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| Subject: | Provision of Functional Family Therapy to support families with children at risk of being looked after and or accommodated (Children, Families and Justice Services) |
| Purpose: | To seek IJB approval to establish a Functional Family Therapy Service. |
| Recommendation: | The IJB agrees to North Ayrshire Council (NAC) undertaking a collaborative commissioning exercise with east Ayrshire Council (EAC) and South Ayrshire Council (SAC) to provide a Functional Family Therapy Service (FFT). |

| Glossary of Terms | |
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| NHS AA | NHS Ayrshire and Arran |
| HSCP | Health and Social Care Partnership |
| NASHCP | North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership |
| NAC | North Ayrshire Council |
| FFT | Functional Family Therapy |

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| 1. | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY |
| 1.1 | North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) were responsible for the care plans and accommodation of 605 children last year. Children being accommodated for many safety and wellbeing reasons, with the most prevalent factor for North Ayrshire HSCP presently, and in the preceeding 3 years being family breakdown. |
| 1.2 | The children were supported in various accommodation settings, including kinship care, internal and external fostering, adoption, external education/residential placements, external secure accommodation and children residing within our North Ayrshire children units. |
| 1.3 | The overall cost of accommodating the children away from their family during 2017 was in excess of £15 million. |
| 1.4 | The service required will provide a specialist early intervention family support programme for children aged 11 years and over, which has proven successful in improving family resilience with families remaining together. |
| 1.5 | The programme identified is Functional Family Therapy, delivered in Scotland for 5 years in 5 Local Authority areas, licenced and delivered by Action for Children. |

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| 1.6 | This provision supports NAHSCP priorities: reducing inequalities, improving mental health and wellbeing, bringing services together by providing an additional early intervention programme as part of Children and Families Intervention Services. |
| 2. | BACKGROUND |
| 2.1 | <p>Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a specialist service providing intensive family support. The programme is used extensively in the United States of America, Norway and Sweden and is a highly successful programme with research studies showing successful reductions in offending and importantly for North Ayrshire at improving family relations, and reducing numbers of children being accommodated.</p> <p>The programme has been running in the United Kingdom for 8 years and in Scotland for 5 years with demonstrated positive impact and outcomes for children and their families.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>FFT is a short term intensive intervention programme with a Functional Family Therapist working alongside parents, carers or other significant people important in the child's life. The programme interventions range from twelve to thirty sessions over a 3 - 5 month period.</p> <p>Most of the activity is carried out involving all key people around the child and in the family home. The FFT programme is tailored to the individual child and family's goals and aspirations.</p> <p>The intensity and duration of the sessions are dependent on the levels of risk that the child is assessed as experiencing and or exposed to.</p> <p>There are five key phases of interventional activity :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Motivation • Relational assessment • Behaviour change • Generalisation <p>The FFT therapists work with the child and family to identify what's important to each of them, what some of the challenges are, and within a context of their individual family dynamics and relationships.</p> <p>The team build on the family's collective strengths, assisting with coping strategies and approaches to overcome difficulties. It is important that the programme is a whole-family approach. Each family receives at least one session a week. In between sessions contact with the child and family is maintained.</p> |
| 3. | PROPOSALS |
| 3.1 | That the IJB gives approval for a collaborative commissioning exercise to be undertaken to deliver Functional Family Therapy for children and families at risk of family breakdown, working with North, South and East Ayrshire. |
| 3.2 | As North Ayrshire HSCP is the lead for Child/Adolescent Mental Health and Psychology Services, the Children, Families and Justice HSCP Services will lead on the collaborative commissioning of FFT with support of NAC Service Design and Procurement Team. |

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| 3.3 | North, South and East HSCP's will each contribute £50,000 annually for three years, which enables implementation and running costs of the FFT programme in each area. |
| 3.4 | <p>The financial commitment agreed will employ, in line with programme licence, an FFT Supervisor and fund supervision and training for the team from Action for Children, in addition to running costs and payment of FFT professional license fees.</p> <p>In addition, in kind contribution from each HSCPs will be made to second at least one full time staff member to train and work as a FFT therapist. The team consisting of 1 supervisor and 3 to 5 therapists. The HSCPs will offer existing accommodation for staff and admin support keeping costs to a minimum.</p> |
| 3.5 | North Ayrshire Children, Families and Justice Services have identified the 50K funding allocation required through realignment of resource within Intervention Services therefore no request for additional funding sought. |
| 3.6 | <u>Anticipated Outcomes</u> |
| | <p>Children and families experiencing challenges and risks will have access to a dedicated, individualised and evidenced based intervention programme which will address issues that have a negative impact on their lives and risk children being accommodated.</p> <p>More children with family challenges will be able to safely remain at home with their families, at school and in local communities.</p> <p>More children, families and children services will be aware of this programme to refer to and access in order to help.</p> <p>The programme works with vulnerable young people and their families, including those with behavioural difficulties, involvement in offending, violent behaviour and substance misuse, there will be a reduction in the number of young people entering care, having a positive impact on younger siblings and reducing the number of participants entering adult justice services.</p> |
| 3.7 | <u>Measuring Impact</u> |
| | <p>Monitoring reports will be provided highlighting referral numbers, sources and sessions completed</p> <p>Outcomes will be measured with families on the following dimensions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family change – evidenced by improved family relations • Improved communication skills • Improved adolescent behaviour • Improved parenting skills for handling subsequent problems • Improved parent supervision • Decreased family conflict <p>Reduced use of away from home care provision.</p> |

