

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S MEETING WITH THE LEADER

12 MAY 2022

The Reducing Parental Conflict Local Grant

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request authorisation to complete a funding bid to the DWP for the allocated two year funding (2022/23 2023/24) of £102, 267. With a view to extend the funding in year 3 (2024/5) by £44,000 and to seek delegation to the Corporate Director Strategic Resources to accept any funding ultimately offered as a result of the bid.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A new national Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Programme, announced in 2017, invested £39 million until 2021 to support both the supply and demand for evidence-based interventions at a local level.

2.2 The DWP have announced a new grant scheme for 2022 - 25, the Reducing Parental Conflict Local Grant. The grant is to support local authorities (LAs) to further embed support to address parental conflict in their area, thereby improving outcomes for children. The grant follows on from the RPC Workforce Development Grant of 2021 - 2022 and increases the funding and range of RPC activities that can be funded.

2.3 The DWP have allocated North Yorkshire County Council £102,267 for 2022 – 2024, additional monies in 2025 of £44,000 can only be applied for if the DWP are satisfied that the funding has been used in accordance with their terms and conditions.

LAs will be required to bid for their grant funding allocation. To enable longer-term planning the DWP has requested LAs submit plans for the first two years (on the basis of the indicative amounts) of the grant upfront, with a review point before the third year's funding

3.0 CONTEXT/IMPACT

3.1 The Funding will cover

- The costs of external trainers to provide training, tools and digital resources to the Children and Families Workforce, to increase their knowledge and skills when supporting parents where Parental Conflict and relationship distress are having a detrimental impact on children's development and outcomes.
- The costs of providing training to a range of staff in educational settings including those working in specialist roles such as pastoral support, safeguarding leads, key workers, school attendance, parenting and SEND.
- The costs of providing accessible digital resources for parents who are in relationship distress.
- The costs of working in partnership with the Armed Forces in Catterick to support Army Welfare Officers to work proactively with families where parental conflict is a significant issue.

- 3.2 Early Intervention and Prevention programmes that focus on reducing child exposure to destructive conflict and preventing children from becoming caught in the middle of parental/caregiver disagreements suggest improved outcomes for children.
- 3.2 Prevention programmes that support the parental/caregiver’s relationship early in children’s lives may have long-term impacts on improving children’s mental health, future life chances, and patterns of positive relationship behaviour across generations.
- 3.3 Increasing the skills and knowledge of the Children and Families Workforce, Education, Health and the Voluntary sector through training and ongoing support, we will be able to reach more families at the early stages of relationship conflict; helping them to understand the impact that their conflict has on their children and young people.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In line with Cabinet Office best practice the DWP will pay the grant allocation quarterly in arrears based on actual spend; therefore we must ensure that any “ flow down” to suppliers is in line with this time line,
- 4.2 There will be up to three payments in year one, and four in subsequent years. The first payment will be made from November 2022, subject to the return and validation of the first MI in October 2022. Therefore, expenditure will need to be covered before the first MI is returned to the DWP.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from submission of this application, and there are no subsidy control implications. In the event the application for this grant funding is successful, the proposal is to undertake a competitive procurement exercise in accordance with the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, and if relevant, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

6:0 EQUALITIES

There are no equality impacts as all RPC training will be fully accessible and inclusive to all participants thus ensuring equal access to support, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and NYCC Equality and Diversity policies.

7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Healthy relationships between parents are an important focus for Early Intervention and family services. The quality of the relationship between parents, specifically how they communicate and relate to each other, has a significant influence on effective parenting and children’s long-term outcomes.
- 7.2 According to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), 1.4 million families in the UK are in relationship distress and struggling to maintain healthy relationships.
- 7.3 There is strong evidence from the Early Intervention Foundation and ongoing research that although conflict between parents is a normal part of relationships; there is a large body of evidence, which shows that parental conflict puts children’s mental health and long-term outcomes at risk, when the conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved.

- 7.4 Exposure to ongoing destructive parental conflict is associated with a range of problems for children and young people. This can include poorer academic outcomes, negative peer relationships, substance misuse, poor future relationships, low employability and heightened interpersonal violence. It is also associated with mental health difficulties such as anxiety and depression, behavioural issues, poor attachment, risk-taking behaviours and even suicidality.
- 7.5 When children do not witness positive conflict resolution, they do not gain experience in the importance of compromise, negotiation and listening to other's points of view, causing them to struggle to maintain peer relationships and future relationships with partners causing the intergenerational cycle to continue into adulthood within their own adult relationships.
- 7.6 Poverty and economic pressures can put a family under considerable stress and have an enormous strain on relationships. This in turn can lead to extra pressures on services such as health, substance misuse, education and social care. By working with families as part of early intervention, we will help them to alleviate these pressures and help to reduce the long-term costs of providing specialist services.
- 8.0 RECOMMENDATION
- 8.1 To authorise the bid and the use of the funding as stated above in the body of the report.

STUART CARLTON
Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

Report written by Sara Atkin.

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
 Environmental Impact Assessment
 Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	<u>The Reducing Parental Conflict local grant</u>
Brief description of proposal	NYCC has been allocated just over £102,000 over two years to support front line Practitioners and parents to reduce parental conflict
Directorate	CYP
Service area	Children and Families
Lead officer	Sara Atkins
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Margaret Mitchell
Date impact assessment started	09/05/2022

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

The funding has been allocated by the DWP for the specific purpose of reducing parental conflict within families where this has an impact on children's development and long-term outcomes.

Alternative options were not progressed due to the criteria instructed by the DWP.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

In line with Cabinet Office best practice the DWP will pay the grant allocation quarterly in arrears based on actual spend; therefore we must ensure that any "flow down" to suppliers is in line with this time line,
There will be up to three payments in year one, and four in subsequent years. The first payment will be made from November 2022, subject to the return and validation of the first MI in October 2022.

We are hoping that this programme will benefit and reduce the Councils costs due to families being able to use their strategies to manage their own conflict instead of referring to the Children's and Families Service

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel	x				
	Emissions from construction	x				
	Emissions from running of buildings	x				
	Other					
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		x				
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>		x				
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		x				

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		x				
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>		x				
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>		x				
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

All of the training for Practitioners will be virtual; therefore, there will not be travel implications.
Partnership work with additional agencies will be virtual.

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The DWP have allocated the funding for us to help families to recognise the impact that Parental Conflict has on their children's development and long-term outcomes. By agreeing to accept this funding, we can work with families to improve their relationships and help them to stay together.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Sara Atkins
Job title	Practice Supervisor
Service area	Stronger Foundations
Directorate	CYPS
Signature	
Completion date	09/05/2022

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):

Date: