support in their local communities, be connected and more independent of public sector services, and this will reduce pressure across the SEND system in the local authority and the local health economy.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Resources & Performance Cabinet Panel and the Children, Young People & Families Cabinet Panel both considered a report on this item of business at their respective meetings on 6 June 2018 and 20 June 2018. The Panels recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet approves the proposed approach of Children’s Services to transforming the system, services and approach to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and their families and agrees to the investment of £3,012,357 from the Prevention Invest to Transform funding.

### 4. Background information

- 4.1 The case for change (section 1) the rationale (section 2) the current context in Hertfordshire (section 3) are set out in the business case (attached at appendix 1).

### 5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The business case sets out the current budget pressures (section 4), and the cost of doing nothing (section 5).
- 5.2 The business case seeks an investment of £3,012,357 from Prevention Invest to Transform funding:

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Local networks and support	146,593	1,039,311	289,311	0	0
Maximising the benefits of digitalisation	65,782	280,107	130,107	0	0
Independent living and access to employment	127,330	248,615	248,615	0	0
Programme implementation	174,109	174,109	88,368	0	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>513,814</b>	<b>1,742,142</b>	<b>756,401</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT:</b>	<b>3,012,357</b>				

5.3 Sections 6.10 and 8.10 in the business case also set out the detail behind the expected savings of £1.74M and the expected cost avoidance of £3.23M from the transformation programme.

## **6. Equalities Implications**

6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equality implications of the decision that they are making.

6.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) produced by officers.

6.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.4 A full Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed during the model development phase of the transformation programme if the application for Invest to Transform funding is successful.

### Background Information

None