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| 4. | IMPLICATIONS <p>The implementation of FFT programme will reduce the number of children who become looked after and accommodated away from home, and the costs associated. It is also anticipated that the outcomes for children will be improved by remaining within a family setting and in local communities.</p> |
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| Financial : | £50,000 per year, per HSCP, for North Ayrshire this will be taken from identified budget in Intervention Services. |
| Human Resources : | Secondment of one to two posts per HSCP to a FFT therapist post. |
| Legal : | The Procurement will be carried out in line with the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 and North Ayrshire Councils Standing Orders. |
| Equality : | No known impact upon equality. |
| Environmental & Sustainability : | It would be anticipated that over three years there would be savings attached to the approach by reducing external placements. It would be anticipated that these savings would be re-invested in this approach. |
| Key Priorities : | There is a clear commitment within the Children Service Plan to implement FFT, it also meets the HSCP strategic priorities as well as our commitment to Part 12 of the Children and Young Peoples Act 2014 and Corporate Parenting responsibilities. |
| Risk Implications : | None known |
| Community Benefits : | The basis of the Exception Request is that, in terms of Contract Standing Orders Section 6 'Exemptions from the Application of Contract Standing Orders' the procurement of Functional Family Therapy services are exempt from the application of Contract Standing Orders by virtue of the criteria; <i>"The purchase of goods or materials, the execution of works or supply of services for which the procurement officer considers that no genuine competition can be obtained"</i> |

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| Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both | Direction to :- [Appendix 1] | |
| | 1. No Direction Required | |
| | 2. North Ayrshire Council | |
| | 3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran | |
| | 4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran | X |

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| 5. | CONSULTATION |
| 5.1 | <p>Family Functional Therapy is an integral part of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership discussions and as such included within North Ayrshire's Children Service Plan, as a promise made to introduce this provision.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders as part of the Children Services Plan development including young people and families, mental health services, education colleagues and wider community planning partners.</p> <p>There have been children services team and management discussions, as well as a number of Pan Ayrshire discussions.</p> <p><i>Procurement within North Ayrshire Council have been consulted throughout the process and have guided the HSCP.</i></p> |

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| 6. | CONCLUSION |
| 6.1 | <p>The IJB are asked to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the requirement for a collaborative commissioning of FFT 2. Approve the procurement of this service as advised by the Service Design and Procurement Team in North Ayrshire Council |

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DIRECTION

From North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board



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| 1. | Reference Number | 15032018 | |
| 2. | Date Direction Issued by IJB | 15 March 2018 | |
| 3. | Date Direction takes effect | 15 March 2018 | |
| 4. | Direction to | North Ayrshire Council | |
| | | NHS Ayrshire & Arran | |
| | | Both | √ |
| 5. | Does this direction supercede, amend or cancel a previous direction – if yes, include the reference numbers(s) | Yes | |
| | | No | No |
| 6. | Functions covered by the direction | Provision of Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to support families with children at risk of being looked after and or accommodated (Children, Families and Justice Services) as highlighted in report. | |
| 7. | Full text of direction | North Ayrshire Council is directed to undertake a collaborative procurement exercise on behalf of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership with East Ayrshire Council (EAC) and South Ayrshire Council (SAC) to provide a Functional Family Therapy Service to the value of £50,000 per annum for 3 years as outlined in report. | |
| 8. | Budget allocated by Integration Joint Board to carry out direction | £50,000 per annum per Partnership. | |
| 9. | Performance Monitoring Arrangements | The contracts forming part of this service will be managed in line with the Performance Management Framework for North Ayrshire HSCP and a monitoring officer will be appointed from the HSCP. | |
| 10. | Date of Review of Direction (if applicable) | May 2021 | |