

Cheltenham Borough Council

Inspiring Families

Delegated decision by Cllr. Flo Clucas, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles

Accountable member	Cllr. Flo Clucas, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles
Accountable officer	Richard Gibson, Strategy and Engagement Manager
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>Inspiring Families (IF) is a partnership made up of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Homes, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gardeners Lane and Oakwood Federation schools.</p> <p>IF connects with and works alongside families in Cheltenham to create strong and meaningful relationships, make informed choices and to take action on the things that matter to them. This leads to more resilient families making independent positive life choices and communities that are able to support each other.</p> <p>The council has in the past employed an Inspiring Families Project Officer to coordinate the project. The post whilst hosted by CBC, has been entirely funded by Cheltenham Borough Homes. Due to the temporary nature of the funding, the council has only been able to offer short-term contracts for the post.</p> <p>The council has been working with partners to assemble a broader funding package to enable the post to be offered on a minimum of a two year basis. As part of this funding package, it is proposed that CBC contribute £15k into the pot. The intention is to relaunch the project in April once all funding contributions are secured.</p> <p>Given the importance of supporting children and young people that are growing up in poverty, the fact that the members of the council have supported the year of action unanimously, I am recommending that the council makes a financial contribution of £15,000 to support the employment of the Inspiring Families project co-ordinator.</p>
Recommendations	To allocate £15,000 to support the employment of the Inspiring Families project co-ordinator.
Financial implications	<p>It is proposed that the £15k is funded from the following cost centres: COM001 R6280 CPN007 – Inspiring Families fund.</p> <p>Contact officer: Jon Whitlock Business Partner Accountant Business Support Services Jon.Whitlock@publicagroup.uk 01242 26 4354</p>

Legal implications	None identified
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	The funding will enable the council to employ the project coordinator on a fixed term basis for 2 years. <i>Carmel Togher</i> <i>HR Business Partner</i> <i>Business Support Services</i> <i>Email: carmel.togher@publicagroup.uk</i> <i>Tel: 078100 96416</i>
Key risks	
Corporate and community plan Implications	The positive activities and building resilience project both help deliver the council's corporate outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our residents enjoy a strong sense of community • Communities feel safe and are safe.
Environmental and climate change implications	None identified

2. Background

2.1 Inspiring Families is a partnership made up of Cheltenham Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Homes, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gardeners Lane and Oakwood Federation schools.

2.2 Eight years ago the partners recognised that they needed to work differently with some families in Cheltenham who found engaging with the system and services as they were structured was difficult for them. Partners therefore came together to develop a new way of working alongside families that felt 'stuck' in a more traditional approach to support.

2.3 Since that time there has been local and national restructuring of services to meet demand at the more acute end of need and changes in policy that have made the need for a different approach to working with some families even more essential. The families who achieve the best outcomes through the IF project tend to be those with low level needs which could escalate if left unaddressed or those who have been in and out of any level of service but have not managed to make long term changes to their family life.

2.4 The Inspiring Families vision is:

We want Cheltenham families to be resilient, inspired and fulfilling their potential

In order to achieve this we support Cheltenham families to unlock and fulfil their potential by working with them to:

- *Make their own choices and understand the impact of doing so*
- *Get support when they need it*
- *Act as part of their community*
- *Show them there is always hope for the future*

3. The Inspiring Families offer

3.1 IF connects with and works alongside families in Cheltenham to create strong and meaningful relationships, make informed choices and to take action on the things that matter to them. This leads to more resilient families making independent positive life choices and communities that are able to support each other.

- 3.2** We act as and seek trusted individuals to provide and facilitate the most appropriate support when families need it, acting as a critical friend and working in a way that recognises and uses the strengths of a family and their own ambitions.
- 3.3** We understand that all families have stories that make them who they are. We work to create safe, kind spaces to allow them to process the past working together with them to build resilience and connect with their community to enjoy a better future.
- 3.4** This means that our offer works in a flexible and complementary way to statutory and commissioned provision such as social services, Family First and Early Help.
- 3.5** Our services include:
- Engagement activities to start a different relationship with families
 - Holiday veg boxes and a book bank
 - Peer support training and self-help groups
 - Our Place peer support group and accredited parent/community training
 - One -to -one family support to work out the families ambitions for the future
 - Joint plans that agencies and families are responsible for
 - Family asset maps
 - Partnership work to support families to become part of their community
 - Linking families with existing community projects
 - Support to attend community events
 - Training for agencies and community partners on strengths based approaches to working with families

4. About the proposal to commit funding to support Inspiring families

- 4.1** The council has in the past employed an Inspiring Families Project Officer to coordinate the project. The post whilst hosted by CBC, has been entirely funded by Cheltenham Borough Homes. Due to the temporary nature of the funding, the council has only been able to offer short-term contracts for the post.
- 4.2** The council has been working with partners to assemble a broader funding package to enable the post to be offered on a minimum of a two year basis. As part of this funding package, it is proposed that CBC contribute £15k into the pot, along with similar-sized contributions from there other partners.
- 4.3** With a pot of £60k, the council can then go out to recruit a co-ordinator on a 2 year fixed term contract. The intention is to relaunch the project in April once all funding contributions are secured as part of the No Child Left Behind theme for April of #strongfamilies.
- 4.4** Given the importance of supporting children and young people that are growing up in poverty, the fact that the members of the council have supported the year of action unanimously, I am recommending that the council makes a financial contribution of £15,000 to support the employment of the Inspiring Families project co-ordinator.

Report author	Contact officer: Richard Gibson Strategy and Engagement Manager richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 235 354
Appendices	1. Risk Assessment
Background information	

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
-	If the council is not seen as supporting the year of action, there is a risk that other funders may not be as willing to contribute to the programme	Richard Gibson	30.1.19	3	3	9	Reduce	Take a decision to financially support the year of action	February 2019	Richard Gibson	
<p>Explanatory notes</p> <p>Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)</p> <p>Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)</p> <p>Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close</p>											