

Overview

1. This paper seeks the Group's thoughts on how best to extend CB for FMP to all areas in England by April 2013 – in line with commitments made in the Spending Review and in support of the Prime Minister's ambition to try to turn around the lives of the most troubled families over the lifetime of this Parliament. Widening Community Budgets to other policy/spend areas could be an issue to consider at the next meeting.
2. The 16 first phase areas provide a strong basis for wider roll-out with localism and co-design as the underpinning principles. However, it is clear that there needs to be a compelling offer to new areas. New areas also need time to plan and develop local partnership agreements.
3. A suggested goal is to seek early expressions of interest from local areas around LG Group annual conference when Baroness Hanham's group is further forward, to aim to reach a tipping point, so that half of all upper-tier local authority areas in England are engaged with the Community Budget approach by April 2012.
4. Of course areas do not need Government's permission to develop a CB. But the learning from phase one suggests that Government assistance is sought, in particular, to overcome central prescription, change rules and accountability, shift and free up funding streams etc.

Key Objective

5. To consider how best to extend CB to all areas in England by April 2013.

Purpose of Discussion

6. Members are asked:
 - To consider how best to engage other areas and encourage them to adopt CB for FMPs;
 - For views on how to strengthen and present the "offer" to new places; and
 - To consider and agree arrangements for supporting new areas.

Considerations

7. Findings from the stock-take shows that there needs to be a clear offer to new areas with access to Whitehall and that bidding processes should be avoided (although formal processes will be needed e.g. to draw-down advances in Early Intervention Grant funding).
8. There also needs to be clarity on how the offer fits with other agendas and recognition of the local partnership challenges areas face in seeking to secure significant systems change and innovation. Like many first phase areas – new areas may want to adopt a broader focus than FMP, reducing the number of families that develop multiple problems through earlier intervention for example.
9. Feedback from the CB stocktake suggests that new areas will want flexibility to move at different paces in line with local budgeting cycles and the time they need to build local partnership agreements. This means any offer to areas to extend the approach needs to be made now to give areas the flexibility to move at their own pace. The suggestion to aim to have achieved a tipping point of say 50% of areas engaged in Community Budgets by April 2012 provides a basis for planning but should not be seen

Paper 4: National implementation of CB for Families with Multiple Problems (FMP)

as a 'target' and may be exceeded or not based on local ambition. Annex A provides an illustrative timeline – to aid discussion and co-design.

Proposal

10. That areas should be given the opportunity to self nominate. The potential pool of areas that may be well placed to make an early start could include Graham Allen's Early Intervention Places (26 and rising but includes eight 1st phase areas) drawing the connection between community budgets, early intervention and payment by results, Munro Journey Authorities, areas that have been working with Child Poverty Unit, as well as areas that have prioritised families through other initiatives.

11. A strong narrative should be constructed based on the 'offer', evidence of the potential savings that can be made, support to place – this should be jointly produced by LG Group, DCLG and DfE and promoted at joint LG Group/Whitehall run regional workshops. This would need to evolve in light of evidence and success from the 1st phase, and the work on barrier busting. It would be communicated to areas at or in advance of the LG Group Annual Conference on 28-30 June.

The Offer to Phase 2 Areas

12. Building on what has been achieved in the first phase. New areas would have the opportunity to: take on flexibilities, early access to evidence and good practice, draw down an advance of Early Intervention Grant (to be paid back in future years), secure expert support via dissemination hubs DfE is planning to establish in each region and, in some cases, funding for the redesign of services and local practice exemplars as well as access to Whitehall to bust barriers. The potential for funding flexibilities to allow alignment and pooling of budgets and other actions which may arise from the working group Baroness Hanham is leading will also be pursued. The Group is asked to consider whether this 'offer' is sufficiently attractive.

13. Paper 3 proposes arrangements for support to the first phase areas - helping ensure that they can continue to lead the way. New areas could also receive specific support from LG Group, DfE and first phase places. This might include sharing and raising awareness of best practice, highlighting learning flowing from joint evaluation programmes and sector support organisations, 'buddying/action learning set' arrangements. New areas will need to be encouraged to ensure strong engagement with Voluntary, Community, Business sectors. Exemplary practice undertaken in several 1st phase areas could assist, for example, LG Group is already working with a few areas regarding Participle's work in Swindon.

14. The expectation should be that key issues requiring significant political or DG level engagement are likely to have already been covered in the 1st phase, allowing the next phase to be supported at Director/Deputy Director level along with a CB-specific website. Locality arrangements being established in DCLG could provide new areas with a senior level champion - all upper tier areas have been assigned a DCLG Director/Deputy Director and are supported by a Localities Unit. Overall responsibility and oversight for the programme could remain with the CB Group with Whitehall members of Group acting as departmental champions – to address cross-cutting issues and tackle emerging issues and barriers that relate to their department's responsibilities.

ANNEX A: ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CB FOR FMP – FOR DISCUSSION AND CO-DESIGN

